

MINI-MODEL UN TOOLKIT

UNEA SIMULATION

*ANNEX: 5) SAMPLE REGIONAL/POLITICAL GROUP
NEGOTIATION CARDS*

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS



United Nations
Department of Global
Communications



World Federation of United Nations Associations

2025

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In March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 5/14, which set in motion negotiations for a global treaty on plastic pollution. The resolution asked the UN Environment Programme to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to draft an international, legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. Unlike earlier efforts that focused only on waste management, this treaty takes a “full life cycle” approach, addressing plastics from production and design through disposal.

This broad scope has become a central point of debate. Countries disagree over how ambitious the treaty should be. Some want legally binding rules that cover the entire life cycle of plastics, while others prefer voluntary measures that focus mainly on waste.

Another major issue is whether the treaty should set limits on the global production of virgin plastic, an idea opposed by many producer nations. Negotiators are also debating how to regulate harmful chemicals used in plastic production, which threaten both the environment and human health.

Financing is another key challenge, with discussions focused on how to fund the shift to a circular plastic economy and how to support developing countries in the process.

Finally, the treaty must resolve how its broader life cycle approach to plastics will fit with the Basel Convention, which deals mainly with the transboundary movement of plastic waste.

Included below are 30 countries you can assign to students for the mini-Model UN with links to statements they have made and statements made by political groups each country belongs to during different stages of the treaty negotiations from 2022-2025. You can easily swap out or add to this list by going to the written statements published on the UN Environment website and choose other countries from among the wide pool of written statements that have been delivered either on behalf of an individual Member State or on behalf of a Group of Member States.

It is important to look at statements made by political groups each country belongs to because country positions are often aligned with these statements. Here are the links to written statements for each of the INC sessions:

- [INC 1 \(Nov 2022\)](#)
- [INC 2 \(Jan 2023\)](#)
- [INC 3 \(Nov 2023\)](#)
- [INC 4 \(April 2024\)](#)
- [INC 5.1 \(Dec 2024\)](#)
- [INC 5.2 \(Aug 2025\)](#)

If you do add or replace countries, try to keep the geographical balance between different UN regions.

Negotiation cards are also provided for each country and some of the political blocs that are engaged in the plastic treaty negotiations. Students should be encouraged to add to their negotiation cards if they find additional information during their research on their country's position or the position of a political bloc that their country belongs to on marine plastic litter and microplastics.

1. EXAMPLES OF NEGOTIATION CARDS FOR EACH REGIONAL GROUP

Note: Each card represents one example country from a regional group. Positions are illustrative and may not reflect full regional diversity.

African States

Kenya		
Goals	Key Positions	Negotiation Points
Build waste infrastructure; reduce imports; promote regional frameworks; engage youth/civil society.	Supports binding treaty with life-cycle approach; stresses capacity-building and tech transfer; wants informal waste sector included.	Push finance windows for developing countries; insist on waste import controls; demand monitoring of support; advocate NGO–government partnerships.

Asia-Pacific States

India		
Goals	Key Positions	Negotiation Points
Balance development with pollution cuts; strengthen grassroots recycling; promote lifestyle change campaigns; lead South-South cooperation.	Supports binding treaty with national flexibility; emphasizes informal sector inclusion; strong need for financial/tech support.	Propose waste-to-energy funding; push support for informal recyclers; call for capacity-building streams; resist rigid trade bans.

Western Europe & Others

Germany		
Goals	Key Positions	Negotiation Points
Lead on a circular economy; tighten waste trade rules; set reduction targets; invest in green tech.	Strongly backs binding treaty; pushes Extended Producer Responsibility; advocates export controls; supports innovation hubs.	Demand EPR in treaty; enforce global timelines; regulate trade in plastics; propose innovation funding through Green Climate Fund.

Eastern Europe

Ukraine		
Goals	Key Positions	Negotiation Points
Rebuild waste systems post-conflict; align environment with recovery; promote regional cooperation; engage communities in cleanup.	Supports binding treaty with international aid; emphasizes resilience and flexible deadlines; wants strong civil society role.	Request post-conflict funding; propose resilience clauses in treaty; call for oversight of aid distribution; advocate recovery knowledge-sharing platforms.

Latin America & Caribbean (GRULAC)

Jamaica		
Goals	Key Positions	Negotiation Points
Protect tourism economy; run national awareness campaigns; secure cleanup/waste system funding; amplify Caribbean voice.	Supports binding treaty with SIDS provisions; opposes waste imports; advocates microplastics awareness; calls for equitable access to funds.	Propose SIDS-dedicated finance; demand global plastic phase-out timelines inclusive of island states; push microplastics research/testing protocols; request enforcement on ocean health.

