Implementation of Resolution 3/7

Marine litter and microplastics

Heidi Savelli, Programme Officer, Marine Litter, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

22 October 2018,
Requested UNEP to provide **support to the development of marine litter action plans** upon request by countries (all resolutions)

1/6: State of knowledge: Marine plastic debris and microplastics (2016 report → UNEA-2)
- Priority areas for action
- Research gaps
- Policy relevant recommendations

2/11: Requested **assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and sub-regional governance strategies and approaches** to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics and **identify gaps and options** for addressing them (→ UNEA-3)

Called for greater collaboration and coordination through/with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (all resolutions) and requested UN Environment to strengthen its input to GPML and marine litter
Knowledge Generation: Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics – policy relevant recommendations

- **Phase out** of microbeads
- Drastic reduction/ban of **single-use plastics**
- Short-term: waste management, **long-term:** upstream reduction
- ‘Biodegradable’ will NOT decrease ML - need for **internationally agreed definition of biodegradability** (in marine env.)
- harmonization and **standardization** of methods
- Gaps/solutions for governance frameworks
UNEA Resolutions Marine Litter and Microplastics (1/6, 2/11, 3/7)
Baseline on single-use plastics and microplastics
Review of Regional Seas Conventions Action Plans
Guidance on development of action plans
Economic methodology for estimating costs of ML
Methodology for assessing value-chain hotspots
Methodology for hotspot assessment

Harmonization of monitoring methodologies (GESAMP, IOC-UNESCO)

IMO: Disposal of fiberglass boats, Microplastics in relation to ship-based activities
Capacity building: Online Courses

- English and Spanish – 3 full courses (12,000 registered participants);

- **Leadership Track:**
  5 hours of learning consist of 2 blocks

- **Expert Track:**
  32 additional hours consisting of 6 blocks some optional;

- 2 – week versions under developments

- French, Russian, Chinese, (Arabic in pipeline) – case studies welcome

- Micro/nano courses, master classes, grassroot

- IMO – e-learning course MARPOL V
New Marine Litter Action Plans
54 countries have joined

• Many more countries have expressed interest in joining

Examples of commitments:

• Indonesia plans on reducing plastic litter 70% by 2025
• Kenya banned the sales, manufacturing and import of plastic bags from August 2017
• Effective 2020, France will ban the use of plastic cups, plates, and cutlery
• Uruguay announced it will initiate a tax on single-use plastic bags later this year
• Costa Rica will make efforts to reduce plastic waste by increasing proper waste management measures (legislation) and education
#Clean Seas – Partnerships & multipliers

- Museums, Zoos and Aquaria: e.g. Ocean Project, WAZA, EC
- Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators
- World Scouts Association
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and their stakeholders have already committed to:
  - World Sailing - waste reduction strategy for its events by 2019 + education programme est. 70 million sailors;
  - The International Surfing Association (ISA) - use, reuse and recycle plastics at ISA World Championships by 2019, and expand its education materials on sustainability.
  - The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) is decreasing plastic use and encouraging recycling at its headquarters, and providing recycling education opportunities at national and youth camps.
  - World Rugby has undertaken a variety of actions to reuse and recycle, and will implement new measures with a focus on the reduction of plastic waste.
  - National Olympic Committees
An Assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments and frameworks was submitted to UNEA-3 as an information document!
Conclusion

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

OPTION 1
Maintain Status Quo
- Strengthen implementation of existing instruments
- Continue current efforts

OPTION 2
Revise and Strengthen existing framework
- Bring industry into the solution
- Expand the mandate of an existing international body to include the coordination of existing institutions
- Strengthen existing measures
- Revise existing instruments the Honolulu Strategy
- Adopt a voluntary agreement on

OPTION 3
New global architecture with multilayered governance
- Establish a new international legally binding architecture.
- Take phased approach:
  - Phase I: Develop voluntary measures (same as Option 2)
  - Phase II: Develop a binding agreement
3/7 OP 10: Ad hoc open ended experts group

- Programme of work:
  
  (i) To explore all barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries;
  
  (ii) To identify the range of national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches;
  
  (iii) To identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options;
  
