

UNEP/MAP and Barcelona Convention framework, including insights on INC process

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MEDWAVES- The Sustainable Consumption and Production Centre of UNEP_MAP

1. Role under the Barcelona Convention (SCP/RAC)

As a Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), MedWaves implements the "Source-to-Sea" logic.

Mandate: Focuses on the LBS Protocol (Land-Based Sources) the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and the Regional Plan on SCP.

We work on pollution prevention at the source by advancing circular economy models, reducing material footprints, ecodesign...

2. Role under the Stockholm Convention (Regional Centre)

MedWaves supports Mediterranean countries in the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed in Annex A and the restriction of other toxic substances throughout their life cycle.

We provide technical assistance for the identification and substitution of harmful chemicals, such as those found in pesticides, solvents, and plastic additives.



3. How the Roles Interact:

The Toxic-Free Circular Economy

The intersection between plastics and POPs is the primary area of interaction. MedWaves leverages its dual mandate to ensure that circularity does not lead to the recirculation of toxins.

Substitution in Value Chains: Using the Switchers Support Programme methodology, MedWaves helps SMEs substitute hazardous additives (like flame retardants or plasticizers) with safer alternatives during the design phase.

Safe-by-Design: Circularity is not just about recycling efficiency; it must embed green chemistry innovation to ensure that secondary raw materials are safe for human health and marine ecosystems.

Policy Coherence: MedWaves works to strengthen regulatory coherence between chemicals management and circular economy policies, ensuring they are not addressed in separate political "silos".

Traceability: The Centre promotes transparency in material flows so that value-chain actors can identify and eliminate hazardous substances before they enter the recycling stream

A Pioneering Regulatory Ecosystem

The Mediterranean has consistently anticipated global mandates, creating a sophisticated architecture for environmental policy that bridges local execution with global ambition.

Institutional Coordination

Through structural tools like National Action Plans (NAPs), regional commitments translate efficiently into localized, binding, and measurable public policy.

Global Framing

UN Plastics Treaty (INC Process) & UfM 2030 GreenerMed Agenda

Regional Shift

2021 Amendment (Decision IG.25/9) - Focus on EPR & Circularity

Specific Focus

2013 Regional Plan (Decision IG.21/7) - Marine Litter Management

Legal Engine

Barcelona Convention & LBS Protocol (Article 15 Framework)

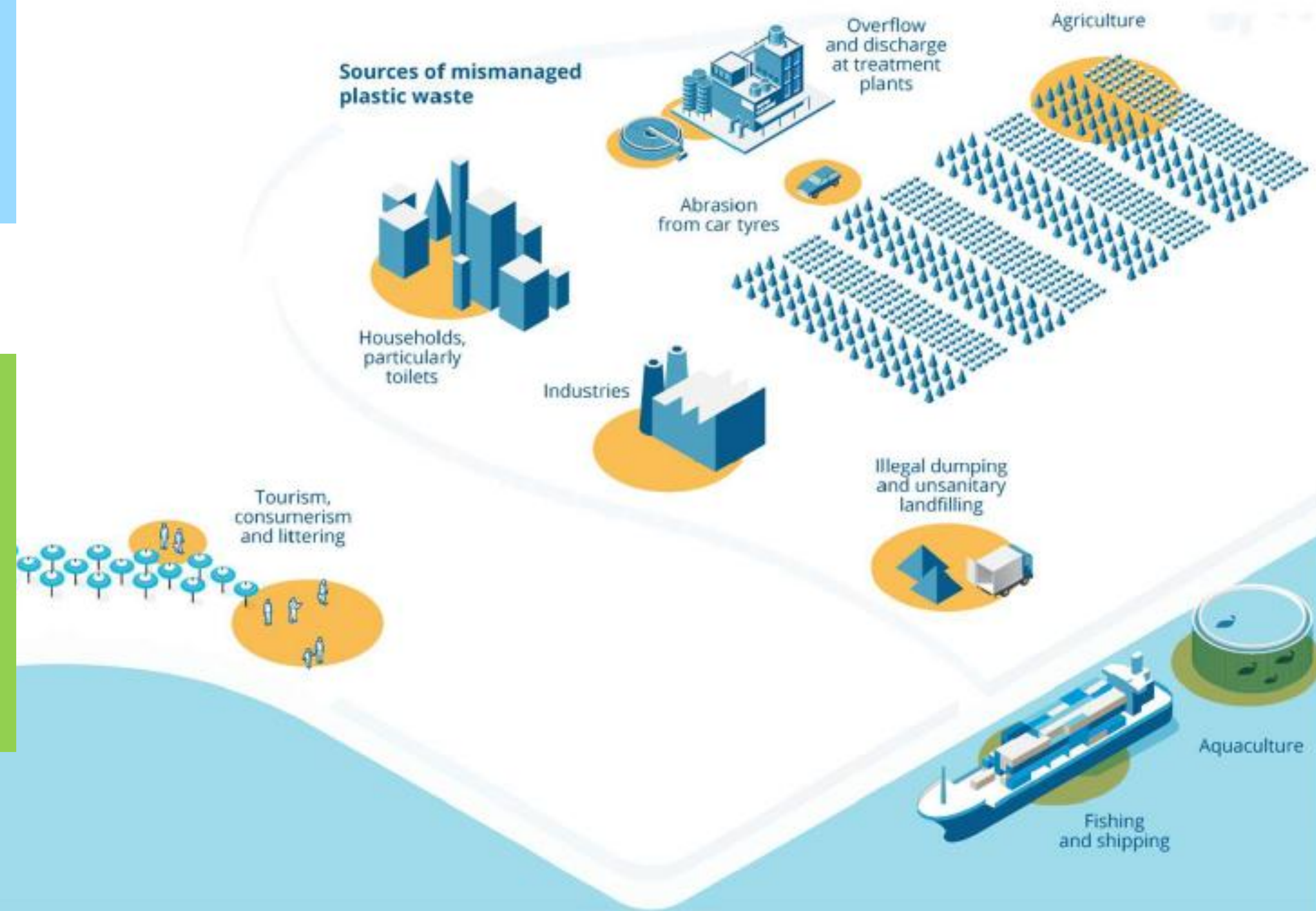
Where is plastic waste generated?

