

Intersessional work for the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

The Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG) decided at its meeting of [25 March 2020](#), to postpone the fourth session of the AHEG (AHEG-4) initially scheduled for 4-8 May 2020. This decision was taken due to the current situation with the COVID-19.

In light of this decision, and with a view to facilitate further progress under the expert group, the Secretariat has prepared, at the request of and in close consultation with the Bureau of the expert group, an intersessional roadmap of virtual meetings and other activities. The roadmap has been designed to allow for further discussions and engagement amongst participants of the expert group as well as to encourage additional submissions to the stocktaking (resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7a) and potential response options (resolution 3/7 subparagraph 10d).

As outlined in the roadmap a series of online webinars for the expert group are planned to take place in the upcoming months. To maximize transparency, ensure inclusivity and participation from all regions, webinars will be organized at different times (e.g. 8 AM and 4 PM EAT). The presentations will be recorded, and voice-over made available in all UN languages on the [Intersessional Period section](#) of the UNEP marine litter [web portal](#).

The Secretariat welcomes further input from the AHEG Bureau, Member States, Stakeholders and all members of the expert group and registered participants on this intersessional roadmap, as well as on how to improve the web portal, possible accessibility challenges to the webinars, and choice of meeting platforms. Based on further guidance from the Bureau and members of the expert group, the roadmap is expected to be updated over time.

Roadmap: Proposed timeline of activities

A. Proposed upcoming webinars and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation
JUNE		
10 June	The Secretariat will invite the AHEG Bureau, Member States, Stakeholders and all members of the expert group and registered participants to provide feedback on the revised draft roadmap.	Revised draft roadmap
24 June	Deadline: Feedback on the revised draft roadmap by 24 June to: unenvironment-gpml@un.org cc: zhu.shuang@un.org	
30 June	Webinar: Presentations on submitted potential response options by submitters Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly Received submissions on potential response options Link Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link
JULY		
7 July	Webinar: Presentations on submitted potential response options by submitters	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly

	Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Received submissions on potential response options Link Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link
10 July 2020	Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 1) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft revised methodology to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities on marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution in solving the global problem Received submissions on approaches to analyse effectiveness Link Comments to be sent to: unenvironment-gpml@un.org
28 July	Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 2) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	To be confirmed
30 July	Webinar: Identification of various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly Received submissions on potential response options Link Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link
31 July	Deadline: Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking , pursuant to UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7(a)	
AUGUST		
28 August	Webinar: Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	To be confirmed
SEPTEMBER		
3 September	Webinar: Presentation on non-paper / identification of various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential	To be confirmed

	<p>response options and comments received.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)</p>	
9 September	<p>Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 3) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	To be confirmed
30 September	<p>Webinar: Feedback on non-paper/Identification of various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)</p>	
30 September	<p>Revision of Intersessional Roadmap: Proposed webinars and activities are expected to be revised based on lessons learned, feedback and an assessment of the ongoing COVID-19 situation.</p>	

*The proposed webinars on case studies on the analysis of effectiveness will discuss different case studies during each webinar, which is why they have been planned as Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3.

**The proposed webinars on potential response options will provide the opportunity for submitters of potential response options to discuss their submissions and answer questions from participants/

***The Secretariat wishes to also highlight that **UNEA-5** documentation must be finalized by **29 November 2020** for translation and editing.

B. Past webinars and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation	Webinar Presentation Recordings
MAY			
18 May	<p>Invitation for member States and Stakeholders that have submitted response options to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review summary and confirm accuracy of content 2. Submit pre-recorded presentations¹ on their respective submissions for response option (7-10 min per presentation) 	<p>Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</p> <p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p>	

¹ The Secretariat will provide a “how-to” guide to facilitate participants to record their presentations.

<p>18 May</p>	<p>Webinar on the revised methodology for analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft revised methodology to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities on marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution in solving the global problem</p> <p>Received submissions on approaches to analyse effectiveness Link</p> <p>Comments to be sent to stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org Cc: unenvironment-gpml@un.org</p>	<p>Session 1: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>Session 2: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p>
<p>21 May</p>	<p>Webinar on Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft Provisional summary of the stocktake of existing activities and action towards the long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and Draft Provisional summary of the Inventory of technical and financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics</p> <p>Received narrative submissions: Link</p>	<p>2.1 Stocktaking (part 1): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.2 Stocktaking (Part 2): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.3 Technical resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.4 Financial resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p>
<p>29 May</p>	<p>Deadline for submission of pre-recorded presentations on potential response options by relevant member States and Stakeholders for upload.</p>	<p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p> <p>Pre-recorded presentations should be sent to: stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org Cc: unenvironment-gpml@un.org</p>	<p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>