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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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First session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC- 1)

Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Centre, Ave. Pedragosa Sierra corner Ave. Aparicio Saravia, Punta del Este, Maldonado Department, Uruguay.

Contact: info@centrodeconventions.com.uy / +598 4247 7477.

26 November – 2 December 2022

Information Note

Preamble

This information note by SPREP will compliment the Participants Logistics Note provided by UNEP [here](#). You will find all relevant information about the meeting including the background, objectives, outcomes, and logistics for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee-1, including accommodation options, venue, visa and general information about Punta del Este.

INC-1 Aims, Objectives, Outcomes *(from a Pacific region perspective)*

Background

The Marine Plastic Pollution Problem

Marine plastic pollution is a pressing environmental, health and economic development problem for the Pacific region especially for island countries and territories. Plastic pollution in particular, threatens the livelihoods of Pacific island communities that are dependent on coastal systems for food, trade and tourism. Plastics adversely affect fish and other marine life, coral reefs, beaches and mangrove forests, and devalues the amenity of coastlines, threatening the growing tourism sector.

Regional response to marine plastic pollution

In 2017 and 2018 Pacific Island Forum leaders' meetings, Pacific leaders committed to addressing the issue of single-use plastics as a matter of urgency and endorsed SPREP's Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (or simply the 'Marine Litter Action Plan'). The meeting of Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa, 10th September 2021 communique adopted the '*Pacific Regional Declaration On The Prevention Of Marine Litter And Plastic Pollution And Its Impacts*' (or simply the 'Pacific regional declaration on plastics') outlining its position to addressing the issue of plastic pollution. The regional declaration encouraged states attending the UNEA5.2 session to support the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to negotiate a new binding global agreement covering the whole life cycle of plastics. A regional preparatory workshop to prepare Pacific delegates to fully engage in the INC process was held from the 16-18 August in Suva Fiji which resulted in an outcomes statement expressing the issues of importance for discussion from the workshop, guidance on coordination and communication of PSIDS leading up to INC-1.

Commitment from Australia

The Australian-funded *Pacific Ocean Litter Project* was borne from the Australian Government's desire to assist SPREP and Pacific island countries (PICs) with the implementation of agreed actions under the Marine Litter Action Plan, and forms part of broader Australian Government support for sustainable oceans in the Pacific. The participation of a delegate from each PIC at INC-1 is made possible through financial support from Australia and is part of the broader Australian Government support for sustainable oceans in the Pacific.



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Commitment from Australia Aim

The aim of the commitment from Australia is to provide Member Governments with the assistance they may need in negotiating a global agreement to address plastic pollution covering the whole life cycle of plastics.

Objectives

The aim is to achieve the following outcomes and outputs:

Outcome 1: PICTs are able to actively engage in negotiating a new binding global agreement that's in line with the Pacific regional declaration on plastics.

Outcome 2: PICTs are able to establish regional positions to engage meaningfully in global negotiations.

Outcome 3: PICTs are able to establish negotiating positions with other SIDS to engage in global negotiations.

Outline of programme

The week at a glance:

	Wed - Fri 23–25 November	Saturday 26 November	Sunday 27 November	Mon - Fri 28 Nov – 2 Dec
Morn-ings	BRS plastic waste partnership meeting	Multi-stakeholder forum Full agenda here	Regional consultations	Regional meetings 9-10am everyday Full agenda here
After-noon		What the science tells us for a system change to end plastic pollution In-person roundtable discussions In-person roundtable discussions Key conclusions from roundtable discussions and Q&A Achievements and acknowledgements Closing remarks End		1. INC-1 2. Opening of the session 3. Election of officers 4. Organisational matters: (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure (b) Adoption of the agenda (c) Organisation of work 5. Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment 6. Other matters 7. Adoption of the report 8. Closure of the session



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Registration

On line registration can be done via the UNEP Online Registration Portal [here](#).

Preparatory work before attending the INC-1

In order to prepare to fully engage at the INC-1 the region has agreed to the following arrangement of clusters, country leads and technical resource experts. The Secretariat and its technical resource experts will provide a brief on key issues for the country leads to consider. The region has agreed to three meetings following the Pacific preparatory workshop in Suva on the 15 September, 11 October and 1 November.

