

Using International Law to Face the Global Plastics Crisis

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Race for Water Webinar: July 1st 2021

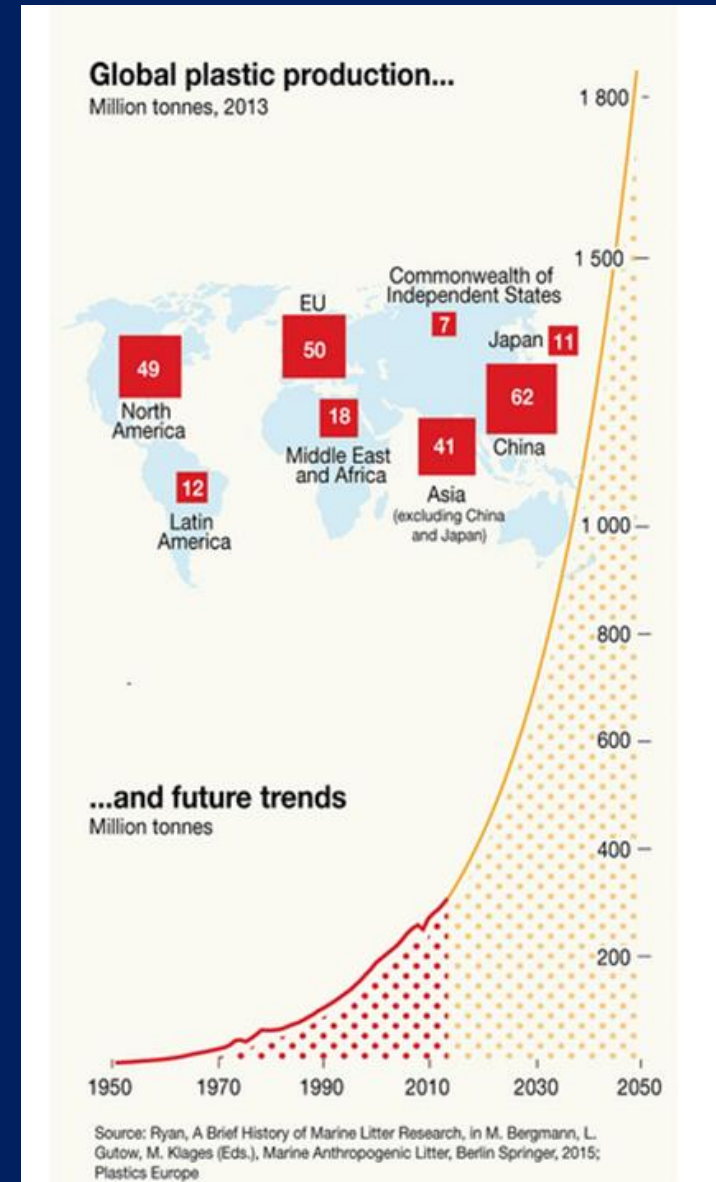


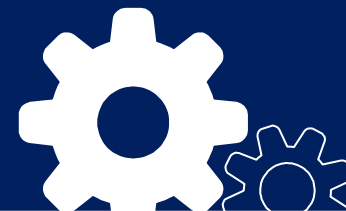
GLOBAL SOLUTION FOR A GLOBAL CRISIS

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





UNEA 1

Resolution 1/6 (2014):

- Stresses the importance of the **precautionary approach**.
- Requested UNEP to undertake a study **focusing on key sources** of marine plastic debris and microplastics.

UNEA 2

Resolution 2/11 (2016):

- Recognizes the issue as “**rapidly increasing serious issue of global concern** that needs an urgent global response taking into account a **product life-cycle approach**.”
- Requested UNEP to undertake an assessment **of the effectiveness of relevant governance strategies** to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics.