20%
Is generated on
the sea

80%
Land Based
Source

-Fishing and
aquaculture,
-Shipping
-Cruise ships and
recreational boating
- offshore platforms

-Tourism /
municipalities
-Uncontrolled
dumpsites /
wastewater
-Agriculture / industry



The Paradigm Shift 2013 to 2021

Updating the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management marked a fundamental transition in regulatory philosophy—moving from managing symptoms to redesigning production systems

Pillar	2013 Regional Plan (IG.21/7)	2021 Amendment (IG.25/9)
Core Philosophy	Downstream solid waste management and cleanup initiatives.	Upstream Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP).
Private Sector	Voluntary environmental agreements and corporate CSR explorations.	Mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & Deposit Refund Systems (DRS).
Policy Tools	'Fishing for Litter' protocols and voluntary coastal cleanup campaigns.	Eco-design standards, strict Single-Use Plastic phase-outs, chemical bans.
Measurement	Qualitative targets and early environmental baseline establishment.	Strict IMAP Quantitative Baselines targeting Good Environmental Status (GES).

Targeted SUP Elimination by Sector

The updated Regional Plan targets priority Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) that cause maximum impact on the Mediterranean coastal ecosystem, categorizing exposure by economic sector.

Food, Beverage & Retail

Drink bottles, caps, crisp packets, on-the-go food packaging, lightweight carrier bags (<50 microns).

Eco-design Mandate

Tourism & Leisure (HoReCa)

Cutlery, plates, trays, straws, stirrers, drinks cups, and fast-food packaging.

MedWaves Low Plastic Zone

Medical & Hygiene

Masks, gloves, cotton buds, wet wipes, and sanitary towels.

Source Segregation

Maritime & Fisheries

Abandoned/lost fishing gear (ALDFG) and Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) boxes.

Deposit / Refund System

The Regulatory Horizon (2025–2028)

Translating the 2021 Regional Plan into national law requires strict adherence to a continuous timeline of binding commitments.

25

27

28

2025: The Circularity Pivot

Apply prevention measures for circular plastic flows.

Regulate primary microplastics.

Implement targeted marine litter reduction in MPAs.

2027: Remediation Target

Identify and catalog active coastal leakages.

Contain and restore coastal landfills that act as major sources of marine litter

2028: Socio-Economic Mandate

Execute regulatory policies to integrate informal recycling actors.

Upgrade municipality waste collection coverage.

The Collaborative Implementation Ecosystem

Achieving a plastic-free Mediterranean requires radical collaboration. MedWaves operates as the connective tissue between national regulators and the broader economic ecosystem.

Private Sector Innovation

Deploying finance for eco-innovation & EPR system frameworks. Direct engagement with networks like the BeMed Club of Enterprises to scale green procurement.

Local Economies

Developing localized 'Low Plastic Zones' across Tourism & HoReCa sectors while ensuring structural integration of informal waste collectors.

Civil Society & Academia

Mobilizing scientific communities, regional NGOs (such as MIO-ECSDE), and implementing capacity-building via the MedWaves & WES-BCA programs.