Cluster	Pacific lead/s	Technical support contact point and organisation
1 - Objectives, definitions and structure of work	Cook Islands, RMI, Palau	Sascha Fuller Jacob Kean-Hammerson Anastacia Amoa-Stowers
2 - Institutional Framework	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji	David Azoulay Anastacia Amoa-Stowers Andrea Volentras
3 - Sustainable production and consumption	Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	Christina Dixon Karina McLachlan Susana Telakau Bradley Nolan
4 - Sustainable Product Design and Manufacture	Cook Islands	Karen Raubenheimer Alfred Ralifo Andrea Volentras Karen Baird
5 – Environmentally Sound Waste Management	Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu	Cameron Colebatch Karina McLachlan Susana Telakau
6 – National Action Plans	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue	Trisia Farrelly Bradley Nolan Karen Baird Kate Nobel

The following guiding questions from the Preparatory Workshop are still very relevant for countries to dialogue and get feedback from national stakeholders.

Does the '[Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its Impacts](#)' still accurately represent the Pacific position moving into negotiations?

The incoming global plastics treaty will take '*a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics.*'¹ Where should the 'life cycle of plastic' begin and end?

How can we ensure the treaty is capable of ending marine plastic pollution at the same time as ending land-based, atmospheric and freshwater plastic pollution?

¹ See [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#)



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The plastics treaty negotiations will be split into different areas or ‘clusters’ which will have significant influence on the outcome of the treaty. Does the vision set out by the [Environmental Investigation Agency and Center for International Environmental Law](#) align with Pacific needs and priorities?

What are the shared Pacific priorities for a global treaty based on the challenges previously identified?

There are many plastic pollution issues that are shared by Pacific nations. Is there an issue that you feel is unique to your country or territory that is not shared by other Pacific nations?

How have your and your region’s priorities been represented at UNEA and other related global policy meetings to date?

Moving forwards, what strategies will ensure Pacific priorities are part of the conversation?

What text is needed in the global treaty to meet the challenges that cannot be addressed by PICs’ national policy frameworks alone?

What should be included in National Plastic Pollution Prevention Plans (N4Ps)/National Plastic Action Plans in the Pacific Islands region to ensure they effectively respond to a comprehensive global treaty?

Additional information can be sourced from the webpage

[Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop \(sprep.org\)](#)

FAQ to facilitate entry into Uruguay

Please refer to the updated information – [No se encontró la página | Sitio oficial de la República Oriental del Uruguay \(www.gub.uy\)](#)

What are the current COVID-19 regulations to enter Uruguay from my country of residence?

As of September 2022, and subject to change, people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are allowed to enter the country with presentation of a vaccination certificate. The same applies to people who had a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 90 (ninety) days prior to the trip; in these cases, it is required the presentation of a PCR-RT molecular biology test or an antigen detection test, issued from 10 to 90 days before the trip to the country.

People with no full vaccination scheme and that have not had a positive diagnosis of Covid in the last 90 (ninety) days are required to present a negative SARS-CoV-2 virus detection test result (by molecular biology PCR-RT technique or tumor test), collected no more than 72 (seventy-two) hours previous to the start of the trip, in a certified laboratory from the country of origin or transit. The accreditation of the negative test must be carried out prior to boarding with the corresponding airline.

Participants are advised to constantly check the Uruguayan official website (<https://www.gub.uy/antesvenir>), as information in this regard is subject to change.

The organizers will not provide participants with individual travel insurance. Participants **must purchase individual travel insurance** at their own cost before traveling to Uruguay.



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Immigration Requirements

Passports

Please ensure that your passport has a minimum of 6-month validity period beyond the scheduled date of entry to Uruguay.

Visas

The Government of Uruguay, through the National Immigration Office (DNM), in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNEP, will issue individual special letters that will suffice for airlines to allow participants to board and enter Uruguay. Once registration is duly approved on Indico, the relevant information of the delegate will be shared with the Government of Uruguay for issuance of the special letter to the contact address of the participant. The process is fully online.

Transportation from the Airport

Most participants may find it more convenient to arrive at the Montevideo airport (Carrasco International Airport) due to a wider offer of flights. A meeting transfer/shuttle bus service will be offered to participants from Montevideo to Punta del Este.

Alternatively, the Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport (also known as Laguna del Sauce International Airport) is located in the neighboring city of Maldonado, and receives regular commercial flights from Argentina, Brazil and Chile. As of September 2022, Azul and Aerolíneas Argentinas were the two airlines operating in the airport; it's expected more companies will be operating from now to the end of the year.

Venue

The INC-1 will take place in the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The Convention Center is located approximately 8-10 minutes by car/bus from the city centre. There are no hotel or food establishments in the surroundings, thus food and beverage services will be made available in the event's facilities.