UNEA 3

Resolution 3/7 (2017)

- Stresses the importance of **long-term elimination** of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans.
- Encouraged innovative approaches such as **extended producer responsibility** and **container deposit schemes**.
- Decided to convene an Open Ended Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG)

UNEA 4

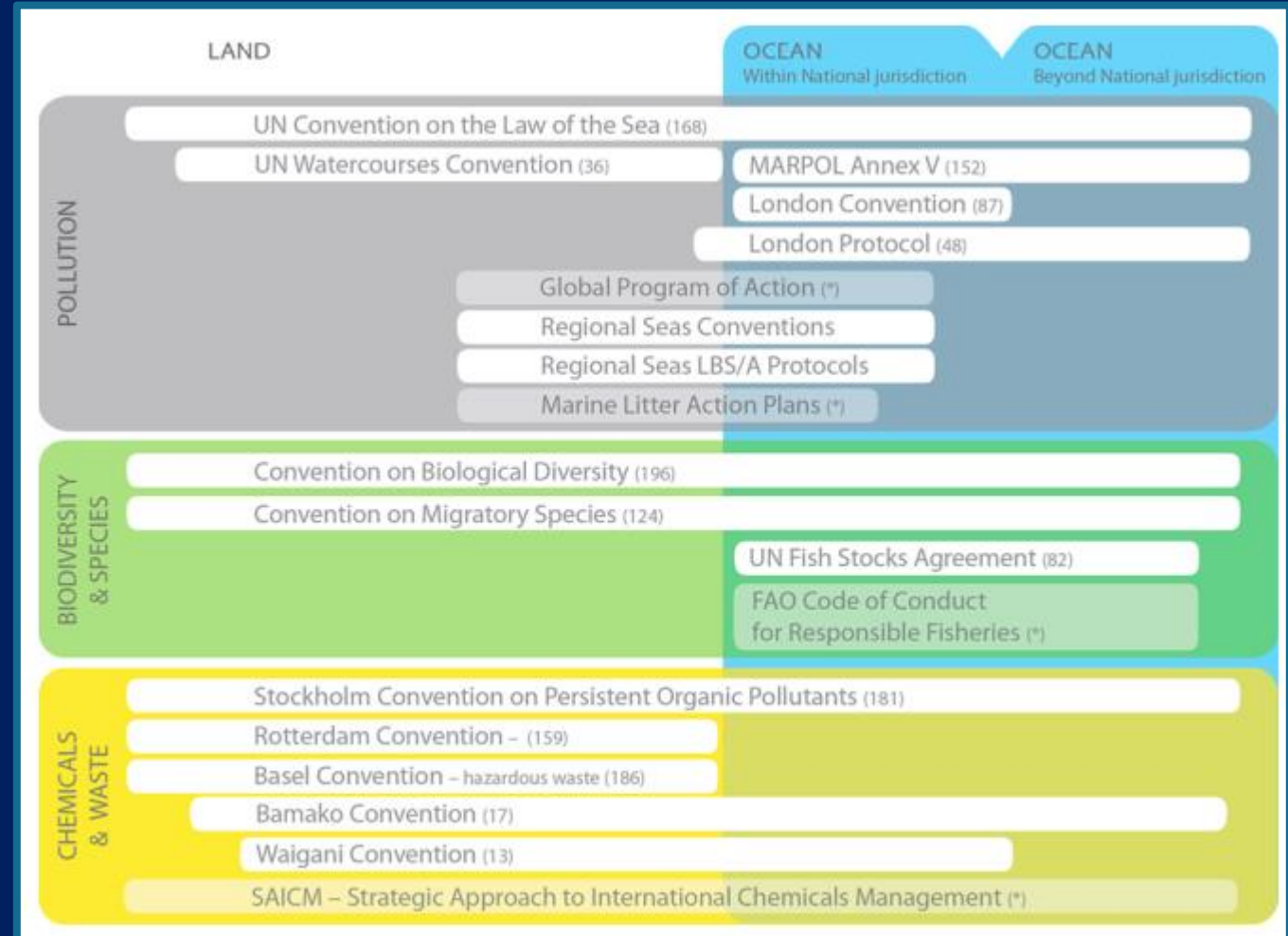
Resolution 4/6 (2019)

- Stresses the importance of more sustainable management of plastics throughout their life cycle, including but not limited to the **circular economy**.
- Required UNEP to compile data to prepare an assessment on sources, pathways and hazards of litter, including plastic litter and microplastics pollution, and its presence in rivers and oceans
- Decided to extend the AHEG mandate until UNEA 5

IS THERE ENOUGH LEGISLATION to deal with plastic pollution?

*“Current governance strategies and approaches provide a **fragmented approach** that does not adequately address marine litter and microplastics.”*

Source: UNEP (2017) [Assessment](#)



1

Maintaining the Status Quo

2

Review and revise
existing frameworks

3

A new global architecture with a
multilayered governance approach.

