

Meeting of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics
Wednesday 25 March 2020, 15:30 to 16:30 (GMT+3)
Online meeting

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of alternative dates for the 4th meeting of the expert group.

1. Possible alternative dates AHEG-4 (August and September)

Following the likely postponement of the fourth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, which was originally scheduled to take place 4-8 May 2020 in Lima, Peru, the Secretariat considers that possible alternative dates for the meeting may be as follows:

- 24 – 28 August 2020
- 31 August – 4 September 2020
- 21 – 25 September 2020

These dates were identified taking into consideration a number of other meeting and events planned for August and September 2020, such as:

- 22 – 26 June 2020: The Basel OEWG-12
- 17 – 18 August 2020: Our Oceans
- 8 – 11 September 2020: The Rotterdam CRC-16
- 9 - 13 September 2020 TBC: 6th Annual Subcommittee
- 13 September 2020 TBC: 147th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- 14 – 18 September 2020: The Stockholm POPRC-16
- 28 – 30 September 2020: International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region
- 5 – 9 October 2020: SAICM

It should be noted that the postponement of the fourth meeting of the expert group may have practical implications for the date and venue of the fifth meeting of the expert group, currently scheduled for 9 – 13 November 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda.

2. Options for how to make progress in the intersessional period until the next meeting of the expert group

Subject to further guidance from the Chair and the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, the Secretariat also puts forward the following options for making progress in the intersessional period until the next meeting of the expert group:

- i) The Chair may wish to develop a document or a non-paper outlining potential elements of emerging consensus, for example building on submissions made from experts and on key messages emanating from the Secretariat working documents. Such as document could then be sent to delegates for written inputs, in an iterative process, with the aim to seek broad consensus for an advance draft outcome document for consideration at the fourth meeting of the ad expert group.
- ii) Elaboration of solid working documents for the next meeting of the expert group, through online webinars and other means, §as follows:

Document reference	Proposed availability	Webinar	Additional input	Finalization
Provisional summary from the stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics (subparagraph 7a of UNEA resolution 4/6)	3 April availability of document The document will be presented as a consultation document / background note	2 Webinars planned for 20 April. Webinars will be held in the morning and afternoon to enable participation from different time zones. Webinars will be recorded and made available through AHEG webpage.	Additional comments until 27 April Stocktaking submissions continue until 10 weeks before the agreed meeting – document is updated and reshared with an additional webinar to update on submissions and answer questions in May/June	Finalization of document – now “Summary from the stocktaking” for editing and translation (TBC depending on next AHEG dates) An additional webinar to update on results once document is uploaded
Initial findings on identification of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics (subparagraph 7b of UNEA resolution 4/6)	3 April availability of document The document will be presented as a consultation document / background note	2 Webinars planned for 27 April. Webinars will be held in the morning and afternoon to enable participation from different time zones. Webinars will be recorded and	Additional comments and input until 4 May. Stocktaking and interviews/desk research continue until 10 weeks before the agreed meeting – document is	Finalization of document for editing and translation (TBC depending on next AHEG dates) An additional webinar to update on results once

		made available through AHEG webpage.	updated and reshared	document is uploaded
Proposed 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 (subparagraph 7d of UNEA resolution 4/6)	<p>3 April availability of document</p> <p>The document will propose case studies</p>	<p>Webinar on selected case studies.</p> <p>Webinars will be recorded and made available through AHEG webpage.</p>	Input on case studies	Finalization of document for editing and translation (TBC depending on next AHEG dates)
Submissions on potential response options, pursuant to subparagraph 10 (d) of UNEA resolution 3/7	<p>3 April availability of document</p> <p>Thematic compilation</p>	<p>Submitters will be invited to present their submissions (10 minutes) for which 3 webinars will be organized the week of 20 April. Webinars will be recorded and made available through AHEG webpage.</p>	<p>Additional inputs and submissions will be welcomed from 27 April until TBC.</p> <p>Additional webinars may be organized on new submissions and potentially on thematic areas (Bureau to advise)</p>	Finalization of document for editing and translation (TBC depending on next AHEG dates)