

11:00 am Pacific Time  
October 3, 2024

NATIONAL  
**ZERO**  
**WASTE**  
CONFERENCE

## Keynote #2

# The Global Plastics Treaty, Co-optation of Circularity and the Need for Local Zero Waste Action

Moderator: Aditi Varshneya

Speaker:

**Jamala Djinn**

Hosted by:



Day 2 • Zero Waste Communities

**11:00 am Pacific Time  
October 3, 2024**



# **Aditi (Adi) Varshneya**

**President**

**GAIA**

**(Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)**

**(Moderator)**

**Keynote #2 – The Global Plastics Treaty, Co-  
optation of Circularity and the Need for  
Local Zero Waste Action**



**National Zero Waste Conference 2024**

**Day 2 • Zero Waste Communities**

**Hosted by:**



**11:00 am Pacific Time  
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**Jamala Djinn, Ph.D.**

**Policy Advisor**

**Break Free From Plastic**

**Keynote #2 – The Global Plastics Treaty, Co-  
optation of Circularity and the Need for  
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# **The Fight for a Strong Global Plastics Treaty**





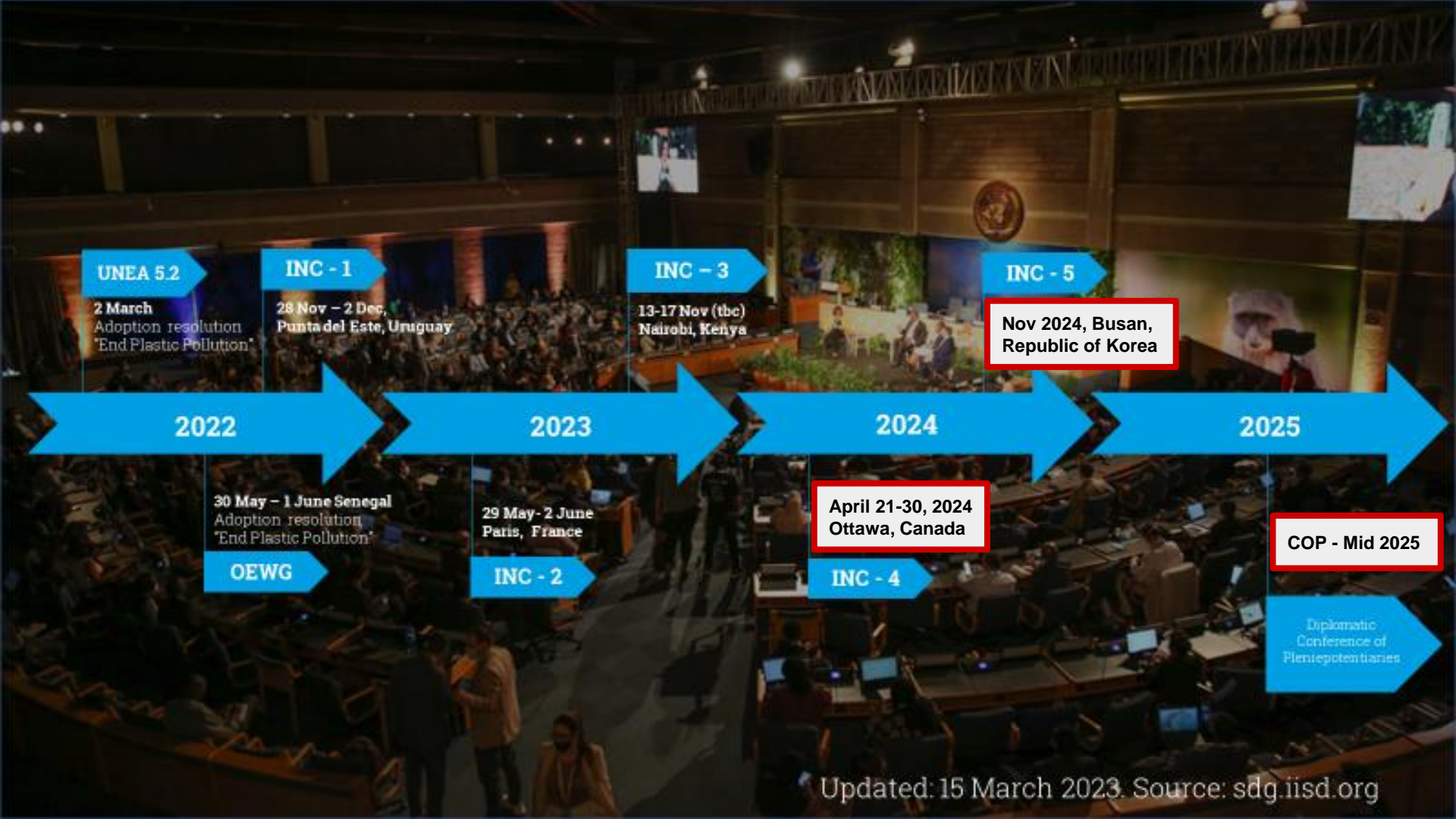
**The Global Plastics Treaty negotiations are a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish an “international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution across the full life cycle, including in the marine environment” (UNEA Resolution 5/14).**

