



Using International Law to Face the Global Plastics Crisis

30^{YEARS}
CIEL
CENTER for INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Webinar: April 3, 2020

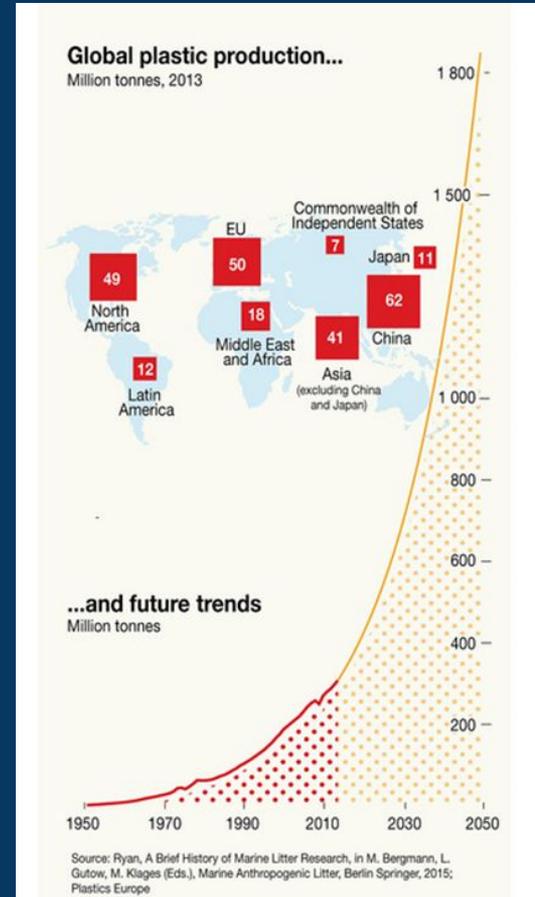
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GLOBAL SOLUTION FOR A GLOBAL CRISIS

Plastics are a global supply chain
with global impacts

...and virgin plastics production is
set to rise by more than 40% in just
the next 5 years.

It requires a global solution
addressing the full life cycle of
plastics



PLASTICS & HUMAN RIGHTS

- The plastic lifecycle threatens these rights, especially those of children and youth throughout their lives:
 - right to life and development
 - right to the highest attainable standard of health
 - right to an adequate standard of living
 - right to a healthy environment
 - right to non-discrimination
 - right to information
 - right to an effective remedy

POLICY SPACES

BASEL

- **Scope:** Limits the trade of hazardous waste between countries (specifically from Global North to Global South)

STOCKHOLM

- **Limitations:** Focused on waste. False solutions not excluded. Includes objective to reduce, but not been very effective so far.

IMO

- **Opportunities:** Functional and vibrant convention, lots of good elements and great momentum after adoption of Basel Plastic amendment and entry into force of the Basel Ban.

UNEA

POLICY SPACES

- **Scope:** Persistent Organic Chemicals (POPs)

BASEL

- **Limitations:** Only covers a very specific type of chemicals. Works chemical by chemical. Slow addition process.

STOCKHOLM

- **Opportunities:** Achieves real global bans of certain substances, robust scientific body, vibrant Convention. Already coordinates with other other Conventions (Joint BRS secretariat)

IMO

UNEA

POLICY SPACES

- **Scope:** Ports and maritime sources of plastics (i.e. dumping from ships, fishing gear, etc.)
- **Limitations:** Not well equipped to address land-based sources of marine litter.
- **Opportunities:** Fishing gear, port reception facilities and on board consumption are all very relevant to address plastic pollution. Different political dynamics in IMO open possibilities.

