

European Union and its 27 Member states

Key messages for stocktaking plenary on August 2025 at INC-5.2

- On behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Chair, as well as the Bureau and the Secretariat, for the hard work going into the preparations for these negotiations. We would also like to thank all countries that took a leading role in informals and informal informals which have given a much needed push to the work.
- The EU and its Member States stand together, committed to finalizing an agreement to end plastic pollution through a legally binding instrument that will effectively protect our health and the environment. That is first and foremost why we are all here. The pollution crisis is increasing by the day. Our citizens expect us to deliver.
- Reflecting on this first week, we are concerned that the negotiations are not advancing with the urgency required to achieve our objectives and the clock is ticking.
- To make the most efficient use of the limited time remaining, we believe it is essential to strengthen facilitation of the ongoing discussions in the contact groups, including by making use of other formats where appropriate. For instance, through informal consultations. Such approaches will be crucial to ensuring meaningful progress in the negotiations.
- In addition, this is an appeal to *all* parties to be constructive, to not use working methods and procedural excuses to delay the work and obstruct the process and then claim 'we have no time left, sorry'. Whatever the working methods, we all have a choice to use them in the most productive way. There are procedures and rules that matter. But people matter too. We have a mandate to fulfil and a promise to keep. Let us all together gear up and make this work.
- Therefore, we stress the need for Parties to trust the Co-Chairs and respect the clear mandate that was given to them. We must focus on streamlining and refining the text we need for an effective treaty.
- Chair, with regard to your proposal on the way forward: We thank you for presenting the plan. We can support it in general, but we would like to suggest some improvements.
- First it is key that you actively engage and undertake other activities, such as informal consultations with delegations. Active shuttle diplomacy is necessary in any negotiating process.
- In that process, it is essential to ensure transparency and the Chair informing all delegations equally.
- As time is running out, we hope that the new working methods will increase the speed of our work, however, if not, we invite you to be very vigilant, and intervene timely and creatively when a shift is needed in terms of our working arrangements.
- We believe you are in the best position to keep track of the overall progress and developments in each workstream to judge when a new stocktaking and action is needed.
- As regards our contact groups:
 - We reiterate our support and trust in the co-chairs, and encourage them to make greater use of informals, informal informals and break-out groups.

- We appeal for efficient meeting management. It is in our overall interest that meetings don't draw out endlessly, which will deteriorate the quality of the treaty.
- We also support the possibility to convene more than 2 groups running in parallel.

Again, this treaty is urgently needed. To fulfil the demands of citizens all over the world who are concerned about their health and their children. To transition to a circular and competitive economy, because that is where the world is moving. And to show that in these difficult times, global diplomacy still works.

- In conclusion, we support your leadership to guide us through an appropriate process, that enables us to move forward decisively. From our side, the EU and its Member States remain available to engage with *all* parties, in honest conversations. We all must start to converge and find solutions acceptable to all.