

Title

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Third session in Nairobi, 13–19 November 2023

The INC-3 meeting in Nairobi

Overview

Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14 requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee, to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024. The intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities.

This was a national-delegates led negotiations with private actors (NGOs, manufacturers and traders, pressure groups and academics) taking a back seat. Interventions were mainly made by the national delegates from member countries and few opportunities for non-government actors to make interventions during the plenary.

Active participation was mainly in the side events where all had the opportunity to make intervention.

This was more or less the first time to attend this kind of a meeting and the lesson for me was that people attending had a very clear agenda that they would like to impose on to as many people as they possibly could. The other lesson is that I should remain focussed to my agenda (message) to the end.

Participants from DOSI

Agnes Muthumbi, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Maurine Arori (Early Career), PhD student, University of Nairobi

Rufino Varea

DOSI Actions

The INC-3 meeting was an intergovernmental meeting which had attendants from country member delegates, NGOs, private sector representatives, academia among others. There were various types of meetings (side events, contact group meetings and the plenary) going on sometime concurrently. Due to the number of participants attending the INC3, the plenary meetings were limited to only government delegates and few observers. Interventions were limited to those able to access the floating budes for plenary. However, there were other opportunities to make interventions like

during the side events of which I attended two of them; 1. Oceans and the marine environment including transport, ghost fishing gears, dumping, pellets and impacts on biodiversity. 2. Microplastics: understanding the challenge and its impacts

In both my interventions were around the importance to keep up with monitoring of microplastics and in particular in deep ocean and the need to develop standardized protocols for assessment to improve our understanding of spatial differences and link to actions.

Annexes