ADDRESS

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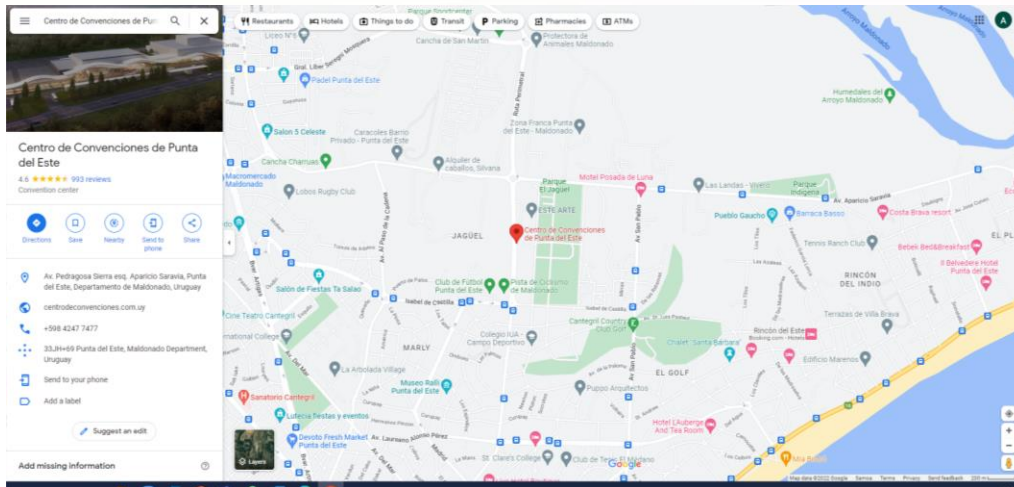
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Plastic-Free Meeting

This meeting is plastic free. Delegates are suggested to bring their own water bottles to the meeting. Water dispensers for refilling will be provided

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The daily subsistence allowance for Uruguay Punta del Este is around:

- November - USD 173 per day, 57% for accommodation
- December - USD 306 per day, 69% for accommodation

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-10/DSA%20Octubre%202022.PDF>

Accommodation Options (refer to Annex A of the UNEP Participates Note)

Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements. It is strongly recommended to place your hotel booking at your earliest convenience. Below is a selection of hotels in the vicinities of the venue that SPREP and other resource folks are looking at.

Hotel	Contact	Rooms/pricing (USD)	Breakfast included	Star rating	Distance to city's central area	Distance to event	Further details
Hotel Sea View	+598 4243 8753 reservas@hotelseaview.uy Sing.	\$74-83 Doub. \$79-168	Yes	3	7 min	5 min	Reviews are okay -
Hotel 2122	+598 4249 2122 gerencia@hotel2122.com	Doub. \$68-120	Yes	4	5 mins	6 min	Reviews are okay



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Hotel Bonne Etoile	+598 4244 0301 hotelbonneetoile@hotmail.com	Doub. \$56-70	Yes	3	Centre-located	13 min	
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Access to Public Transportation

Transfer services will be available between the capital Montevideo and Punta del Este, and as well between Punta del Este city centre and the venue every day. Information in this regard will be made available and constantly updated in this note. The metropolitan area is well connected to the rest of the country by a modern transportation system that includes a port, buses, taxis, and remises. Mobility platforms working in the city include Uber and Cabify, whereas traditional cab drivers have likewise their own app (A Punta Taxi, Voy en Taxi), which allows passengers to order a car and pay for it through your own cell phone.

TRANSFERS' SCHEDULE AND ROUTES

Details and schedules will be further provided.

Currency and Exchange

The Uruguayan Peso (UYU/\$) is the official currency. Bank notes are available in the following denominations: \$2,000; \$1,000; \$500; \$200; \$100; \$50; \$20 while the coins are denominated \$50, \$10, \$5, \$2, and \$1.

Exchange rates (31 August 2022) 1 USD = 42 Uruguayan pesos; 1 Euro = 48 Uruguayan pesos.

Uruguay imposes no restrictions on the import or export of any local or foreign currency. There is only an obligation to declare sums greater than 10,000 dollars or equivalent.

There are many banks and exchange offices where you can exchange dollars, euros, and other currencies. (Banks working hours: 1pm - 5pm, Foreign exchange offices > 9am - 7pm). Some hotels also provide currency exchange service, but it should be noted that these rates are not always favorable.

ATMs can be found all throughout the country. Most places accept credit or debit cards.

Electricity

The residential voltage in Uruguay is 220V/50Hz. You will need a transformer in order to use your portable devices if they do not run on 220V/50Hz. Please make sure you bring one along or purchase one in Montevideo if you need it. Plug types in Uruguay are C and L.



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Time zone

To check the time difference between Uruguay and your country, please refer to [Time Zone Converter and Time Difference Calculator \(24timezones.com\)](http://24timezones.com)

Weather

Punta del Este weather from the 20 November to 2 December will be an average high of 24 deg and 14 deg low.

Enquiries

For questions related to the meeting arrangements and in particular, logistical arrangements, please contact Mrs Davina Tiitii (davinat@sprep.org)