

# TOWARDS AN AMBITIOUS NEW LEGALLY BINDING GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting  
(Punta del Este, Uruguay, Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, 2022)

Outcomes and way forward



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada 

# OVERVIEW

- Context:
  - **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** to develop a legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
  - High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution
- Canada's engagement and objectives
- Information on the first INC meeting (INC-1)
- Outcomes of INC-1
- Next steps and stakeholder engagement

# LAUNCHING THE PROCESS FOR A NEW GLOBAL AGREEMENT

## Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), Feb/March 2022

- Historic outcome on plastic pollution via resolution 5/14
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director: “The most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord”



## Key Aspects of UNEA Resolution 5/14

### *End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument*

- Member states agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a legally binding global instrument on plastic pollution by 2024
- Negotiations to address plastic pollution through actions across the lifecycle of plastics

# HIGH AMBITION COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION



- Canada is an inaugural member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution ([HAC](#))
  - Coalition of like-minded countries committed to developing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution by 2040
- Recognizes the need to develop common binding obligations and control measures, across the full lifecycle of plastics while reflecting the precautionary approach, waste hierarchy and the polluter-pays principle
- Outlined three strategic goals and seven key deliverables for success
  - Restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels
  - Enable a circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health
  - Achieve environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste
- The Coalition has members from all regions of the world, representing 59 countries and more than a quarter of all UN member states

# BUILDING ON CANADA'S LEADERSHIP

- Canada is working with its partners to implement an ambitious, comprehensive and circular economy approach to reduce plastic waste, increase the value recovery of plastics, and tackle plastic pollution through a range of complementary solutions spanning the plastics lifecycle
- International leadership to advance action:
  - Launched the Ocean Plastics Charter in 2018 (G7)
  - Dedicated \$100M to support developing countries in tackling plastic waste and pollution
  - Participation in global initiatives and key related global agreements (e.g., Basel Convention)
  - Co-facilitator to start negotiations towards a new legally binding agreement on plastic pollution at UNEA-5 (2022)
  - Member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution
- Canada will build on its comprehensive approach and work with countries and stakeholders to develop an ambitious and effective global agreement



# DOMESTIC INC-1 CONSULTATION

- To prepare for INC-1, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) conducted a national public consultation on how Canada can support global efforts to end plastic pollution via [PlaceSpeak](#) - October 7 to October 28, 2022
  - Asked Canadians to share their views on the actions and measures needed to reduce plastic pollution globally to help inform Canada’s preparations for INC-1
  - Received more than 200 survey responses to online consultation

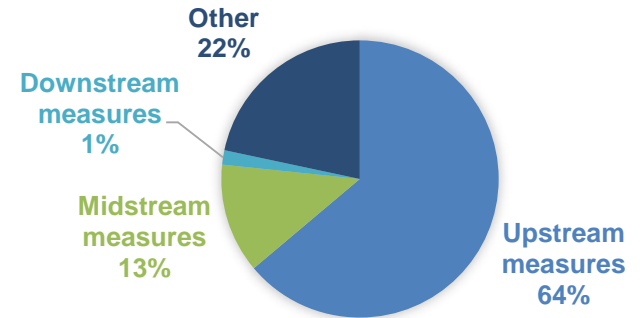
Region	%
Ontario	37%
British Columbia	33%
Québec	10%
Alberta	7%
Territories	7%
Atlantic Canada	4%
Manitoba	2%
Saskatchewan	less than 1%

Sector	%
Public	38%
Industry	22%
Civil society	13%
Indigenous government, community, and/or organization	4%
Provincial/territorial government	2%
Local government/municipality	1%
Other	19%

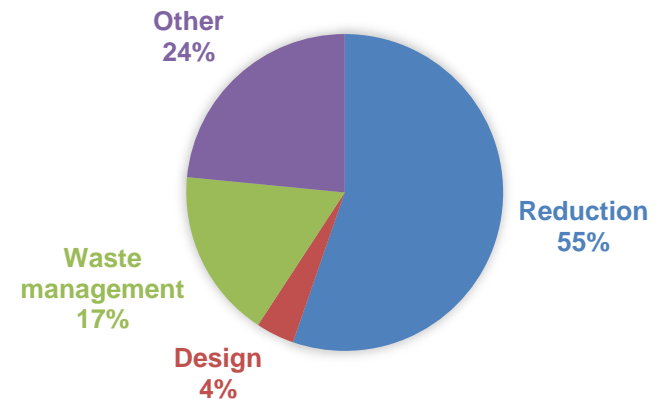
# CONSULTATIONS: WHAT WE HEARD

- Majority (64%) believed that upstream measures, which address production and manufacturing, reduce chemical hazards and strengthen sustainable product design for a circular economy, are needed the most to reduce plastic pollution globally
- Followed by the need for midstream measures, including managing consumption and movement of plastics, and downstream measures that support end-of-life management to strengthen waste management systems and remediate plastic pollution
- Majority agreed that the international agreement should include the following elements:
  - Baselines and/or targets
  - National action plans
  - Sustainability criteria
  - Bans and/or restrictions
  - Material and/or chemical composition transparency mechanisms
  - Monitoring and/or reporting mechanisms
  - Product stewardship incentives and/or standards
- Measures across the value chain of plastics are required to curb plastic pollution, requiring all actors along the lifecycle of plastics to step-up and play a part in this effort

WHICH ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO MOST SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION GLOBALLY?



WHICH SPECIFIC MEASURES WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION GLOBALLY?