**Since November of 2022, delegates from 170+ nations and thousands of members of civil society have participated in meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution to draft the treaty.**

**The timeline for the negotiations is both functionally insane *and* commensurate with the scope of the crisis and our urgency to act.**

**How did we get  
here?**





**UNEA 5.2**

**2 March**  
Adoption resolution  
"End Plastic Pollution"

**INC - 1**

**28 Nov - 2 Dec,**  
**Punta del Este, Uruguay**

**INC - 3**

**13-17 Nov (tbc)**  
**Nairobi, Kenya**

**INC - 5**

**Nov 2024, Busan,**  
**Republic of Korea**

**2022**

**2023**

**2024**

**2025**

**30 May - 1 June Senegal**  
Adoption resolution  
"End Plastic Pollution"

**OEWG**

**29 May- 2 June**  
**Paris, France**

**INC - 2**

**April 21-30, 2024**  
**Ottawa, Canada**

**INC - 4**

**COP - Mid 2025**

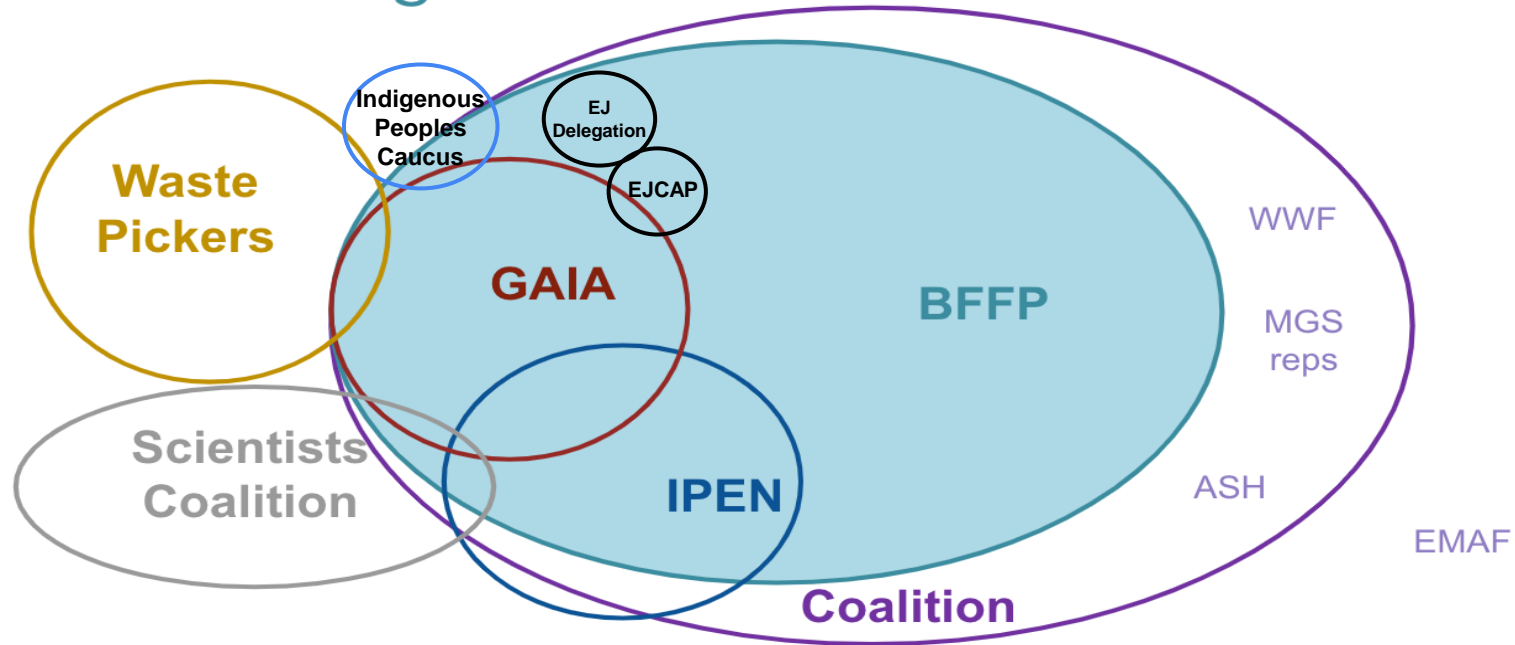
Diplomatic  
Conference of  
Plenipotentiaries