BASEL

STOCKHOLM

IMO

UNEA

POLICY SPACES

- **Relevance:** Governing Body of UNEP. UNEA will be the primary space where we thread all the pieces together to achieve a mandate to begin negotiation on a global instrument

- **Opportunities:** Plastics (termed “marine litter” and including microplastics) have been a significant part of the agenda since UNEA-1 (June 2014). Creation of an Open-Ended Expert Group (OEEG) at UNEA-3 (Dec. 2017). 3 meetings held so far (2018-19); 2 more planned in 2020 before UNEA-5 (Feb. 2021), schedule now TBD

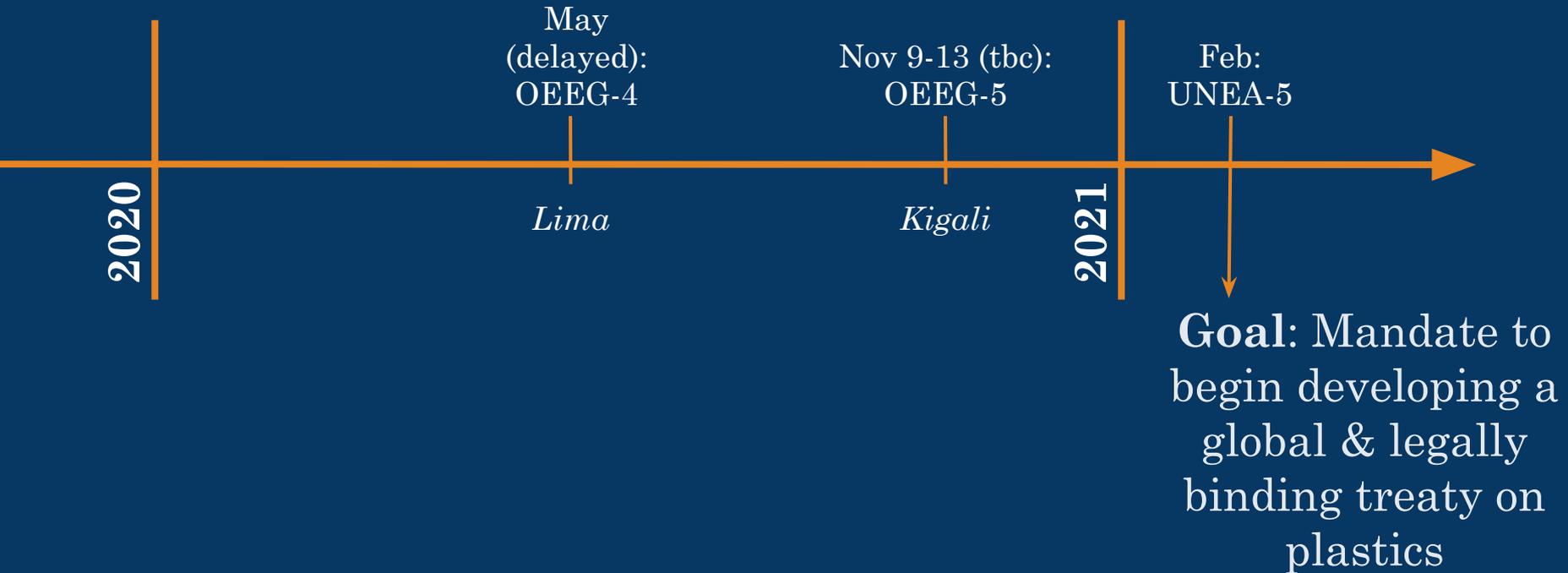
BASEL

STOCKHOLM

IMO

UNEA

TIMELINE



PARTICIPANTS



#breakfreefromplastic



*Major Groups:
Women, Workers &
Trade Unions, NGO*

YOUR ENGAGEMENT

- **Attend** and/or contribute to upcoming meetings (UNEA-5, Expert Group, Basel, etc.)
 - Educate country delegates, garner support, counter industry influence into these spaces, recruit progressive businesses
- **Align** local / national / regional policy objectives
 - With the global treaty objectives & elements
- **Influence** key people in your country
 - ministers of the environment & foreign affairs, other NGOs
- **Share** with your networks
 - newsletter issues, talking points, support for positions, upcoming events

RESOURCES

Follow-up for participation:

- On Basel, Stockholm, SAICM: David (dazoulay@ciel.org)
- On IMO: Tim (timgrabel@eia-international.org)
- On UNEA or general global policy: Jane (jpatton@ciel.org)

Key links:

- [*Progress on Plastics*](#) newsletters on policy developments
- [*Plastics & Health*](#) report
- [*Plastics & Climate*](#) report
- [*Ocean Pollutants Guide*](#) report
- [*Discarded: Communities on the Frontline*](#) report