# OVERVIEW OF FIRST INC MEETING

- INC-1 took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay - Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, 2022
  - First of five formal negotiating sessions and the start of substantive discussions towards developing a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution
- Meeting focused on process and setting the path forward for negotiations
  - “Brainstorming” discussions on objectives, scope, structure and potential treaty content and provisions
  - Preparing the groundwork for future INC meetings - sequencing and organization of work
- A one day multi-stakeholder forum took place before negotiations to help share the views of different stakeholders to inform discussions on the path forward for negotiations





# INC-1 MAIN OUTCOMES

- Achieved overall goal to launch the negotiating process and discuss the broad options for the objectives, scope and structure of the instrument
- Identified **building blocks** to help navigate treaty development moving forward
  - Establishment of **two main work clusters** towards INC-2
    - 1) To discuss objectives, control measures, voluntary approaches and implementation measures
    - 2) To discuss means of implementation, including capacity building, technical assistance and finance as well as institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement
  - The INC requested the Secretariat to draft a **working document** outlining options on potential core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation
    - Document will help drive substantive discussions at INC-2, without prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument
- Areas of **convergence** were identified among Member States, including:
  - Need to act urgently, to take an evidence-based and lifecycle approach
  - A mix of measures are needed across the plastics lifecycle
  - Need to consider objectives, core obligations and voluntary measures but also the means for enabling effective implementation
  - Importance of an inclusive approach and for robust and meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement during the INC process

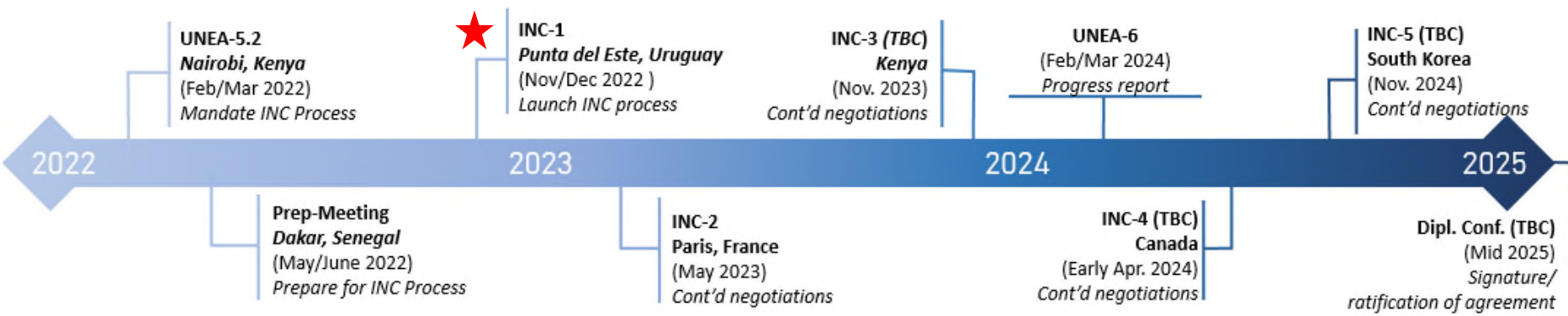
# CANADA'S EFFORTS AT INC-1

- Support an overarching goal to end plastic pollution and advocate for an ambitious and effective agreement that takes a circular economy approach, addresses the entire lifecycle of plastics, is evidence-based and reflects the waste hierarchy
- Demonstrate Canada's leadership and commitment for action
  - Actively participated in negotiations to increase ambition and strive for common goals
  - Offered to host INC-4 in early April 2024, supported by over 55 countries
  - Co-chaired, alongside Ecuador, the contact group to discuss stakeholder engagement and required materials to support INC-2 negotiations
- Garner support for “building blocks” and an effective INC process that will ultimately enable the development of an ambitious and effective agreement by the end of 2024
- Advocate for the respect of human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and gender equality and diversified perspectives, recognizing that marginalized and vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by plastic pollution



# NEXT STEPS

- INC-2 will be held in Paris, France during - week of 22 May 2023
- Tentative dates and venues for INC-3 to 5:
  - INC-3, late November 2023: Kenya (TBC)
  - INC-4, early April 2024: Canada (TBC)
  - INC-5, November 2024: Republic of Korea (TBC)
  - Diplomatic Conference, mid-2015: location TBD



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Multi-stakeholder engagement throughout the INC process to inform the development of the agreement
- Intersessional consultation before INC-2:
  - A [call for written submissions](#) on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument was recently circulated by the INC Secretariat
  - Deadlines to provide written submissions to the INC Secretariat:
    - 6 January 2023 for submissions from stakeholders
    - 10 February 2023 for submissions from Members of the Committee
- ECCC to conduct further domestic consultations ahead of INC-2 and throughout the INC process to inform Canada's efforts in negotiations

# ANNEX - RESOURCES

- UN Environment Assembly Resolution 5/14:
  - [End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument](#)
- Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to Prepare for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution:
  - <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/Intergovernmental-Negotiating-Committee-end-plastic-pollution>
- First session of the INC:
  - <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/inter-governmental-negotiating-committee-meeting-inc-1>
- Second session of the INC
  - [Second session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment \(unep.org\)](#)

# ANNEX – RESOURCES (CONT'D)

- High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution:
  - <https://hactoendplasticpollution.org/>
- UNEP Articles:
  - <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/historic-day-campaign-beat-plastic-pollution-nations-commit-develop>
  - <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-you-need-know-about-plastic-pollution-resolution>
- Canada's Zero Plastic Waste Agenda:
  - [www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste](http://www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste)