

Forum on the Multi-stakeholder Platform on Marine Litter and Microplastics

July 13, 2021

Meeting Summary

Background and Intended Outcomes of the Meeting

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) decided, in its resolution 4/6, to strengthen coordination and cooperation by establishing a multi-stakeholder platform within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination, through a life-cycle approach, of discharges of litter and microplastics into the oceans. Based on this, UNEP has been strengthening its contribution to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and its digital platform. Whereas the digital platform will become a place to connect stakeholders, coordinate action on an ad hoc or regular basis and to share data, information and experiences to prevent marine litter and plastic pollution, we must seize all opportunities to further create and coordinate actions, as marine plastic litter and microplastics is a matter requiring urgent action.

The Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ), with technical and logistical support from UNEP, organized an online forum to identify immediate and concrete activities to be implemented involving various stakeholders and enhance the potential uses of the digital platform from 12:00 to 16:00 (EAT) on July 13, 2021. The forum had 734 registrations and 440 participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations.

Session 1: Opening

The facilitator of the forum, Tessa Govere from UNEP, opened the forum with a welcome and announcement of house-keeping issues such as how to use the online platform.

Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of the Environment, Japan, gave a welcoming remark via video message, emphasizing the importance of Osaka Blue Ocean Vision (OBOV) as a solution to the current marine plastics challenge. He also mentioned commitments made under the G7 Summit of this year that will help to accelerate actions towards marine litter. He then expressed the firm commitment of Japan to support the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) for a global instrument on marine plastic litter, and the importance of acquiring support and participation from diverse stakeholders on its establishment. He expressed his wishes that the forum will unite diverse stakeholders and promote actions addressing the issue of marine litter and microplastics.

Leticia Carvalho of UNEP also made welcoming remarks via video message, pointing out that the UNEA recognizes the urgency of this issue and the need to act across the entire life-cycle of plastics, as well as supporting of global efforts based on evidence. She also emphasized the importance of engagement of all stakeholders as key, referencing the Multi-stakeholder Digital Platform of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), which also provides access to a wide range of information, data, and reports. She mentioned that stakeholders must cooperate at the local, national, and global levels, highlighting current country-driven activities underway such as the Ministerial Conference planned for September 2021 and the Nairobi and the New York Group of Friends. She wished all the participants a successful forum.

Session 2: Sharing Progress

Report from the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group (AHEG)- Satoru Iino, Chair of AHEG

Satoru Iino, the AHEG4 Chair, reported on the Chair's Summary of AHEG. The Summary was attached to the meeting report and reported by the Executive Director of UNEP to the UNEA5. He presented an overview of the discussions and outcomes of the expert group meeting. Below is a list of the main topics that were considered, and the results of the discussion.

1. Potential response options
 - Global vision and national action plans
 - Communication through sharing of scientific knowledge and multi-stakeholder engagement
 - Global instrument either strengthening existing instruments, establishing a new global instrument, or both
2. Multi-stakeholder engagement: vital for the support of decision-making processes and implementing actions. Multi-stakeholder platforms by UNEP (GPML), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and the Plastic Waste Partnership under the Basel Convention exist.

3. Global instrument: numerous participants expressed that AHEG should recommend starting negotiations on a global agreement on marine litter and microplastics. Other participants expressed preference for other response options or noted that AHEG's mandate is to provide technical information to UNEA. All of the AHEG experts call for member states and stakeholders to recognize the magnitude and urgency of this issue and work cooperatively toward UNEA5.

Mr. Iino also mentioned that AHEG appreciated the willingness of the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that work undertaken in AHEG remains current and updated for UNEA5. Finally, he reported on the G7 Climate and Environment Minister's Meeting held this May, where they welcomed the work of AHEG and committed to fully engage in discussions on the options that were identified.

Stocktaking of activities and actions on the GPML Digital Platform since its establishment- Heidi Savelli and Saiful Ridwan, UNEP

Heidi Savelli and Saiful Ridwan from UNEP gave an update on the development of the GPML Digital Platform. The platform aims to support paragraphs and decisions at past sessions of UNEA. It was released as a beta version this year, with the final phase planned for June 2023, and aims to achieve the following:

- Integrate data from multiple sources
- Connect stakeholders
- Facilitate target setting and measuring progress
- Identify gaps and priorities
- Coordinate and guide actions based on best available information (evidence-based, risk-based)

The platform also aims to support the development and implementation of action plans, through identifying best practices and available data/knowledge, measuring progress, and comparing results.

The platform is establishing partnerships in four groups (strategic, data, knowledge and technology). In the upcoming Phase 2 release scheduled in September 2021, the datahub components including geospatial tools and the data catalog will be released. It aims to provide curated and quality datasets that users can update, upload, and analyze. GPML will continue to conduct user consultation sessions to receive feedback on the platform to ensure a user centered approach.

