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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**Ad hoc open-ended expert group
on marine litter and microplastics
fourth meeting**

Online, 9–13 November 2020

Item 3 (c) of the draft provisional agenda¹

**Progress in relevant work pursuant to United Nations Environment
Assembly resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics**

**Progress on the provisional mapping of all United Nations
agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise
relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and
microplastics**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, paragraph 8, invited the Environment Management Group (EMG) to:
“...engage in and contribute to the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics by providing, inter alia, mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics;”
2. The EMG interagency Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics was established in 2019 in response to this invitation to facilitate the preparation of the mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics. At its first meeting in October 2019, members of the Task Team agreed on the Task Team’s Terms of Reference and deliverables as outlined in UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/3.
3. As part of the mapping exercise, the stock-taking survey was circulated to the Task Team members in January 2020 and input from UN agencies captured in the documents UNEP/AHEG/4/2 and UNEP/AHEG/4/INF/6.
4. Contributions to the stock-taking survey were thereafter reviewed and followed by in-depth interviews which were undertaken with close to 50 entities. The drafting of the report and additional analysis is currently ongoing for final discussions with the Task Team.

¹UNEP/AHEG/4/1.

5. Initial results show that the UN system is addressing marine litter at all levels (global, regional, transnational, national and sub-national). Projects mainly address legislation and standards as well as building the knowledge and scientific base, capacity building and awareness raising. Activities are implemented in collaboration with public administration as well as non-governmental organisations.
6. Most reported activities focus on Goals 12 and 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing in particular targets 12.4, 12.5, 14.1 and 14.2. Other targets being addressed include 3.9, 11.6 and 13.3.
7. The report will be made available for the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

Annex I**List of Task Team Members**

	Members of the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics
1	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
2	The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
3	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
4	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)
5	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
6	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
7	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
8	The International Labour Organization (ILO)
9	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
10	The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
11	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
12	The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS)
13	The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
14	The World Trade Organization (WTO)
15	The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat)
16	The International Maritime Organization (IMO)
17	The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
18	The World Health Organization (WHO)
19	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
20	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
21	The World Bank
22	<i>The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (observer to the EMG)</i>
23	<i>The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (observer to the EMG)</i>
24	<i>The World Food Programme (WFP) (observer to the Task Team)</i>