# How are we organized?

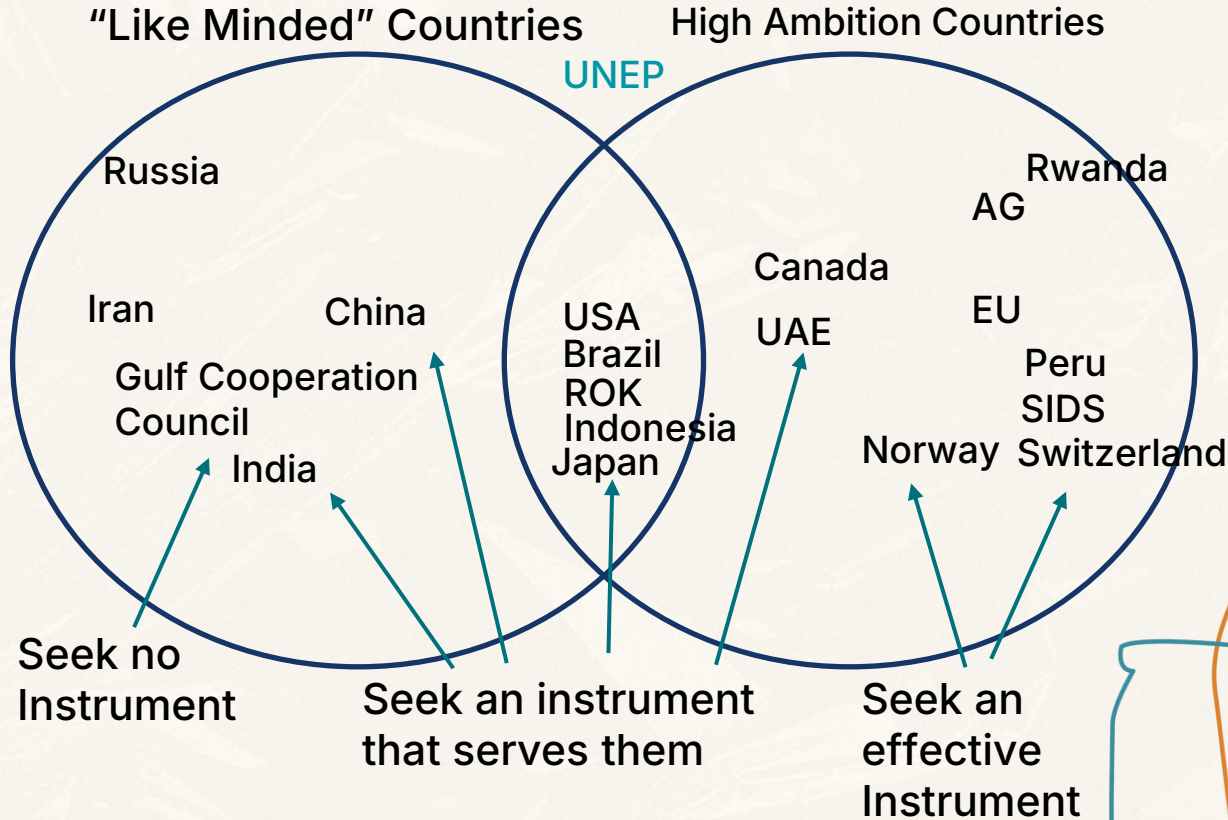




# Overlapping networks engaged in the treaty - how we are organised



# How are *they* organized?



# US Political Strategy for a Global Plastics Treaty

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NEARLY **40 US-BASED MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO PRESSURE THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION** TO NEGOTIATE A TREATY THAT PRIORITIZED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE FOSSIL FUEL + PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, AND PRIOTIZES NON-TOXIC REUSE AND REFILL OVER INDUSTRY FALSE SOLUTIONS

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**GPT**

Global Plastics Treaty

# What is the Zero Draft and why is it important?

*A zero draft is referred to as the first attempt to assemble thoughts or ideas related to a proposed agreement.*

The Zero Draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution was released by UNEP on September 4, 2023 following the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2).

