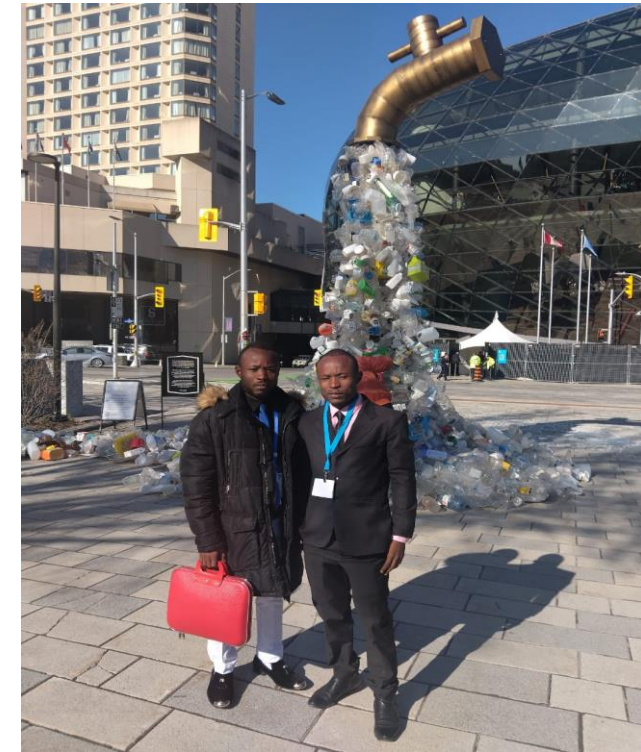




**ENVIRONMENT AND
FOOD FOUNDATION (E2F) @
INC 4 REPORT
OTTAWA, CANADA**

E2F Members Present @ INC 4

1. Achare Elvis Ayamba – Founder & Executive Director at Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)
2. Stephen Mbi – Chief of Operations @ E2F
3. Achare Valerie Manyor – Programmes manager @ E2F



Overview of INC Processes

- In February 2022, during the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international, legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution.
- As part of this journey, five sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) were planned to negotiate and finalise the treaty. The fourth session (INC-4), held from April 23 to 29, 2024, in Ottawa, Canada, brought together representatives from over 178 countries to deliberate and drive progress on the Global Plastics Treaty.
- While progress was made, there were unresolved debates issues like production caps, financing for developing nations, and treaty scope. The final round of the negotiation (INC-5) is scheduled by November 2024, in Busan, South Korea.

Our key objectives

1. Influence INC 4 resolutions and decisions so that proposed solutions reduce plastic pollution, address climate change and benefit local communities
2. Explore partnerships and collaboration with like-minded Individuals, Networks and CSOs to collectively influence outcomes / comprehensive solutions that benefit African people and nature



Our key Messages at INC 4

At INC-4, E2F urges states to:

- Join the growing majority supporting global rules in the treaty.
- Streamline the key setups and specific texts for prioritised control measures:
- Binding, global bans, phase-outs and phased reductions to eliminate high-risk and avoidable plastic products and chemicals of concern.
- Binding, global requirements on product design and performance to ensure reduction, reuse and safe recycling for all plastic products.
- Be specific on the necessary elements of prioritised implementation measures.
- A comprehensive finance package, utilizing all available sources and including a robust financing mechanism for the implementation of specific binding measures; as well as other non-financial means of implementation, including technology transfer, technical assistance, and capacity building.
- Requirements for monitoring and reporting, periodic assessments; and mechanisms to allow for scientific recommendations and Parties' decisions on strengthening the treaty over time.
- Agree on intersessional work plan for these top priorities:
- Criteria to assess and list plastic products and chemicals for bans and phased reductions.
- General and sector-specific requirements for product design and performance towards non-toxic circularity.
- Specific details on implementation measures, including compliance, reporting, and assessment; and on financial mechanisms.
- Mandate the development of a full draft of the treaty text before INC-5.



