



WWF STATEMENT ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE OEWG

At the Ad hoc Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on 30th May to 1st June 2022, the world officially started its joint journey towards a new treaty to end plastic pollution, following a [UN Environment Assembly's decision](#) in March. The meeting served to prepare the process, structure and decision-making rules of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). The first INC meeting is now scheduled for November 2022 and will be a crucial global milestone in the fight against plastic pollution.

WWF appreciates the collaborative spirit and efforts that states have made to get this crucial negotiation process started and urges all states to engage with the highest possible ambition, urgency and commitment to the goal of developing a treaty that will end plastic pollution.

The development of a new treaty on plastic pollution provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to establish the common global rules and regulations that are fundamental to system change, such as global bans on excessive and harmful plastic products and materials, product design requirements and waste management standards, as well as associated supporting provisions. WWF urges all states to immediately start developing ambitious proposals on global measures and obligations for the treaty negotiations. Regional consultations and intersessional exchanges will be important to ensure maximum progress ahead of the November meeting.

The journey towards a future without plastic pollution is long, and considerable challenges lay ahead. The rate of plastic pollution continues to rise in alarming numbers, as the world is only beginning to change gear for this journey. There is no time to waste. The expected timeline of finishing the negotiations by the end of 2024 is not a lofty ambition, but rather a necessity. This means that a start-then-strengthen approach should be applied to the work of the INC, with priorities given to most effective and implementable global measures to address the most problematic types of plastic pollution.

WWF welcomes the results of the OEWG meeting with regards to the Rules of Procedure of the INC and highlights the need for effective decision making throughout the process, without individual countries blocking the progress of the global community. WWF underlines the need for a transparent, inclusive and collaborative process. The knowledge of all stakeholders, including vulnerable communities and those most affected by the impacts of plastic pollution, as well as NGOs and the private sector, will be needed to secure a successful negotiation outcome.

WWF is committed to participate and support the process, with the aim of achieving an ambitious binding treaty that includes the global rules and regulations needed to end plastic pollution.

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