



# The interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) & the Road to a Global Agreement on Plastics

**IUCN/NYU Webinar: SIDS & Plastic Pollution**

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# Overview

- ***Background to the global plastics issue.***
- ***How are SIDS disproportionately affected?***
- ***Key Principles for AOSIS.***
- ***Road to a New Global Agreement:***
  - ***Resolution 5/14.***
  - ***OEWG & outcomes.***
  - ***Preparation for INC-1.***

# The Plastics Problem.



- Plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, poses devastating impacts on **human health, livelihoods, economies & the environment.**
- Plastics are **non-biodegradable** meaning they can outlive humans by hundreds or thousands of years.
- Over **300 million tonnes of plastics** are produced annually, overburdening waste management systems across the globe.
- **80% of marine plastic pollution** comes from land-based sources (improper waste management, illegal dumping, industrial processes, etc.)

# Special Circumstances of SIDS.



- **Geographic location:** Within the plastics context, SIDS are geographically situated in close proximity to ocean gyres where currents naturally accumulate floating material, including plastic litter, & much of this waste culminates along the coastlines of many islands.



- **Limited waste management capabilities:** Most SIDS utilize landfills with little to no waste separation. Our limited land space, practices of illegal dumping given waste-collection issues, & increases in waste generation overburden SIDS limited available resources.



- **Limited technology and legislation:** SIDS also face a deficit in technological solutions & sound legislative frameworks for resolving the plastic pollution issues we face.



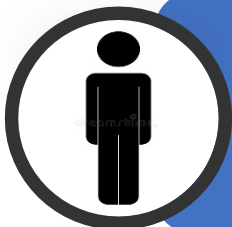
- **Heavy reliance on marine environment:** SIDS rely on the marine environment & its resources for economic growth & development, socio-economic livelihood, sustenance & more.





## Livelihood

Many SIDS rely on fisheries, however **yield has been on decline** with marine plastic pollution identified as a major contributor. **Marine transport services are also affected** due to plastic debris & fish gear tangling up with vessels.



## Health

Traditional diets in SIDS are seafood-based. Given that plastics have entered the food-web, there are **concerns for hormonal, biological & physiological changes** to the body. Polluted rivers and waterways also serve as **breeding grounds for diseases and vectors**.



## Cultural & Aesthetic Value

Plastic pollution **diminishes the ability of practitioners of Hinduism, African spiritualism, and indigenous customs** to make use of lakes, streams, rivers, and coastal waters in the exercise of their beliefs.



## Tourism

As the largest economic driver among SIDS, **plastic pollution affects tourism prospects and revenue generation**, forces public spending on restoring natural environments, and causes loss to tourism operators.



## Biodiversity

SIDS are home to many of the most sensitive ecosystems and endangered flora and fauna. **Plastic pollution threatens coral reef, sea grass and mangroves**.

# Key Principles for AOSIS.



- The **prevention, reduction and elimination (including remediation) of plastic pollution**, including in the **marine environment**, across the **full lifecycle of plastic**.
- The promotion of **environmentally sound waste management** to curb leakage from land-based sources.
- Work must be based on **science, data and information on plastics**; as well as **traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems**.
- **Flexibility for SIDS/LDCs** in the implementation of obligations, commitments and/or contributions under the ILBI, and **respect for national circumstances**.
- Utilization of a **multi-stakeholder approach**, including **private sector actors** in areas such as financing, technology development and remediation.
- **Specific support provisions for SIDS** (and LDCs) including **priority access** to means of implementation.
- **Build on existing** regional and multilateral frameworks and **limit duplication of actions**.



# The Road to a New Global Agreement



# Resolution 5/14.



In consideration of these impacts & issues, the international community at **UNEA 5.2** earlier in 2022 agreed to adopt **Resolution 5/14** entitled:

***‘End Plastic Pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.’***

Resolution 5/14 touches & concerns on a number of issues related to the management of plastic pollution, including (but not limited to):

- Addressing the **full life-cycle of plastics**
- **Circular economy** approaches
- The development of country-driven approaches - **National Action Plans (NAPs)**
- Possible **Voluntary & Binding** Approaches
- Elimination of Plastic Pollution (**Remediation**)
- Incorporation of a **multi-stakeholder approach**
- Promoting **cooperation and coordination** within intl legal framework
- To promote work in **science, research and socioeconomic** areas.
- Means of implementation (**capacity-building and technical assistance, technology transfer and financial assistance**)



# Open Ended Working Group (OEWG).

Per Resolution 5/14, an OEWG was convened in Dakar, Senegal (May 30-June 01, 2022), where the following key outcomes were achieved:

- **INC Timetable:**

Meeting	Nominal Timeline
INC1	Week of 28 November 2022
INC2	End of April 2023
INC3	End of November 2023
- UNEA 6 -	Week of 26 February 2024
INC4	Early May 2024
INC5	Early December 2024

**Ambitious goal of 2024**

- **Proposed documents for INC-1 including:**

1. **Glossary** of key terms
2. Broad **options for structure** of the instrument, taking into account paras. 3 & 4 of Resolution 5/14.
3. **Potential elements** (inc. key concepts, procedures & mechanisms of MEAs that may be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the ILBI)
4. **Plastics science** – monitoring sources of plastic pollution, chemicals used in manufacturing, life cycle, pathways in the environment, health and other impacts, technologies, etc.

*& more...*





# Preparation for INC-1.

- UNEP Secretariat has prepared a note on **Elements of the ILBI**.
- The note contains a list of potential elements categorized under **eight (8) broad headings**.
- Some of the elements include: ***Definitions; Objectives; Scope; Obligations, control measures & voluntary approaches; NAPs; Research, Compliance; Financial Assistance, etc.***
- Each element has **one or more preliminary questions** to guide the discussions at INC-1.

Preamble

Introductory Elements

Core Obligations

Implementation Measures

Means of Implementation

Institutional Arrangements

Others

Final Provisions



# Next steps.

- States are now coordinating their positions and views on these guiding questions to actively participate in the discussions at INC-1.
- INC-1 will be held in **Punta Del Este, Uruguay (28 November - 02 December, 2022)**
- **A multi-stakeholder forum will be held on November 26, 2022** ahead of INC-1 to ensure the broadest level of stakeholder involvement and input in the development of this important instrument.
- Chair of AOSIS continues to discuss & consult with its membership to ensure the interest of SIDS are well represented & advanced & we see the development of an effective global plastics regime which takes into account the disproportionate impacts of the issue on our islands.





**Thank You!**