

Global Plastics Negotiations and its Local Implications: Pakistan's Readiness

Modern life, characterised by advancements in technology, medicine, food security, and travel, owes much to the discovery of plastics. However, these benefits have come with the unintended consequence of plastic waste. Recognising that progress must not come at the planet's expense, there is an urgent need to rethink how plastics are produced, consumed, disposed of, and responsibly managed. Mismanaged plastics waste is a collective challenge and requires collaborative solutions. In March 2022, the [UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA 5.2\)](#), adopted a historic resolution to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. 175 countries agreed to fight ever-mounting plastic pollution in the environment and humans. [Resolution 5/14](#) tasked the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with convening an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an instrument grounded in a comprehensive approach that addresses the entire life cycle of plastics, from production and design to disposal.

Over the past two years, officials have been working through the intricate details of the treaty, with the aim of finalising a legally binding plastics agreement by the end of this year. The fifth and final scheduled round of negotiations will take place from [25 November to 1 December 2024](#) in Busan, Republic of Korea. However, additional efforts are likely to be required before the treaty text is finalised and opened for ratification at a Diplomatic Conference.

Advocates view the treaty as an opportunity to regulate annual plastic production, restrict harmful chemicals used in manufacturing, and phase out particularly problematic plastic products. It also holds the potential to highlight the often-overlooked rights and health concerns of workers engaged in the plastics sector. This session will focus on Pakistan's stance in the negotiations, exploring key opportunities and challenges. Specifically, it will cover:

- Progress in the negotiations so far.
- Current state of the plastics waste challenge in Pakistan and how it compares with other countries and regions.
- Key considerations for developing countries in the negotiations, including identifying non-negotiables.
- Opportunities for Pakistan and other developing nations within the negotiation framework.
- Existing and potential alliances, partnerships, and platforms at the local, regional, and global levels to safeguard Pakistan's interests.
- Role of technology in advancing a waste-free future and enabling the shift towards a circular economy.

Panel Organisers

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