2. LIST OF IMPORTANT REGIONAL AND POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

G77 and China

Context: 130+ developing countries; weak waste systems; heavily affected by plastic waste imports.

Goals	Negotiation Points
• Stop illegal/unwanted waste imports • Secure finance & technology for recycling/waste management • Ensure fair treaty reflecting different national capacities • Protect development rights	• Support legally binding treaty • Stricter trade controls on waste • Demand finance, tech transfer, training • Resist trade rules harming local economies

The European Union

Context: Strong global leader in environmental policy; bans many single-use plastics.

Goals	Negotiation Points
• Cut plastic production & waste • Improve product design, recycling, circular economy • Use trade to drive global standards • Support developing countries with accountability	• Binding treaty with timelines • Promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) • Push global design/eco-labeling standards • Support trade controls against plastic dumping

Major Plastic Exporters

Context: High plastic production/consumption; resistant to strict global limits.

Goals	Negotiation Points
• Maintain trade flexibility • Avoid strict product bans/production limits • Emphasize voluntary action & innovation	• Prefer national action plans • Favor partnerships/investments, not binding rules • Oppose restrictive trade barriers

Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)

Context: Highly vulnerable; economies rely on clean oceans.

Goals	Negotiation Points
• Protect coasts & marine ecosystems • Ban plastic waste imports • Get support for waste systems & alternatives	• Push for strong, enforceable treaty • Stress urgency of ocean protection • Request special assistance & recognition

High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

Context: Coalition (Rwanda, Norway, EU, Canada, Chile, Peru, etc.); aims for ambitious global action by 2040.

Goals	Negotiation Points
• Legally binding treaty by 2025 • Reduce plastic production across full lifecycle • Eliminate problematic single-use plastics • Ensure monitoring, reporting, compliance	• Global controls on virgin plastics & additives • Support cap on plastic output • Mandatory national action plans & reporting • Oppose voluntary-only approaches

Like-Minded Countries

Context: Developing nations (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, Malaysia, Iran, Morocco, India, Cuba and Kazakhstan, etc.); sovereignty & development first.

Goals	Negotiation Points
- Defend national sovereignty in plastic policies - Ensure flexibility & fairness for developing states - Avoid trade restrictions harming industries - Prioritize development alongside environment	- Oppose binding caps on production/consumption - Focus treaty on waste management/recycling - Request finance & tech transfer - Warn against "green protectionism"

COBSEA (East Asia Marine Litter Working Group)

Context: Regional body (Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines); marine litter hotspot.

Goals	Negotiation Points
- Improve waste management & education - Strengthen regional cooperation - Promote circular economy adapted to ASEAN - Protect biodiversity & livelihoods	- Call for more funding for infrastructure/cleanup - Emphasize capacity building & south-south exchange - Support biodegradable/waste-to-energy solutions - Advocate data sharing & monitoring

Arab Group

Context: League of Arab States; face rapid urbanization, arid climates, rising waste challenges.

Goals	Negotiation Points
- Protect coasts & marine resources vital to food security/tourism - Tackle waste in arid/semi-arid regions - Strengthen inter-Arab cooperation - Support innovation in plastic alternatives	- Request finance & technology adapted to MENA - Advocate inclusive decision-making - Promote harmonized product/disposal standards - Stress education & awareness campaigns

3. CREATE A NEGOTIATION CARD FOR YOUR ASSIGNED COUNTRY!

You have been given sample negotiation cards for different regional and political groups involved in the negotiations on the UN Plastics Treaty. Now create a negotiation card for the country you have been assigned.

Here are some tips to help get started:

Step 1: List **3–4 main goals** your country wants to achieve in the negotiations. Think about the big-picture outcomes your country wants from the UNEA resolution on plastic pollution.

Examples: reduce plastic waste, improve recycling systems, protect local industries, get financial or technical support.

Step 2: Write **2–3 sentences** explaining your country's general approach or priorities on plastic pollution.

Consider: What has your country already done or promised? What challenges does it face? Does it support a strong, binding treaty or prefer voluntary actions?

Examples: supports a legally binding plastics treaty and wants more funding for recycling in Africa, prefers national flexibility over binding global targets but invests in innovation and waste management technologies.

Step 3: List **3–4 specific actions or proposals** your country would support to achieve its goals. These are the detailed ideas your delegate can bring up in debate or include in a draft resolution.

Examples: create a global fund for waste management, support bans on single-use plastics, promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), require product labeling for recyclability.

When you have completed your country negotiation card, compare it with your **political group card** to find common ground and align strategies.



4. STATEMENTS BY COUNTRIES, REGIONAL AND POLITICAL GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN INC SESSIONS

How to use the table with links to statements?

