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# Global Plastic Treaty - Negotiations Underway For A Plastic-Free Planet

## Why In The News?

- The **2<sup>nd</sup> Session Of The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee On Plastic Pollution** Is Being Held In **Paris, France** From **May 29-June 2, 2023**.
- A 55-nation Coalition Called For A Strong Treaty Including **Restrictions On Certain Hazardous Chemicals** As Well As **Bans On Problematic Plastics Products** That Are Hard To Recycle And Often End Up In Nature.
- The **U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP)**, Which Is Hosting The Talks, Released A Blueprint For **Reducing Plastic Waste By 80% By 2040**. The Report, Issued Earlier This Month, Outlined Three Key Areas Of Action: Reuse, Recycling, And Reorientation Of Plastic Packaging To Alternative Materials.



## Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) On Plastic Pollution:

- In February 2022, At The Resumed Fifth Session Of The United Nations Environment Assembly, A Historic Resolution Was Adopted To Develop An **International Legally Binding Instrument On Plastic Pollution**.
- Including In The **Marine Environment** With The Ambition To Complete The Negotiations By The End Of 2024.
- The Instrument Is To Be Based On A Comprehensive Approach That Addresses The **Full Life Cycle Of Plastic**.

- The Rapidly Increasing Levels Of Plastic Pollution Represent **A Serious Global Environmental Issue** That Negatively Impacts The **Environmental, Social, Economic, And Health Dimensions** Of Sustainable Development.
- Under A Business-as-usual Scenario And In The Absence Of Necessary Interventions, The Amount Of Plastic Waste Entering Aquatic Ecosystems Could Nearly Triple From Some **9-14 Million Tonnes Per Year In 2016 To A Projected 23-37 Million Tons Per Year By 2040.**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Session Of INC On Plastic Pollution:**

- The First Session Of The INC To Develop **An International Legally Binding Instrument On Plastic Pollution, Including In The Marine Environment,** Took Place In **Uruguay** From 28 November To 2 December 2022. Regional Consultations Took Place On 27 November 2022.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Session Of INC On Plastic Pollution:**

- Currently, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Will Take Place From **29 May To 2 June 2023 At The United Nations Educational, Scientific, And Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters In Paris, France.** The Meeting Will Be Preceded By Regional Consultations On 28 May 2023, At The Same Venue.



## Indian Contribution To Negotiations:

- Delhi-Based Non-Profit **Centre For Science And Environment (CSE)**, One Of The Accredited NGOs With The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Made A Written Submission That Was Acknowledged By **The INC Secretariat** And Uploaded On The UNEP Portal For Public Information.
- CSE's Submission Focused On The **Objectives And The Core Obligations, Control Measures, And Voluntary Approaches**.

## Submissions By CSE:

- The **Objective Of The Instrument** (International Legally Binding Instrument, Informally Known As The **Global Plastic Treaty Or GPT**) Should Clearly Define Its **Scope To End Plastic Pollution, And Plan To Reduce** (Over A Period Of 'X' Years) Production And Consumption Of Plastics And Chemicals Used In Plastics, Especially By Businesses.
- It Is Important To Identify And Stop The **Production Of Non-recyclable** (Terminologies Used In The UNEA Options Paper Are Problematic / Unnecessary / Avoidable) **Plastics Like Carry (Carrier) Bags And Multi-layered Packaging Material**.
- Certain Priority Sectors Like Packaging Have Been **Using An Unsustainable Quantum Of Plastics (Typically Single-Use)** - They Should Be Regulated And Have To Be Incorporated In The **National Action Plans (NAP)** And The **National Reporting System** Under Implementation Measures.



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**Centre for Science  
and Environment**

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- Under Core Obligations, Transparency With Respect To The Production, Consumption, And **Import / Export Of Plastic And Plastic Waste** Has To Be Created And Nurtured At A Global Level.

- Control Measures Have To Be Focused On **Differentiating Between Recycling And Disposal** (Waste-to-energy And Co-incineration) Technologies.
- Many Countries Have Expressed That **Compostable And Biodegradable Plastics** Are The Solutions To The Plastic Crisis. However, It Should Be Brought To The Knowledge Of The Member States That **Bioplastics Come With Their Own Set Of Challenges** And Do Little To Tackle The Plastic Problem At Source.





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