



# International landscape and the importance of ending plastic pollution

---

**Historic opportunity: The role of parliaments in ending plastic pollution**

---

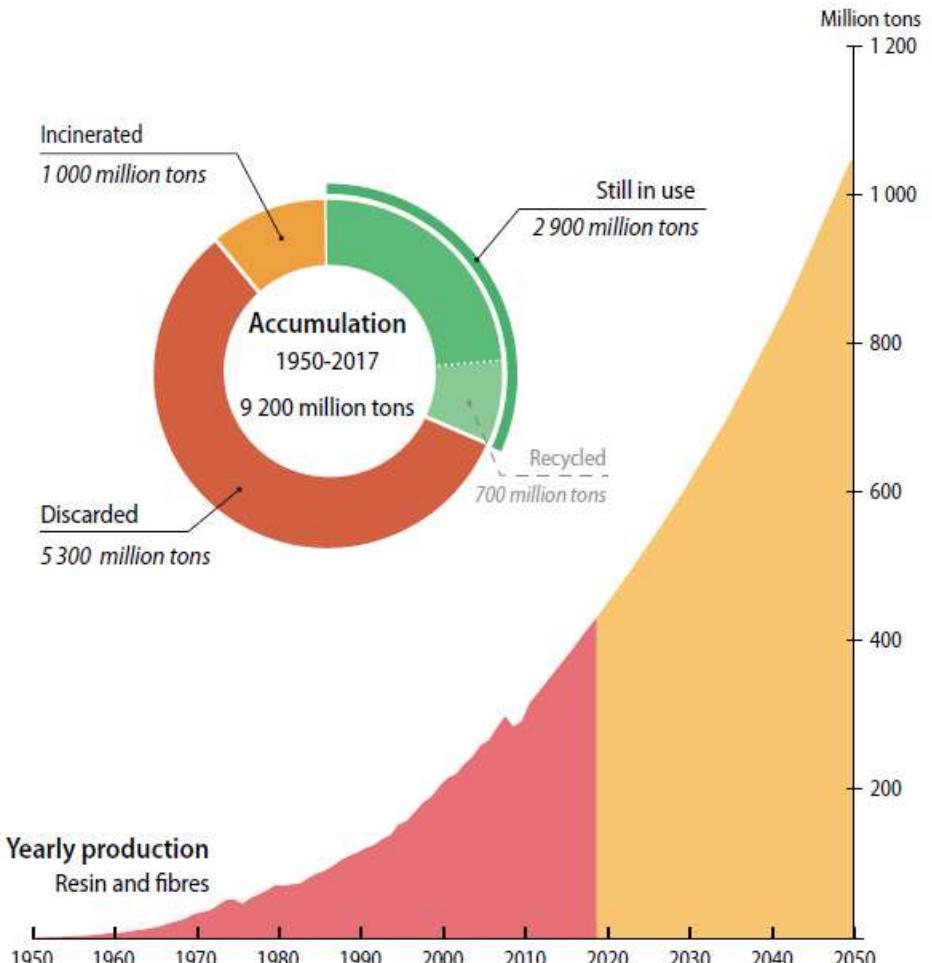
23 May 2023  
Jordi Pon, United Nations Environment Programme

## Plastic pollution

- Exponential growth plastic production; **430 million tons**
- About **19-23 million tons** per year of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems; **80%** from land-based sources.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, about **145,000 tons/day** sent to **open dumpsites**, including **17,000 tons/day** of plastic waste.
- Plastics and microplastic pollution is **everywhere**, present in all environmental matrices, food chain, and human body.



**Emissions of plastic waste into aquatic ecosystems are projected to nearly triple by 2040 without meaningful action.**



**Figure 1:** Global plastic production, accumulation and future trends

Source: UNEP



**UN** environment  
programme

# Turning off the Tap

**How the world can  
end plastic pollution and  
create a circular economy**

**#BeatPlasticPollution**

# 30%

of plastics from short-lived products are avoidable and can be **reduced.**

#BeatPlasticPollution



# 3 Market Shifts to a circular plastics economy

Accelerate the market for reusable products

Accelerate the market for plastics recycling

Reorient and diversify the market for sustainable and safe plastic alternatives

#BeatPlasticPollution



**Shifting to a circular economy for plastics can save US\$4.5 trillion by 2040 on total costs while improving livelihoods for millions of workers worldwide.**

#BeatPlasticPollution



**A just  
transition  
to leave no one  
behind.**

**#BeatPlasticPollution**





We need  
**integrated** regulatory  
and industry actions across  
the plastics life cycle