If you assign any of these countries to your students, it is not necessary for students to read every statement that is listed in the following table. When you go through them you will find that some of the statements do a better job outlining the positions of a particular country than others. You could go through them in advance and make recommendations on which ones you think students should focus on if time is limited.

It is interesting to note that for each country there are many statements that the political groups that countries belong to have also made many statements. Since countries generally align their positions with their political groups, you could have students focus on reviewing these statements to define their country position if time is limited.

During the line by line review, political blocs often propose amendments on behalf of the countries that are members of their bloc. **You could consider organizing your students into their respective blocs and working together in their groups when proposing amendments. This could help with time management and speed up the line by line review.**

When political blocs propose amendments, individual countries still reserve the right to propose amendments on behalf of their government if they so choose.

MINI-MODEL UN TOOLKIT - ANNEX:
SAMPLE REGIONAL/POLITICAL GROUP NEGOTIATION CARDS

Country + Region	Statements made in different INC sessions	Statements made by political groups the country belongs to in different INC sessions
African States		
Kenya	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, (on behalf of the African Group) INC 4 + individual statement, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Nigeria	INC 1, INC 3	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Malawi	INC 1, INC 3, (on behalf of the African Group) INC 5.1 + individual statement, INC 5.2	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
South Africa	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 5.1, INC 5.2; (on behalf of the African Group) INC 5.1	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, 5.2;
Ghana	(on behalf of the African Group) + individual statement INC 2, INC 3, (on behalf of the African Group) INC 4, (on behalf of the African Group) INC 5.2	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Rwanda	INC 1, INC 4, INC 5.1	African Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2

1 HAC is an acronym for the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution is a group of 60 countries that are committed to developing an international legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution by 2040.

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Country + Region	Statements made in different INC sessions	Statements made by political groups the country belongs to in different INC sessions
Asia-Pacific States		
China	INC 1, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; COBSEA WGML INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
India	INC 1, INC 2, (Contact Group 1 and 2) INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; LMDC INC 4
Indonesia	INC 1, INC 3, (on behalf of COBSEA WGML) INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; COBSEA WGML INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Japan	INC 1, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Philippines	INC 1; (on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group) + individual statement INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; COBSEA WGML INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Saudi Arabia	INC 1, INC 2, (Contact Group 1 and 2) INC 2, INC 3; <u>(on behalf of Like Minded Countries)</u> INC 4; (on behalf of the Arab Group) INC 5.1	Asia-Pacific Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; GCC INC 3, INC 4

2 A Contact Group is a smaller, informal working group created to address specific elements of the treaty.

3 The Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) An expert body under the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) that provides technical and strategic guidance for implementing the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI). Its role is to facilitate regional cooperation, promote information exchange to help reduce and prevent marine litter in the East Asian Seas.

4 “Like-minded” countries (LMDCs) led by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, Malaysia, Iran, Morocco, India, Cuba and Kazakhstan want the reference to production limits deleted entirely from the UN Plastics Treaty . These nations argue that the crisis can be addressed through improved waste management, recycling and product design.

5 The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

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Country + Region	Statements made in different INC sessions	Statements made by political groups the country belongs to in different INC sessions
Western Europe and Others		
Germany		WEOG INC 1, EU INC 1, EU INC 2, EU (Contact Group 1 and 2) INC 2, EU INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
France	INC 1	WEOG INC 1, EU INC 1, EU INC 2, (Contact Group 1 and 2) INC 2, EU INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Netherlands		WEOG INC 1, EU INC 1, EU INC 2, (Contact Group 1 and 2) INC 2, EU INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Canada	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3	WEOG INC 1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Australia	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	WEOG INC 1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Norway	INC 2, INC 4	WEOG INC 1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2

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Eastern European States		
Russian Federation	INC 1	LMDC INC 4, INC 5.1
Poland		EU INC 1, EU INC 2, EU INC 3; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Romania		EU INC 1, EU INC 2, EU INC 3; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Czechia		EU INC 1, EU INC 2, EU INC 3;
Ukraine	INC 1, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1 (Closing Statement)	HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Georgia	(on behalf of High Ambition Coalition) + individual statement INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4	HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2

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Country + Region	Statements made in different INC sessions	Statements made by political groups the country belongs to in different INC sessions
Latin America and Caribbean States		
Brazil	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1
Chile	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Panama	INC 2, INC 3, INC 4; (on behalf of Panama and a group of countries) INC 5.1, INC 5.2	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Colombia	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 5.1	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2
Jamaica	INC 2, INC 3	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1
Mexico	INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1	Latin America and Caribbean Group INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1; HAC INC 1, INC 2, INC 3, INC 4, INC 5.1, INC 5.2