1

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POLICY
SPACES



3

A new global architecture with a
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POLICY SPACES

BASEL

- **Scope:** Limits the trade of hazardous waste between countries (specifically from Global North to Global South)
- **Limitations:** Focused on waste. False solutions not excluded. Includes objective to reduce, but not been very effective so far.

STOCKHOLM

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

IMO

POLICY SPACES

BASEL

STOCKHOLM

IMO

- **Scope:** Persistent Organic Chemicals (POPs)
- **Limitations:** Only covers a very specific type of chemicals. Works chemical by chemical. Slow addition process.
- **Opportunities:** Achieves real global bans of certain substances, robust scientific body, vibrant Convention. Already coordinates with other other Conventions (Joint BRS secretariat)
- Currently there is a great discussion to consider if marine litter constitutes a potential long-range transport carrier for UV-328 as a POPs. This may open up the convention to tackling plastic additives.

POLICY SPACES

BASEL

- **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.

STOCKHOLM

- **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.

IMO

1

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2

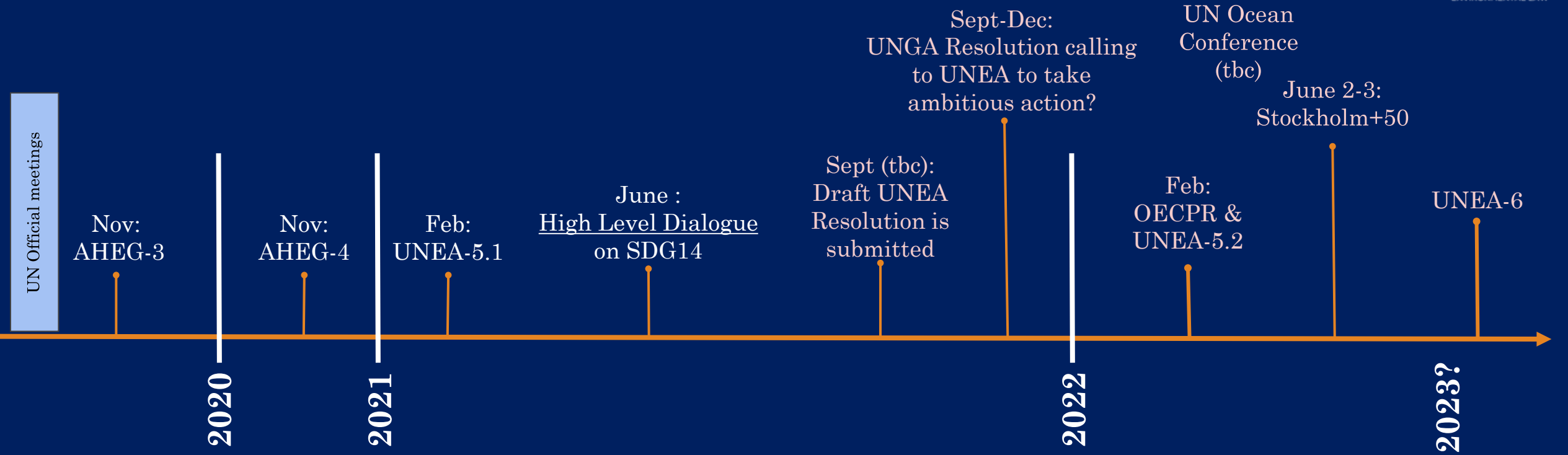
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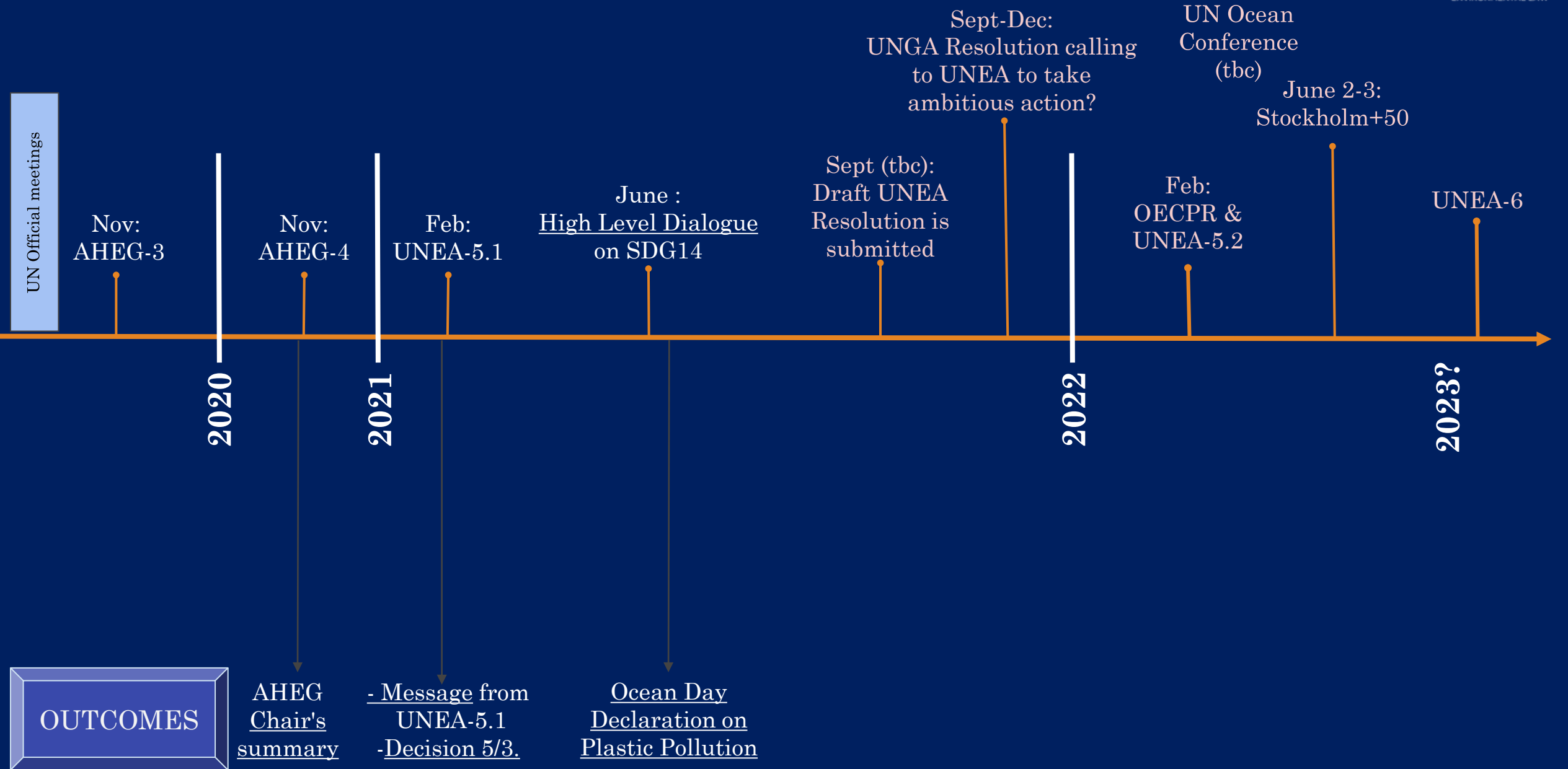
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TIMELINE



