

Thailand's Statement
at the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution,
including in the marine environment (INC-5.2)
Opening session, 5 August 2025
Palais de Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

Thailand would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Switzerland for their gracious hospitality in welcoming us all to Geneva. We also extend our profound gratitude to you, Mr. Chair, and your team for your leadership and dedication, as well as to the Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat on plastic pollution, her team, and all Bureau members for their tireless efforts in preparing this crucial second part of the fifth session of the INC.

Thailand has actively participated in the negotiation of UNEA Resolution 5/14 from the very beginning. We reaffirms our strong commitment to supporting the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the development of an effective, science-based, and balanced international legally binding instrument to end on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, by addressing the full life cycle of plastics. This commitment is aligned with the principles of the waste management hierarchy and the circular economy. We welcome the Chair's text released on 1 December 2024 as a constructive basis for negotiations to achieve the objectives of INC-5.2.

In the same spirit, Thailand welcomes the scenario note for INC-5.2, particularly the proposal to establish four contact groups and a Legal Drafting Group. We support the preparation for the Diplomatic Conference, including the identification of areas that may require decisions at COP-1 to support the implementation. We further support the proposal for members to submit written statements through the in-session platform, while substantive discussions continue within contact groups. However, we share the concerns of other delegations regarding capacity constraints, and therefore propose that no more than two groups convene simultaneously.

With regard to the Chair's text, Thailand appreciates the inclusion of the full life cycle approach and the recognition of the need to manage plastic production and consumption at sustainable levels. We would like to emphasize the importance of:

- Promoting circular design of plastic products,
- Integrating circularity into sectoral or product-specific approaches, and
- Establishing obligations for Parties to collaborate in addressing existing and legacy plastic pollution.

Thailand also supports the meaningful participation of local communities, civil society, the private sector, and workers in both informal and cooperative settings, recognizing their critical role in inclusively ensuring a just transition. This provision should be complemented by a clear time-bound implementation framework. We also appreciate the inclusion of health-related concerns in the Chair's text, which highlight the adverse impacts of plastic pollution on human health. We urge Member States to ensure the retention of this vital element in the final draft of the instrument.

Nevertheless, in the light of the divergent views among the Committee on several articles in the Chair's text, Thailand proposes that the following points be addressed to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of INC-5.2:

1. Comprehensive life cycle approach: The instrument should address plastic pollution from design, production, consumption, to waste management, and existing pollution, consistent with the goal of protecting human health and the environment, including in the marine environment.

2. Preamble – trade linkage: Thailand proposes adding the phrase “and trade” in paragraph 7 of the Preamble to reflect the inter-linkages between environmental and trade-related measures. This would support the coherence with WTO obligations and ensure consistency with other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

3. Clear definitions: To enable coherent and effective implementation at both national and global levels, the instrument shall provide clear definitions for key terms such as “full life cycle”, “problematic plastics”, “avoidable plastics”, and “existing plastic pollution”.

4. Article 3 – Plastic products: Thailand supports the establishment, by the COP at its first meeting, of a review committee tasked with defining the modalities and procedures for maintaining a scientific database and for developing annexes specifying plastic products to be controlled, along with corresponding phase-out timelines. While we support common criteria, flexibility should be allowed on a case-by-case basis for countries unable to comply within set timelines. Just transition should also be considerate in drafting this article.

5. Article 6 – Renaming this article to “Sustainable Consumption and Production”: Thailand proposes this renaming of this article to reflect a broader scope of sustainability without imposing fixed production caps of primary plastic polymers.

6. Reuse and refill systems: The instrument should include specific provisions ensuring the development of refill and reuse infrastructure, this is essential to support the achievement of effective plastic waste reduction.

7. Microplastics: Thailand stresses the importance of addressing microplastic release throughout the plastic life cycle through improved product design, production, transport, usage, and end-of-life management of plastic products.

8. Financial mechanism: Thailand supports the establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism, with contributions from developed countries and other Parties with the capacity to do so, as well as from the private sector. This may include the establishment of a new dedicated fund or the utilization of existing funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). We propose the establishment of a dedicated funding window for “plastic pollution”, distinct from existing streams “chemicals and waste.” Additionally, we recommend integrating fundraising efforts and encouraging contributions from private sector producers and other capable sectors into the new multilateral fund. Importantly, the financial mechanism, along with capacity-building and technical assistance, should include a clear and time-bound implementation framework.

9. Monitoring, verification, labeling, and reporting: Thailand proposes for strong and transparent provisions for monitoring, verification, labeling, and reporting of the production and import of plastic products, chemicals of concern used in such products, and plastic waste management under national action plans, in line with the principles of transparency and traceability.

Furthermore, Thailand supports the identification of potential work to be undertaken during the interim period between the Diplomatic Conference and the first COP to ensure timely and effective implementation of the instrument. We prefer in-person meetings, if adequate funding support is available for developing countries, to develop implementation guidance. However, virtual workshops or webinar series may also be considered, with flexibility to accommodate different time zones.

In conclusion, Thailand remains steadfast in its commitment to tackling plastic pollution in collaboration with all stakeholders. We recognize the importance of environmentally sound management of plastics at the national, regional, and global levels. We underscore the need for an inclusive and transparent negotiation process and remain confident that, through our collective efforts, we will achieve a successful conclusion within the agreed timeline.

Thank you.