The Source-to-Sea Circularity Model

The Barcelona Convention mandates form a continuous feedback loop. Executing the Blueprint automatically prepares Partner Countries for alignment with the upcoming UN Plastics Treaty (INC).

Upstream Eco-Innovation

Phasing out hazardous plastic chemicals, optimizing green procurement, and advancing BeMed business partnerships.

Sustainable Consumption

Executing rigid SUP phase-outs, boosting active merchant/HoReCa engagement, and running TouMaLi tourist zones.

Regulated Waste & EPR

Integrating the informal recycling sector, establishing DRS for maritime gear, and securing landfills.

Ecosystem Recovery & GES

Achieving the 130 items/100m IMAP litter threshold and actively removing lost gear (ALDFG) from seas.

INC process:

2022: 5/14 UNEA resolution adopted To develop an international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution"



Founding LSNG Signatories:

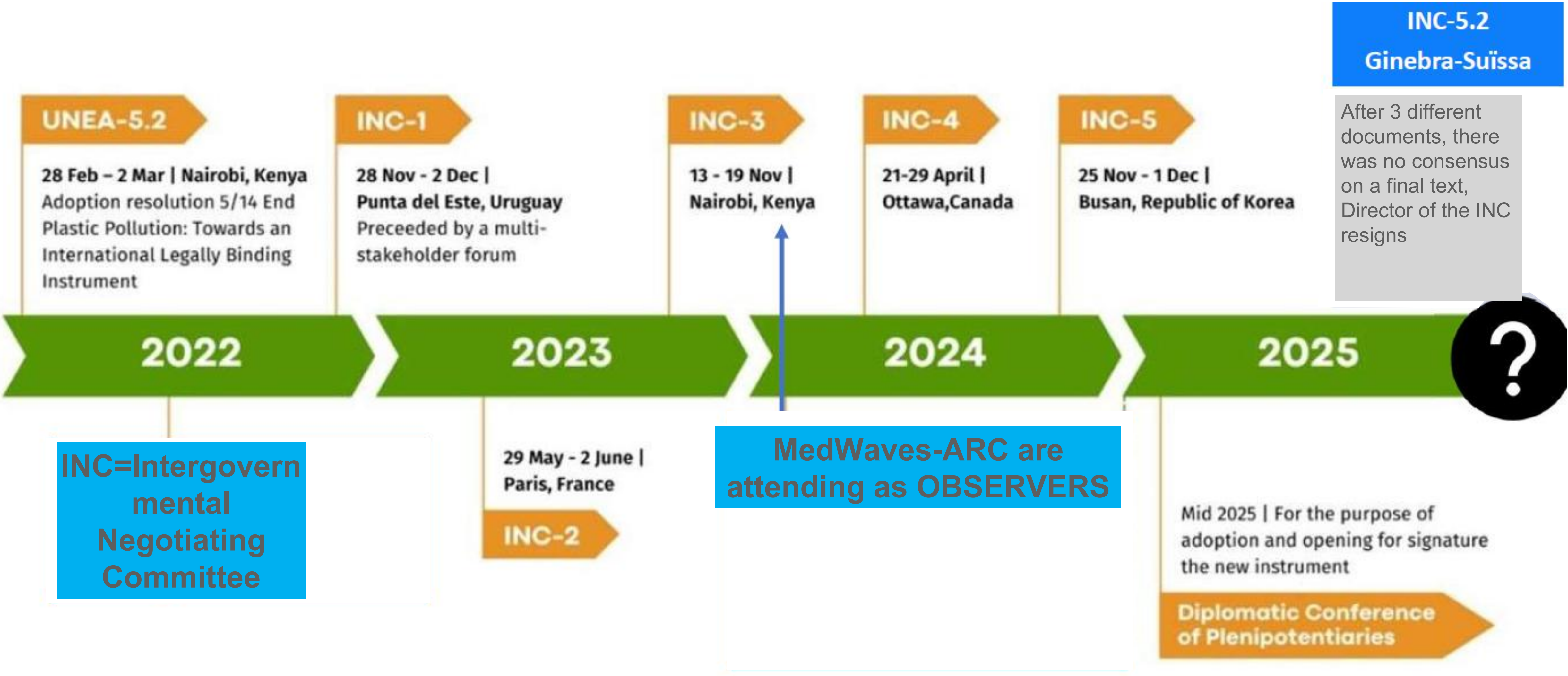


LSNG(Local and Subnational Governments)