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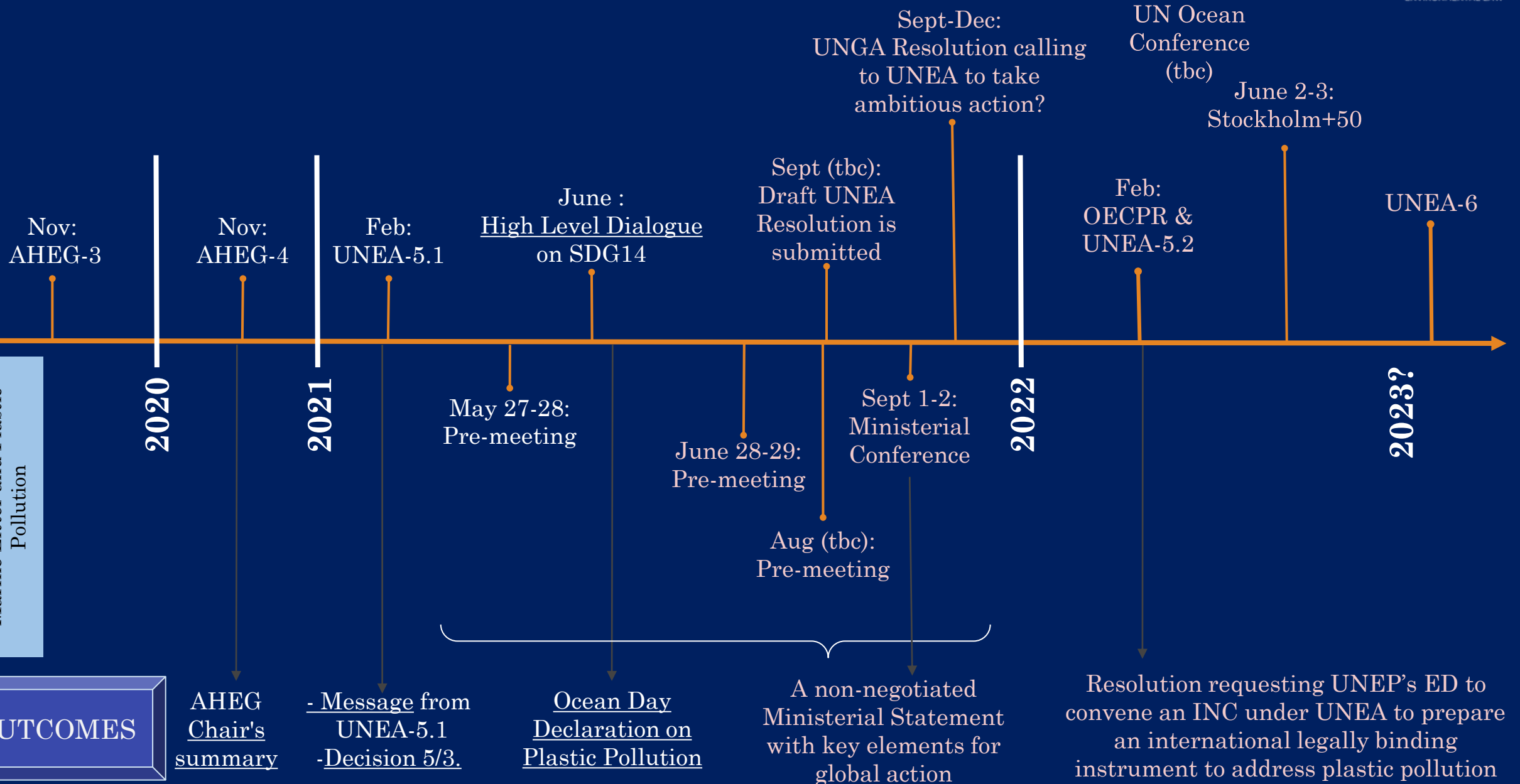


