

UNEA resolution 5/14 and the INC process to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Presentation to the UNECE Aarhus Convention thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

23 June 2022
Brenda Koekkoek



UNEA calls for development of international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

- Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC):
 - Starting work during the second half of 2022
 - OEWG agreed to 5 INCs
 - Completing by the end of 2024
- Resolution specifies:
 - Based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic
 - Could include both binding and voluntary approaches,
 - Taking into account the Rio Declaration and national circumstances and capabilities.

What will the INC consider? (para 3 of the resolution)

Promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including:

- product design
- environmentally sound waste management
- through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.

Technical and capacity means of implementation.

Finance mechanism to support the implementation, consideration of a dedicated multilateral fund.

Data, monitoring and reporting, means of assessing implementation and effectiveness.

Address Compliance.

Consider National Action Plans.

Scientific and socio-economic information and assessment.

UNEA Resolution 5/14 highlights important role of stakeholders

- Recognizes the significant contribution made by workers under informal and cooperative settings to collecting, sorting and recycling plastics in many countries.
- Paragraph 3 states provisions that should be considered in the process, amongst these:
 - (l) To encourage action by all stakeholders, including the private sector, and to promote cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels.
 - (m) To initiate a multi-stakeholder action agenda.
- Paragraph 16 requested convening a forum in conjunction INC-1, building upon existing initiatives, where appropriate, open to all stakeholders to exchange information.

Looking to INC-1 in November / December 2022

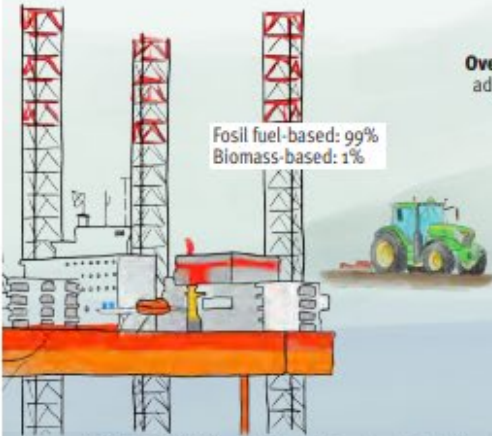
1. Ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) proposed Rules of Procedure to be forwarded for consideration at INC-1
2. Multi-stakeholder, forum to be organized in conjunction with INC-1, a key starting point
3. Building a multi-stakeholder action agenda

Looking across the lifecycle... this is about jobs, opportunities, health and planetary wellbeing.

The plastics life cycle

1. Extraction & conversion

Key stakeholders:
Raw material producers
Monomer producers
Polymer producers



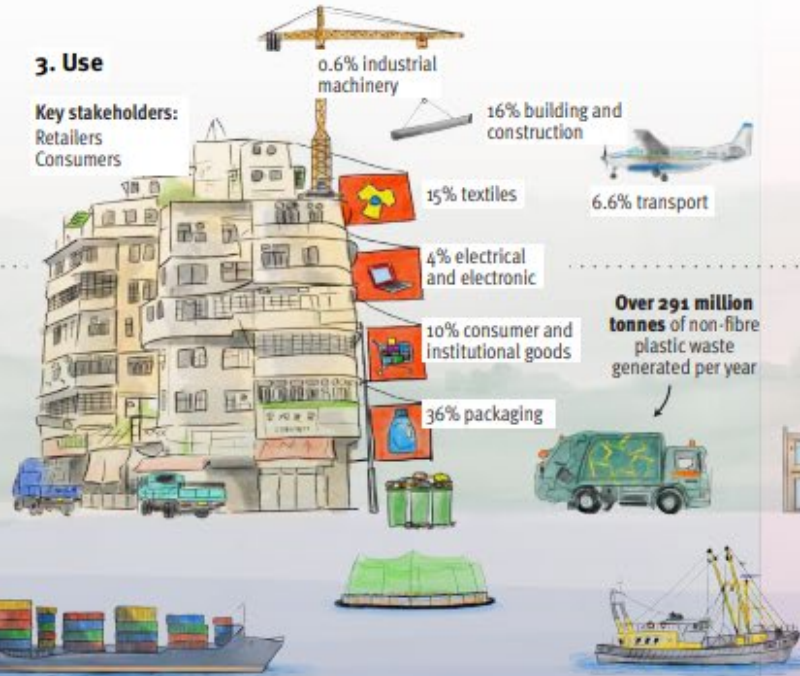
2. Manufacture

Key stakeholders:
Plastic processors
Plastic producers
Brands



3. Use

Key stakeholders:
Retailers
Consumers



4. End of life

Key stakeholders:
Formal waste sector
Informal waste sector



Sources: UNEP (2018), UNEP (2019), EEA (2020), Geyer (2020). Illustration by Levi Westerveld / GRID-Arendal (2021). Research by Maria Tsakona.



Thank you!

Brenda.koekkoek@un.org