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**GPT**  
Global Plastics Treaty

# What is the Zero Draft and why is it ~~important?~~

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*Revised!*

*so shitty?*

# WHAT AM I EVEN LOOKING AT?!

## Option 3

1. Each Party[, in accordance to its national circumstances and capabilities and subject to its national action plan,] shall take the necessary measures [to manage] [(to not allow, or] to regulate], the presence and use, in plastics and plastic products, [the risk] of chemicals[, groups of chemicals][ and polymers] with the potential for adverse impacts on human health or the environment [,based on agreed scientific criteria, following a transparent and inclusive process decided by the governing body\*] [in the production of plastic products] [[throughout][at any stage of the product]\*\* life cycle,] or with properties that may hinder their safe and environmentally sound management[, including their reusability, reparability, recyclability and disposal, based on the criteria contained

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UNEP/PP/INC.4/3

in annex A)[ provided alternatives or substitutes are available, accessible, affordable and environmental-friendly]. The measures taken to implement this provision shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans].

**OPI Alt** Each Party shall, consistent with its regulatory frameworks and processes, and based on scientific evidence, take appropriate measures to identify and control chemicals, groups of chemicals and polymers that present a demonstrated risk of concern to human health or the environment at any stage of the product life cycle, including consideration of risks relevant to their environmentally sound management, reusability, and recyclability.

**OPI bis Alt** Each Party shall take measures, consistent with its regulatory frameworks and processes and based on scientific evidence, to prioritize and evaluate, as appropriate, polymers and chemicals used in plastic production that may present a risk of concern to human health or the environment.

**OPI ter Alt** Each Party shall take measures, consistent with its regulatory frameworks and processes, and based on scientific evidence, to test chemicals used or intended to be used in plastic production that may present a risk of concern to human health or the environment.

**OPI bis** Any new chemicals of concern identified under paragraph 1 above shall be prohibited under the relevant chemical convention.

**OPI ter** The cost of compliance of control measures shall be assessed for each country and funding shall be made available through the dedicated fund as per a procedure decided by the governing body\* to enable compliance of control measures.

**Option 4 – Replace Part II, sections 2 and 3 with the following text:**

**Alt title:** Control of Hazardous, Problematic and Avoidable Chemicals, Polymers, and Plastic Products, including single-use plastics and intentionally added microplastics

← This is Option 3



A COMPILED MESS!  
NOT LEGAL TEXT!

← These are alternative text proposals and additions to Option 1 (that have nothing to do with OP3)

← This is Option 4

← This is an alternative title (to the entire Part II.1)

# “BRACKETGEDDON”

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Failed to reach an agreement at INC 4 on preamble, definitions, TOC + most of the substantive provisions

Zero Draft Text has become heavily bracketed due to wide array of views among MS

The “Like Minded Group” is only partially to blame

# Intersessional Meeting

- Mandate for Intersessional Work at INC 4 in Ottawa, including in-person meeting in Bangkok
- Production of primary plastic polymers notably excluded
- Ad hoc intersessional expert working groups covered chemicals of concern, “problematic and avoidable” products, and financial mechanism
- Shift in posture from US and Chinese delegations, but no shift in policy

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**GLOBAL  
PLASTICS  
TREATY**



# The US must clarify their position and take the lead

- The US signaled openness to shifting their position on PPP, chemicals, and products and hold the line on previous shifts right before Bangkok
- If true, this could potentially break gridlock and ensure we leave Busan with a strong skeleton of the Treaty
- So far commitments have been private rather than public, and rhetorical rather than substantive
- Likely to change with the elections

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PLASTICS  
TREATY**

# No need for policy expertise; everyone in has a role to play!

- Pushing for a strong treaty is not just about policy—we'll need to mobilize the grassroots to influence public narrative around the treaty, and by extension, influence the delegates & actual negotiations
- How does one get involved?
  - Grassroots pressure!
  - US GPT Collective biweekly meetings

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**CLARIFICATIONS,  
QUESTIONS,  
QUERIES,  
COMMENTS?**

