

## Further information on Pre-meetings of the “Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”

### Frequently Asked Questions

*Note: The below Frequently Asked Questions have been compiled by UNEP, as part of the technical and logistical support requested by the Co-conveners (Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam, who are jointly organizing an informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution on 1-2 September 2021)*

#### **1. What are the pre-meetings of the informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, who is organizing it, who is invited, and when will they take place?**

The Co-conveners, namely Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam, are hosting two online pre-meetings to enable an exchange of perspectives in preparation for the Ministerial Conference. These will take place virtually on 27-28 May and 28-29 June via go-to webinar.

The invitation for the pre-meetings was sent on behalf of the Co-conveners, and participation is open to all Member States and relevant stakeholders. The list of invitees includes UNEP Permanent Representatives (based in Nairobi/Geneva/New York/Addis Ababa/capital depending on country institutional setup), Ministers of Environment (capital), participants of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG), and accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders.

#### **2. What role are participants expected to play in pre-meetings of the informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, and in what capacity should they participate?**

As reflected in the Introduction Note by the Co-conveners, the Ministerial Conference is open to Member States representative and relevant stakeholders. All participants are envisaged to have expertise and familiarity with marine litter and plastic pollution the topic, in addition, they are foreseen to be involved in the preparations for the resumed session of the fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2). Participants will be invited to engage in informal discussions to make progress on this topic.

#### **3. Is there a limitation on the number of participants/Member States/Stakeholders or is it open-ended?**

Both the Ministerial Conference and the pre-meetings are open-ended, but all participants need to register online in advance by using the indicated platform (see below). The pre-meetings offer an open space for multi-stakeholder engagement, the limitation will be determined by the capacity of the platform.

#### **4. What kind of meeting platform will be applied for the pre-meetings and how will registration be done?**

The online pre-meetings (27-28 May and 28-29 June) will be held on the GoToWebinar platform. All participants are required to register at the following link:

27 May 2021, 2:00 – 5:00 pm (EAT): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7850255051904946958>

28 May 2021, 2:00 – 5:00 pm (EAT): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6698038334251588622>

Registration links for the online pre-meeting of 28-29 June 2021 will be made available in due course.

A list of the registered participants and their affiliation will be extracted from the platform “as is” and circulated among registered participants in advance of the pre-meeting.

**5. Will there be simultaneous interpretation for the pre-meetings and of the Ministerial Conference?**

For the Ministerial Conference in September, the Co-conveners intend to provide for simultaneous interpretation into all six official UN languages. The pre-meetings will however be conducted in English only.

**6. What kind of supporting documents will be produced for the pre-meetings, and will they be translated?**

The supporting documents for the pre-meetings are developed by the Co-conveners with technical support of UNEP and disseminated by UNEP on behalf of the Co-conveners ahead of the pre-meetings. The supporting documents consist of a short note for each of the five thematic workstreams, in English only.

**7. Will the informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its pre-meetings take place in person?**

The pre-meetings will be organized online. The Co-conveners are exploring different options for the Ministerial Conference to be held in September, which may take place in person, online or in a hybrid format.

**8. How does the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution relate to UNEA 5.2?**

The Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution aims to *“garner high-level political support for action on marine litter and plastic pollution and further explore the elements of coordinated global action, in the lead up to UNEA 5.2.”* - as reflected in the Introductory Note by the Co-conveners.

**9. What will be the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and what are the next steps?**

The desired outcome of the Ministerial Conference is a non-negotiated Ministerial Statement that elaborates key factors for global action to address marine litter and plastic pollution – as reflected in the Introductory Note by the Co-conveners.

Decisions on the next steps will be led by Member States. The current informal process, i.e. the Ministerial Conference, does not interfere with or replace the official process as per the rules of procedures of UNEA.

**10. What is the role of UNEP in the informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its pre-meetings?**

UNEP acknowledges there are a number of ongoing parallel country led informal processes related to marine litter and plastic pollution. UNEP stands ready to provide technical and logistical support to Member States, at their request. In this regard, UNEP is currently providing logistical and technical support at the request by the Co-conveners (Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam) to organize an informal Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, and its pre-meetings.

The referred UNEP’s support is linked to the ongoing work in UNEP’s Programme of Work to deliver against the output “Policy support, technical assistance, demonstration sites made available to countries in support of the global governance framework to address marine litter and microplastics”.