  (iv) To examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options;
  
  (v) To identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly;

- First Meeting 29-31 Nairobi, Kenya

Documents: https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/adhoc-oeeeg-working-documents
3/7 OP 10: Ad hoc open ended experts group

- 266 participants: 72 member States, 3 non-member States, 9 IGOs, 28 Major Groups and Stakeholder organizations
- 4 papers prepare including more than 80 barriers
- Meeting report including:
  - Co-chairs summary and an annex to it on elements in need of more work
  - UN Environment requested to compile information in relation to various elements
The Second Ad hoc Open-Ended Expert Group Meeting will be held on **3-7 December 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland**

- The portal is operational: [https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeg](https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeg)
- Registration portal is open: [https://reg.unog.ch/event/26945/](https://reg.unog.ch/event/26945/)

**Member States:** Travel support for one representative from least developed countries and Small Islands Developing States. Deadline for application is **2 November 2018** for member States.

**Accredited Majors’ Groups and Stakeholders:** The travel support for nine representatives from accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders. Representatives with the relevant expertise interested in applying for travel support by **26 October 2018** to
1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Organizational matters: (a) Adoption of the agenda; (b) Organization of work.

3. Update on progress since the first meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group.

4. Workshop discussions: (a) Information and monitoring; (b) Governance.

5. Summary of workshop discussions.

6. Options for continued work.

7. Preparation of input to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the meeting
# Structure of the meeting

## Draft Programme of the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 3 December 2018</th>
<th>Tuesday 4 December 2018</th>
<th>Wednesday 5 December 2018</th>
<th>Thursday 6 December 2018</th>
<th>Friday 7 December 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Regional Groups Meetings Technical Briefing</td>
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<td>10:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Item 1: Opening of the meeting (Plenary) Item 2: Organization of the meeting - (a) Election of officers; (b) Adoption of the agenda; (c) Organization of work (Plenary) Item 3: Update on progress since AHEG 1 (Plenary) Item 4a: Workshop 1 Breakout groups (Hope to start at 11 AM) Item 4b: Workshop 2 Breakout groups Governance Item 5: Summary of workshop discussions Plenary Item 6: Options for future work (Cont.)</td>
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<td>13:00 -</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>15:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Item 4a: Workshop 1 (Cont.) Breakout groups Item 4b: Workshop 2 (Cont.) Breakout groups</td>
<td>Item 6: Options for future work</td>
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<td>Item 7: Preparation of input to the United Nations Environment Assembly Plenary</td>
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<td>Item 7: Cont.</td>
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<td>Item 8: other matters Plenary</td>
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<td>Item 9: Adoption of the report Plenary</td>
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<td>Item 10: Closure of the meeting Plenary</td>
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May include:
- Environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options
- Feasibility and effectiveness of different response options
# List of documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document number</th>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Date/Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/1</td>
<td>Provisional Agenda</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/Add.1</td>
<td>Annotated provisional agenda</td>
<td>This week</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/2</td>
<td>Summary paper on the barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, and options to address it</td>
<td>Editing</td>
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<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/3</td>
<td>Paper on Information and monitoring</td>
<td>2 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/4</td>
<td>Paper on Governance options</td>
<td>2 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/5</td>
<td>Report of the meeting (procedural report)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/6</td>
<td>Progress Report to UNEA-4 (which will include options for additional work)</td>
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3/7 OP 9 – Compilation of voluntary commitments

- Compile voluntary commitments, as applicable, targeting marine litter and microplastics;

- Provide an overview of their scope in support of the work of the United Nations Environment Assembly on that issue; to better understand progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1;

- Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the matter;

- Coordination with UN DESA on their voluntary commitment platform, compilation has been initiated:
  - Commitments that have been formally submitted to events, initiatives etc.
  - Commitments announced via media but not submitted
  - Invite to register these via online platform
3/7 OP 11 – Implementation of 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7

- Progress on implementation of Resolutions on marine litter and microplastics 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7 (Operative paragraph 11)

- Invitation to all entities to submit voluntary reporting via online platform

- Analysis of these including voluntary commitment report will take place
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeg