

Item 6

Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Mr. Chair,

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Chair for providing this Zero Draft.

Norway expects the AHEG to

1. summarize the consideration of the potential response options as discussed in the meeting and submitted by Member States and Stakeholders, and
2. reflect the convergence of expert opinions in preparing clear recommendations for further work.

This should be clearly reflected in a document to be annexed to the Executive Director's report to UNEA-5.

The Zero Draft is a solid starting point for developing this document. We appreciate that the Zero Draft now reflects the substantial findings of AHEG 1 and 2 which laid the basis for converging towards the emerging common understanding. Summarising the entire work of the AHEG across some 23 months of work, four substantial meetings in a brief document is no easy task

As acknowledged by the UNEP Secretariat and the Chair in the second virtual preparatory meeting, UNEA establishes subsidiary bodies, such as Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Groups, to consider specific problems and to make recommendations as per Rule 63, para 1 while the UNEA resolutions 3/7 and 4/6 outlines mandated tasks regarding the problem of marine plastic litter & microplastics.

Further recalling the mandate from UNEA resolution 3/7 OP 7 (d) (v), the programme of work of AHEG includes the core task to **identify** potential options for continued work by the United Nations Environment Assembly. In order to identify options, we need to highlight something. The opposite of highlighting something is to hide the majority view.

In our view, the AHEG will fail to deliver on its mandate if the outcome document does not reflect experts' recommendations of which response options that should be explored further.

Therefore, Norway strongly support clear recommendations for options to be considered by UNEA-5, including the path to develop a new global agreement.

As we have stated earlier, there is clear convergence in the AHEG that a new global can be an effective global solution to prevent plastic pollution of our oceans and the environment, and that will address the gaps identified in the current international legal and policy framework. To this end, a recommendation for UNEA-5 should be to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee .

In order to progress, we have some suggestions on how to better reflect these central points in the draft Chair's Summary, as outlined below and to be included under D "Options for future and continued work at global level:"

1. We suggest to reflect the level of support to options for further work that have been proposed by a large majority of government experts:
 - a) Setting or sharing existing vision and objectives towards long-term elimination of plastics from the environment.
 - b) Developing national action plans covering the life-cycle of plastics including sourcing, sustainable production and consumption
 - c) Develop arrangements for capacity building and technical and financial assistance
 - d) Include strengthening monitoring and reporting on national measures to generate information on global progress towards the goal as a global function.
 - e) And establish a long-term science-policy interface.
2. We also suggest separate paragraphs for the two structural options mentioned in the current draft, namely 1) strengthening existing frameworks and 2) developing a new global agreement
3. We suggest adding a clear reference to how the two structural options will be developed. For the global agreement, this would mean clearly stating that UNEA-5 would need to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with a clear mandate to develop further components of a new agreement

Thank you chair