



for a toxics-free future

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OPEN LETTER TO PLASTICS TREATY DELEGATES

Three Questions About the INC Chair's Draft Roadmap

Build Trust through Transparency, Inclusiveness and Open Participation

In preparation for the upcoming Plastics Treaty Heads of Delegation meeting, IPEN notes that countries participating in the Plastics Treaty negotiations will need to swiftly assess the Chair's upcoming "draft roadmap." Below are three questions IPEN suggests should be considered when reviewing the document.

IPEN is concerned about a potential parallel process that is exclusive, benefiting wealthy oil exporting countries and limiting meaningful participation of other Member States, especially those from low- and middle-income countries.

The new chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Plastics Treaty, Julio Cordano, recently shared [a letter](#) setting out his vision for the process ahead. In his letter, he underlines three elements needed: inclusivity, transparency, and predictability. IPEN appreciates these terms, recognizing that trust in and the culture of the INC need to be improved.

The Chair noted that he will share a roadmap to INC 5.4 within a few weeks. Meanwhile, closed-door meetings have continued. This month, an unofficial "Group of 20" (19 countries and the Chair) met in Japan and intend to meet for further discussions. The group comprises countries that collectively represent over 70% of the global plastic production and more than 60% of the global oil production.

While countries are free to have informal meetings, the unofficial "Group of 20" meeting is concerning as it was not a mandated group by the INC nor the Bureau. It is important that such unmandated meetings do not serve as a replacement for negotiations and that this "Group of 20" does not create pathways that dictate how the Treaty talks proceed.

The Chair's draft roadmap will determine the direction of both the negotiations and the process, influencing who is included and who is left out.

"Group of 20"

Major oil, gas, chemical and/or plastics exporting countries:

Brazil, China, India, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU. These countries collectively represent over 70% of the global plastic production and more than 60% of the global oil production.

Other countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Palau, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, plus the new INC Chair from Chile who participated as an observer.

Key questions governments should consider include:

1. Will the Chair's Draft Roadmap build on trust and transparency?

The roadmap must ensure transparency in future negotiations, including in intersessional meetings, to prevent key decisions from being shaped behind closed doors. Closed-door meetings with only a few members should not be allowed to make decisions on next steps.

2. Are you concerned that the new INC Chair is a member of an exclusive group with 19 participants?

The new Chair should be guided by all Member States. The Group of 20 creates a parallel process, which is closed to most Member States and Observers. Official group meetings should only be for specific work areas.

3. Will the new INC chair enhance meaningful participation of Observers?

Throughout the process, many Member States have asked for improved participation by Indigenous Peoples, independent scientists, public interest organizations, health professionals, and other Observers. Concrete measures must be taken to improve participation, including, among others, following the existing precedent in other MEAs of participation during intersessional work, access to meeting documents and report-backs.

As a start toward furthering participation by Observers, the Heads of Delegation meetings should be accessible via livestreams and report-backs. The credibility of the process will depend on how the draft roadmap approaches these questions.

