

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 31 October 2019  
9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.  
United Nations Office in Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 4

**Background document for Agenda Item 3:  
Briefing on the preparations for the 3rd meeting of the ad-hoc open-ended expert group on  
marine litter and micro-plastics**

This note provides background information on the preparations for the third meeting of the ad-hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, to be held 18-22 November in Bangkok, Thailand.

Member States are invited to consider the note and provide guidance to the Secretariat in view of ensuring a well-prepared meeting.

## **Briefing on the preparations for the third meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics, 18 - 22 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand**

---

### **1. Background**

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 4/6 adopted by the Fourth UN Environment Assembly, which extended the mandate of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics created by resolution 3/7 at UNEA-3, the third meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics will be organized 18 – 22 November 2019 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Building on previous work, the resolution requests the expert group to:

- (a) Take stock of existing activities and action by governments, regional and global instruments, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant contributors to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics with the aim of the long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans;
- (b) Identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics;
- (c) Encourage partnerships that undertake activities such as the development of source inventories, the improvement of waste management, awareness-raising and the promotion of innovation in relation to the prevention of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics;
- (d) Analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities with regard to marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution that they make to solving the global problem.

Relevant consultation meetings among regional and political groups and accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders are expected to be held prior to the meeting, most likely on Sunday, 17 November 2019.

A meeting portal has been set up for the meeting, available here:

<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/third-adhoc-oeeg>

A logistics note can be accessed through this link:

[https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/logistics\\_note-ahég3\\_003\\_-\\_300919.pdf](https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/logistics_note-ahég3_003_-_300919.pdf).

### **2. Updates on the preparation of the meeting**

#### **2.1. Participation**

To facilitate a wide participation of experts in this process, the UN Environment Programme has made available extrabudgetary resources generously provided by the governments of Norway and Sweden to support, upon request, one governmental delegate per developing country, with priority given to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States with special vulnerabilities.

The Secretariat will also facilitate travel support to up to 9 representatives from accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders.

#### **2.2. Documents**

All documents will be made publicly available in English on the meeting portal by 28 October 2019 at the latest. The documents will be translated to all UN languages and be made available as soon as possible.

UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1	Provisional agenda.
UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1/Add.1	Draft annotated provisional agenda.

UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/2	Approach and initial results of stocktaking of existing activities and actions towards long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics by relevant contributors
UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/3	Inventory of financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics.
UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/4	Draft approach for Technology and Innovation mapping.
UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/5	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.

### **3. Organization of work**

#### **3.1. Rules of Procedure**

The Rules of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly will apply to the meeting of the ad hoc expert open ended group, available on through link: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cpr/environment-assembly-rules-procedure>

#### **3.2. Organization of the meeting**

The meeting will be conducted as outlined in the draft annotated provisional agenda and in the organization of work for the meeting, which is made available as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.

#### **3.3. Interpretation**

Interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations will be available in the meetings of the plenary during morning and afternoon sessions from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm.

#### **3.4. Sessions**

Meeting sessions will be held in plenary, with the option to create "breakout groups" to facilitate in-depth discussions related to agenda item 6, subject to the agreement of the meeting. All or some of such breakout groups may not allow for full interpretation.

#### **3.5. Regional coordination meetings**

The Secretariat will, upon request, facilitate the provision of meeting rooms for regional groups and major groups and stakeholders, for Sunday 17 November as well as during the week.

### **4. Election of Officers**

#### **4.1. Nomination and election of members to the bureau**

According to paragraph 3 of rule 63 of the UN Environment Assembly Rule of Procedure, "each subsidiary organ shall elect its own officers". On this basis, and in line with established practice from similar bodies under the UN Environment Assembly, the Secretariat has invited member States to nominate officials to be considered for the Bureau, consisting of one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur, each representing one of the five UN regional groups. The nominated candidates will be presented for endorsement by the expert group at the beginning of its meeting, under the agenda item 2 (a) "Election of officers". At the time of preparation of this briefing note, some regional groups were still finalizing their nominations.

#### **4.2. Meetings of the bureau**

The nominated candidates for the bureau will be invited by the Secretariat to meet in advance, to consider organizational and logistical matters relating to the preparation of the meeting of the expert group. Once the bureau has been elected, meetings will be organized at the request of the elected Chair.

### **5. Expected outcome of the meeting**

The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider and agree on the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which will be annexed to the final meeting report of its third meeting. The final meeting report will be cleared by the Rapporteur of the bureau after its conclusion. The meeting may

also consider the format of reporting to the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly on progress made with regard to its work as outlined in UNEP/EA.4/Res.6.

#### **6. Hosting of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group**

Member States are invited to submit offers for hosting of the Fourth Meeting of the ad-hoc open-ended expert group tentatively scheduled for May 2019, in consultation with the regional groups and with the bureaux of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

#### **7. Contact Persons for Feedback and Follow-up**

- Habib El-Habr, Coordinator, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities  
Email: [habib.el-habr@un.org](mailto:habib.el-habr@un.org)
- Heidi Savelli, Programme Officer, Marine Litter, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities  
Email: [heidi.savelli@un.org](mailto:heidi.savelli@un.org)