



Delivered by Dr Sebastian Koenig, on 12 November 2020, check against delivery

Switzerland

Interventions following the agenda, item 6, 12 Nov

Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics,
09 – 13 November 2020

Agenda item 6:

Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Chair, distinguished delegates

This delegation wants to thank the Chair for the first draft of the chair's summary which we are now being invited to consider, in order to progress towards a next iteration of the chair's summary.

We want to share with you our **general understanding** with respect to the outcome documents.

We understand that **both a meeting report and a chair's summary are adequately reflecting the interventions from the floor**. If there is a clear convergence on certain topics, that should be reflected. If there is disagreement on certain issues, that should be reflected as well. When doing so, it must, however, be adequately speaking to the number of interventions leaning towards one or the other issue.

We also understand that the Chair wants to hold the pen on the chair's summary up to the end. While this is his right to do, the **Bureau should also remain involved and support the Chair in drafting, as the members are representing the regional views on the matters**.

Chair, you have reminded us over the course of the prep meetings and also during this ongoing meeting that we need to voice our concerns on the floor. At your end, you promised us that these interventions are being adequately accounted for in the outcome documents.

Here, Switzerland wants to raise a specific question for the Secretariat. We ask the Secretariat to inform the AHEG here, on how the AHEG 2 back in 2018 came to a conclusion on its outcome document? **We understand that the outcome document was considered to be a document in consensus, with a large ownership by MS and stakeholders alike**.

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Sebastian König
Papiermühlestrasse 172, 3063 Ittigen
Postal address: 3003 Bern
Telephone +41 58 46 330 05, Telefax +41 58 46 303 49
sebastian.koenig@bafu.admin.ch
www.foen.admin.ch

With respect to the **content of the chair's summary**, three points:

Firstly, on **stocktaking**: We are of the opinion that the chair's summary should reflect the results from the stocktaking exercise presented by the consultants. They state that, 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. Our proposed language can be backed by %-numbers that were presented.

Secondly: The chair's summary needs to **separate between functions** (as in 20 a.-e.) **and form** (umbrella, framework, and instrument).

Thirdly: We are of the opinion that the chair's summary should adequately be reflecting interventions in the room. Objectively and quantitatively speaking, there was a majority that called out for the next meeting of the UNEA to start engaging in a negotiation committee on the matter.

We are in good faith, Chair, that the convergence of interventions are adequately being reflected once we reach the end of this meeting.

Thank you.