Highlights of E2F's Participation

Key Discussions and Recommendations

As INC-4 opened in plenary, statements made on behalf of a group of states and by individual states reaffirmed the growing majority support for binding global rules to address the full life cycle of plastics in the treaty to end plastic pollution. The INC moved to establish Contact Groups for substantive discussions on the Revised Draft Text of the treaty, as proposed by the INC Chair.

Both contact groups saw steady progress later in the afternoon:

1. Contact Group 2 (CG2) finished the first round of discussions on the key elements assigned by the INC Chair; the Co-Chairs have been mandated to deliver new streamlined texts, based on existing options the Revised Draft, as basis for further substantive discussions.
2. Contact Group 1 (CG1) have not yet finished their initial round of discussions on how to organise their tasks as assigned by the INC Chair, especially regarding potential directions for streamlining. There is an outstanding list of more than 20 speakers as the group ended work for Day 1 at 7:30 PM.

States must ensure that the negotiations at INC-4 deliver the necessary progress to enable timely conclusion of the negotiations by the end of 2024. Now is the time to speed up priorities.

● E2F Recommendation

WWF urges Member States to continue productive discussions in both contact groups, and prevent obstructions to streamlining efforts. WWF encourages states to support the role of the Co-Chairs and Co-Facilitators in conducting technical streamlining, based on existing options, to allow the CGs to make substantial progress.



Key Discussions and Recommendations

Support for Developing Nations

Developing nations highlighted the need for financial support to implement treaty measures. While there is broad agreement on the need for funding, the exact mechanisms remain undecided.

E2F Advocates Recommendation:

Financial models should include public-private partnerships and grassroots innovation, enabling scalable and sustainable solutions.



Key Discussions and Recommendations

Contact Group 1: Subgroup 1.3 was convened in the morning: Discussions first started on Part II. 7, regarding **Extended Producer Responsibility**, where most states voiced support for Option 1, with expectations for further amendments to streamline the texts around a binding obligation for mandatory EPR; some states supported Option 2 of the streamlined texts; four states supported Option 0 (no text).

- In the discussions on Part II. 8, **emissions and releases of plastics throughout its lifecycle**, a large majority supported Option 1. Some states proposed the inclusion of paragraph 6 of Option 2 (on assessment of the need as well as mobilisation of financial resources and technology transfer) in Option 1. Most states favoured the inclusion of emissions on land, freshwater, marine environment and addressing the whole lifecycle in the text.
- Co-facilitators proposed that **fishing gear**—which has elements under the mandate of both subgroups 1.2 and 1.3—be discussed in a joint working group (timing is not yet decided).
- Subgroup 1.2 was convened in the afternoon: On Part II. 5 **Product design, composition and performance**, most states expressed their preference for Option 1 (14 states and three groups of states, representing a total of 88 states), albeit with varying degrees of support—some states emphasised a nationally-driven approach, while the majority of states called for harmonised and binding requirements. Many states proposed that alternative plastics must be considered in the same manner as other plastics, i.e., to be addressed through a lifecycle approach, and thus recommended the deletion of Part II. 5. d.
- **E2F recommends** states to prioritise discussions on binding obligations for mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, and banning polluting practices, as well as setting requirements for waste management systems, and collective efforts on existing pollution.



Side Event: UN Plastic Treaty; Reuse, A Climate and Plastic Solution



- **Main Highlights:**

- Plastics contributes to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Reuse localizes supply chain and contributes to climate mitigation.
- Reuse is not recycling.
- Reuse is a climate solution.
- Reuse takes into consideration local realities and top-down approach to eradicate plastic pollution
- We need better financial mechanisms in reuse from principle to action.



Looking Ahead: What's Next?

The next INC session, scheduled for 2024, will aim to finalise the treaty with key resolutions on plastic production limits, financial mechanisms, and implementation frameworks.

A Message from E2F: INC-4 highlighted the challenges and opportunities in achieving a global plastics treaty. At E2F, we remain committed to driving progress by combining innovation, policy alignment, and impactful collaborations. Together, we can shape a waste-free, circular future—one bold action at a time.





Connect with Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)

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