

Norwegian input to the revised Chair's Summary of the AHEG 11.11.2020

Mr. Chair

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments to the Chair's Summary. We recognize that desire to keep the document short, while it should reflect the deliberations of all four meetings of the AHEG. Below are suggested edits to reflect the discussion that we have heard over the past few days in the AHEG.

Suggested additions and rationale below:

Para 9

9.[...] , clean-ups, monitoring actions, the use of biodegradable plastics, and knowledge acquisition. **Most activities reported are taking place predominantly at the national to subnational level and are mainly targeting outreach-related work. Legislative actions continue to focus on the downstream part and not on prevention**

Rationale: Many interventions underlined that the stock-taking shows that the majority of measures are targeted to end-of-pipe solutions. Several delegations spoke to these shortcomings and called for upstream measures, addressing the whole life-cycle of plastics and promoting a circular economy

16. The development of a potential legally binding global agreement was proposed by a large majority of experts while some of other options were also proposed for enhanced coordination and governance .These options are not mutually exclusive and could be explored in parallel:

- Consider strengthening coordination at the global level
- Improve coordination at the regional level
- Encourage new, and enhance existing, forms of financing and technical support to developing countries and small island developing States
- Consider the establishment of a forum enabling governments, industry, academia, civil society and other stakeholders to share experiences and coordinate action on a regular or ad hoc basis.

Rationale: the large majority of interventions made in AHEG4 have included the suggestion of a new global instrument as the preferred global response option and this should be clearly reflected in the Chair summary. Bullet point 4 has a formulation on feasibility and effectiveness that has not been reflected this week, and the AHEG4 has completed this task as per UNEA 4/6 OP 7(d).

20. **The AHEG recommends that UNEA continue work on developing the functions a - e.** These potential options are not mutually exclusive.

a.-e [...]in support of decision-making processes and implementation of actions to address marine litter.

Rationale: We suggest this revision to inform UNEA-5 that the large majority of experts in AHEG considers the functions a – e to be options that merit further work, and recommends that steps be taken to develop these functions.

New paragraph 21:

21. To accelerate above-mentioned functions by

- i. Strengthening existing instruments, frameworks, partnerships, and actions that address marine plastic litter and microplastics including efforts to develop and improve the

capacity of countries to undertake environmentally sound waste management, such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), G20 implementation framework and Ocean Plastics Charter.

ii. Developing a potential global legally binding instrument to provide a legal framework to that could contain either legally binding and/or non-binding elements, such as global and national reduction targets, phasing out avoidable plastic products, facilitation of national and regional action plans, and sharing of scientific knowledge through scientific panel

Either way intends to cover all stages of plastics life-cycle, and promote a circular economy

Rationale: All interventions but one in the AHEG4 spoke to the need to strengthen the global response, and suggested either one of the above or a combination of both. This should be reflected in the Chair's Summary.

New paragraph 23

23. The AHEG therefore recommends that UNEA-5 establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee to focus on this task with a view to develop a global agreement.

Rationale: Many delegations called for a decisive step to be taken at UNEA-5, and one regional group representing 54 states called for a recommendation by the AHEG to UNEA of establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, supported by the EU and its 27 member states, Norway and Switzerland