TIMELINE

UN Official meetings

Ministerial Conference on
Marine Litter and Plastic
Pollution

OUTCOMES



POLITICAL MOMENTUM FOR A GLOBAL INSTRUMENT IS GROWING

Nordic
*Ministerial
Declaration*

*Ministerial
Declaration
“Our Baltic”*

Council of
the EU

Bamako
Convention
Decision
CB.3/8

Durban
*Ministerial
Declaration
(AMCEN)*

*ASEAN
Bangkok
Declaration*

Marine Litter –
Pacific Regional
Action Plan
*endorsed by
Kainaki II
& the Vemöore
Declaration*

Pacific Island
Forum Leaders
Ocean Statement

Iberoamerican
*Ministerial
Declaration*

*Declaración
de St John
CARICOM*

*Presidential
Declaration
Pacific
Alliance*

POSSIBLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES



EIA, CIEL, GAIA
#BreakFreeFromPlastic



WWF, Ellen MacArthur Foundation
and Boston Consulting Group



Nordic Council of Ministers

UNEP RESOURCES

- Report: Exploring the option of a new global agreement on marine plastic pollution – a guide to the issues
- Report: Science and Knowledge Base to reduce Marine Plastic Pollution
- Report: Stronger together: The role of regional instruments in strengthening global governance of marine plastic pollution

KEY RESOURCES

- [Progress on Plastics](#) newsletters on policy developments
- [Plastics & Health](#) report
- [Plastics & Climate](#) report
- [Ocean Pollutants Guide](#) report
- [Discarded: Communities on the Frontline](#) report
- [Plastic Waste Management Hazards](#) report
- [Environmental Justice impact of plastic pollution](#). UNEP report

YOUR ENGAGEMENT

- **Attend** and/or contribute to upcoming meetings (UNEA-5, Expert Group, Basel, etc.)
 - Educate country delegates, garner support, 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, businesses and NGOs
- **Share** with your networks
 - newsletter issues, talking points, support for positions, upcoming events



THANK YOU
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