#BeatPlasticPollution



**Ending plastic  
pollution is  
within reach.**

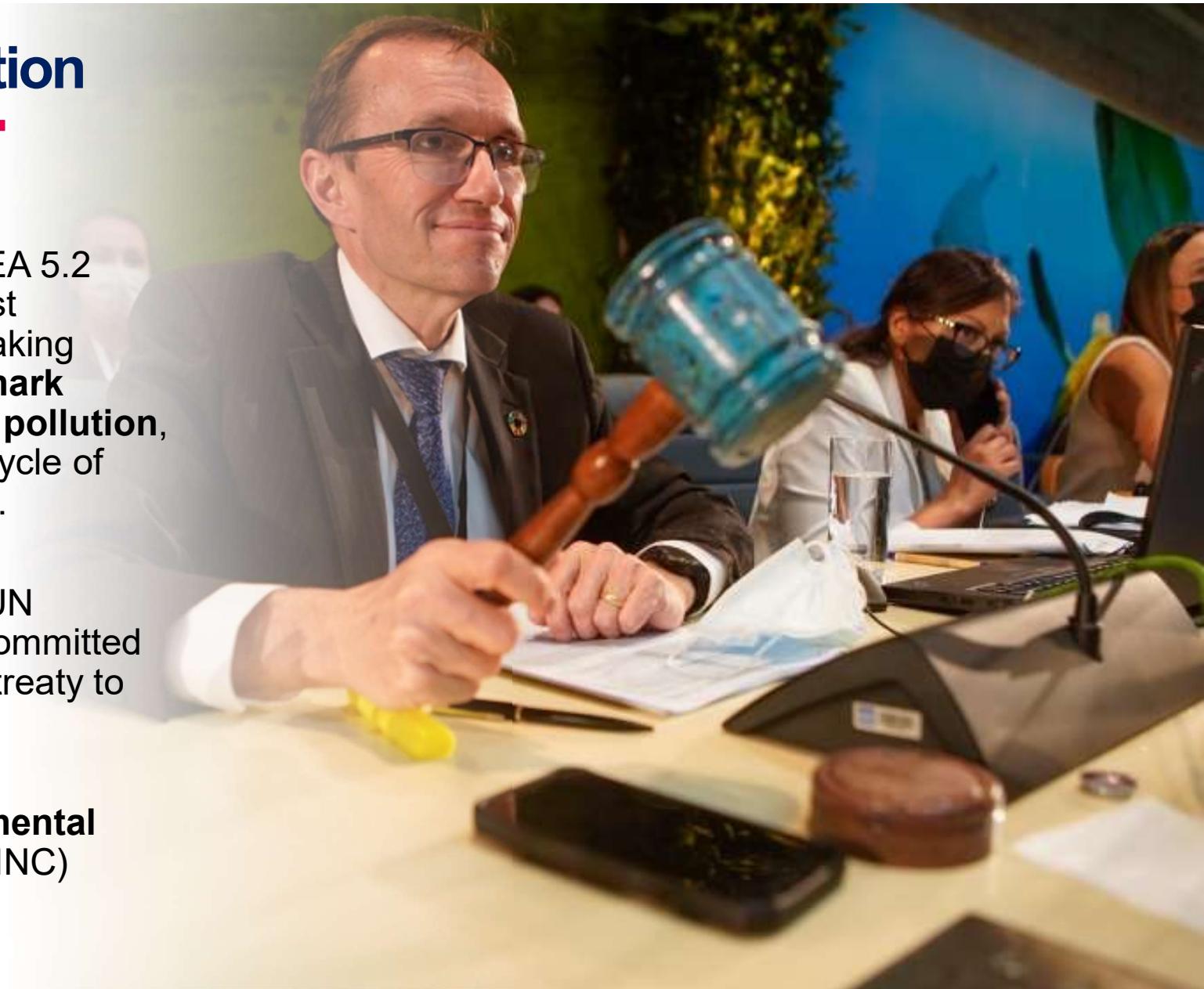
**#BeatPlasticPollution**



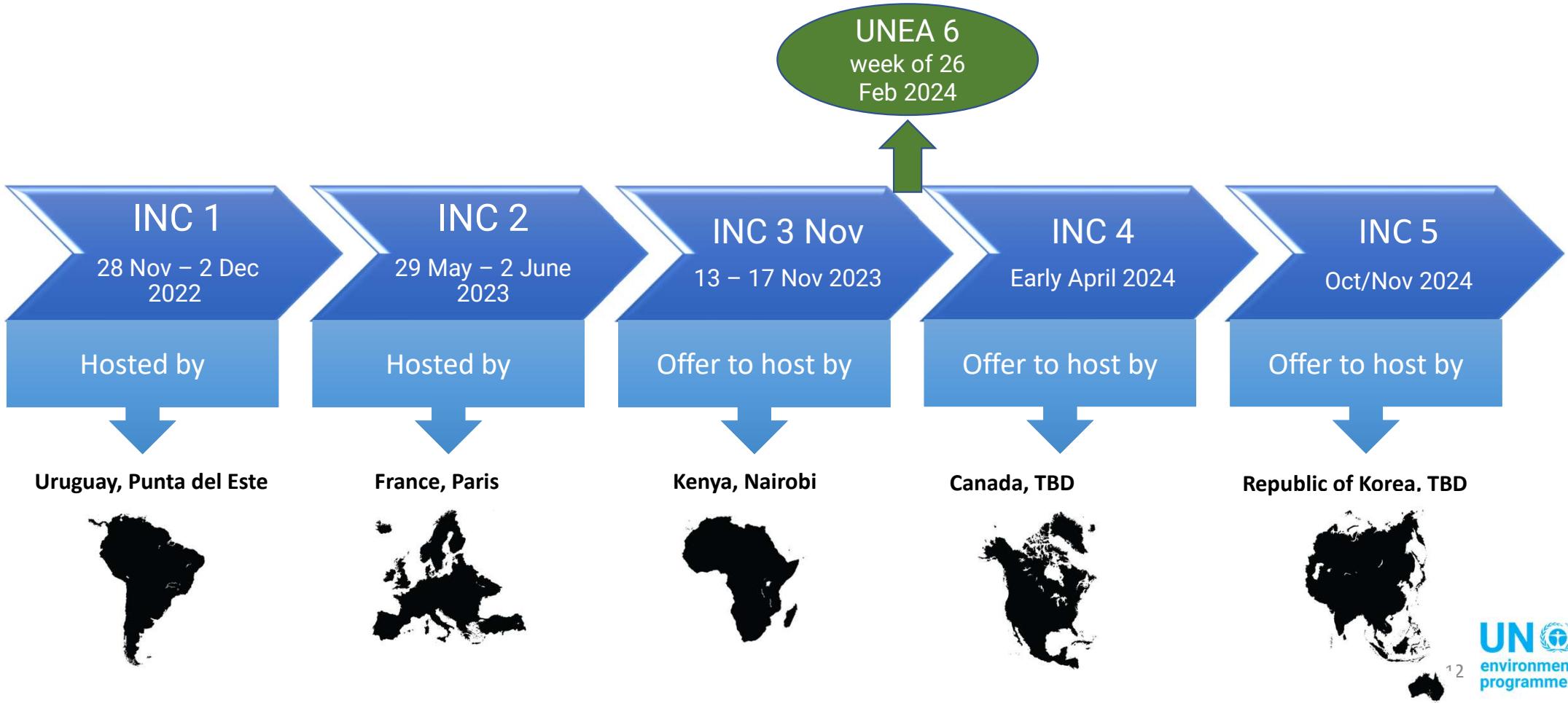
## Landmark resolution

---

- In February 2022, the UNEA 5.2 session, the world's highest environmental decision-making authority, adopted a **landmark resolution to end plastic pollution**, addressing the entire life cycle of plastic, from source to sea.
- The goal is that by **2024**, UN member states will have committed to a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution.
- Convene an **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**



# Timeline for the INC process



## INC-2: Making Paris count

- Critical opportunity for Members to deliberate and decide between possible options
- Discussions will be based on the “options paper”
- Less time spent on general statements allows moving swiftly to negotiating substance
- Determine mandate for INC-3

## Considerations for legislators

- Get familiar with the topic at global and national level, including technical and socio-economic issues
- Engage throughout the INC process, e.g. within the national consultations in preparation of the negotiations of the treaty
- Advise national delegates/negotiators
- Anticipate implications and legal requirements of future national ratification
- Lead the development of legislative instruments to address market failures and drive different behaviors

# Thank you



---

Jordi Pon  
Coordinador Regional, Programa de Químicos y Contaminación  
Oficina para América Latina y el Caribe  
[jordi.pon@un.org](mailto:jordi.pon@un.org)

---

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)