Coalition to end plastic pollution



UNEA: United Nations Environment Assembly

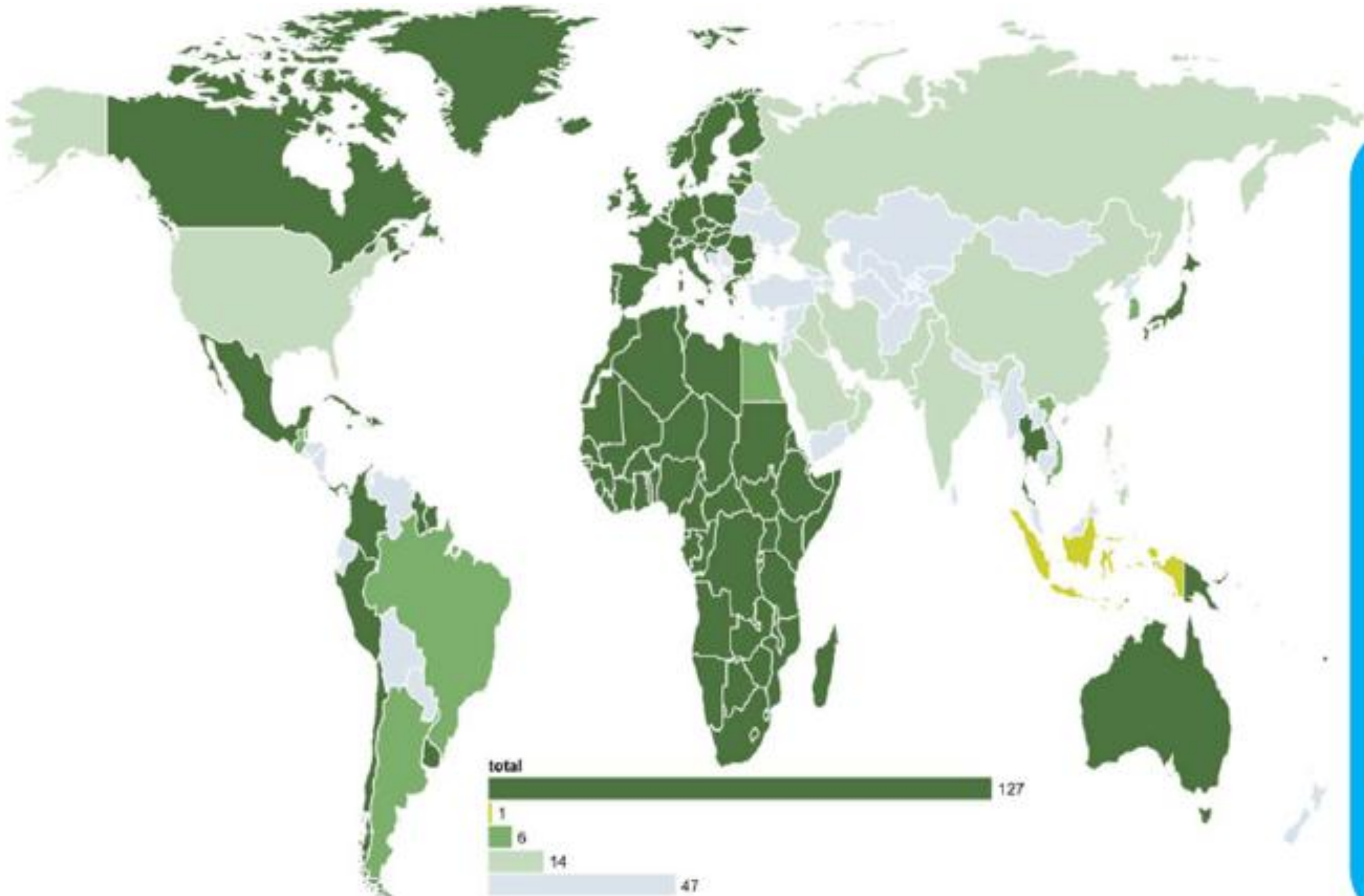
Where we are?



Who is who?

"High Ambition Coalition"
And others

HAC (EU/Canada/Norway/
Australia/New Zealand/Republic of
Korea/Japan...)
Global South countries in
Africa
Latin America
Pacific Islands



- Supports most ambitious option
- Supports most and moderately ambitious option
- Supports moderately ambitious option
- Supports least ambitious option
- No statement / No position

"Like Minded Group"
Fossil fuel and polymer producing countries

Saudi Arabia
Russia
China
United States
Qatar
India

With a full life-cycle approach to plastic (from extraction and production to final waste management)



Only from the design phase of the plastic product or its management as waste

Thank you
Roger Garcia i Noguera

medwaves-centre.org



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



MedWaves
the UNEP/MAP Regional
Activity Centre for SCP