Mapping of international/regional coordination and cooperation- Heidi Savelli and Marta Ottogalli, UNEP

Heidi Savelli and Marta Ottogalli from UNEP presented the progress on mapping international/regional coordination and cooperation. They explained that various regional and international initiatives exist, such as OBOV, Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Action Plan, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, ASEAN Action Plan 2021-2025, and others by various actors trying to address the issue at multiple levels. Under the GPML Digital Platform, there is an ongoing Connect Stakeholders Pilot to bring actors from different sectors together. GPML is conducting user consultations to receive feedback and ensure that the pilot can serve the needs and desired functionalities of users. The pilot plans to identify matches with potential partners in its next steps to foster collaboration.

Launch of the IRP think piece on “Policy options to eliminate additional marine plastic litter by 2050 under the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”- International Resource Panel (Steve Fletcher)

First, Keiji Nakashima from MoEJ made introductory remarks on the new think piece by IRP, citing the need to identify feasible policy options and carry out long-term monitoring in order to achieve OBOV. He stated that the key messages in the report are critical to facilitate action by G20 countries and beyond.

Next, Steve Fletcher of IRP explained the main messages detailed in the think piece. The purpose of the study was to qualitatively consider possible policy options to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, as set out in OBOV. He emphasized that in order to achieve the ambitions of OBOV, the current policy mix needs to be significantly strengthened in breadth and ambition. Nine policy areas were considered in the study, separated into upstream and downstream measures. The report developed eight key policy messages as follows:

1. To deliver the necessary changes for the plastics economy, the G20 should accelerate its work on marine plastic litter as a priority.
2. Greater coordination of marine plastic litter reduction policies is urgently needed to deliver the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.
3. Step change in international and national policy ambition is necessary to achieve the OBOV.

4. Actions to reduce marine plastic litter should be encouraged, shared, and scaled up immediately.
5. Support innovation to transition to a circular plastics economy is essential – Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA) should be applied to new interventions.
6. Significant knowledge gap on the effectiveness of marine plastic litter policies must be overcome – current approach risks misdiagnosing or underestimating the problem.
7. Regulate the international trade in plastic waste to protect people and nature.
8. COVID-19 recovery stimulus packages have the potential to support the delivery of OBOV.

The key finding of the report is that isolated actions in geographically discrete places will not bring about the scale of change necessary to tackle marine plastic litter effectively. Rather, global systemic change is needed.

Session 3: Discussion on activities to be undertaken for combating marine litter and microplastics

1. Multi-stakeholder engagement for global actions – Chaired by Rob Wing, United States of America

<Presentation session>

“The business case for a UN treaty on plastic pollution”, World Wildlife Fund – John Duncan, ‘No Plastics in Nature’ Lead

John Duncan from WWF presented on the activities and report conducted under the “Business Case for a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution”, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Boston Consulting Group. He first framed the problem, explaining that despite a large increase in initiatives and regulations to tackle plastic waste and pollution, the pace of plastic leakage is continuing to increase. The reasons for this problematic trend are:

1. Voluntary initiatives lack scale to drive system change towards global circular economy;
2. Regulations are misaligned with the value chain and problem drivers (i.e., plastic bags are only 5% of ocean pollution);
3. Foundational reporting capabilities are lacking; and
4. Targeted interventions need to accelerate change – lack of coordination, and where the finance is targeted.

The UN treaty is one of the key instruments to address the above barriers, and it is supported by academics, civil society, governments, and businesses. Businesses should support a legally-binding UN treaty because it creates harmonized regulatory standards across markets, and these make a stable policy framework to plan investments and reduce operational complexity and compliance risk across markets. Companies investing on their own will not be able to achieve scale in current commitments. Leading global businesses support a UN treaty, which should form a foundational response to the plastic pollution issue.

“Toward a New Global Instrument on Plastic Pollution”, Environmental Investigation Agency – Tim Grabel, Senior Lawyer

Tim Grabel from EIA explained the components needed in a global agreement on marine litter and microplastics, as there is a need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life-cycle of plastics and plastic pollution. The four pillars of action needed are as follows:

- Pillar 1 Monitoring and Reporting: Harmonized definitions, timeframes, methodologies. State of environment and progress toward a circular economy, reporting on national action, and periodic assessments
- Pillar 2 Plastic Pollution Prevention: Global objectives, National Action Plans, product design, microplastics, addressing virgin plastic production, legacy pollution and remediation
- Pillar 3 Coordination: prevent redundancies and promote synergies, coordinating with climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity, etc.
- Pillar 4 Technical and Financial Support: A dedicated scientific mechanism, implementing and bilateral agencies, common but differentiated responsibilities

For a global instrument on plastic pollution, we already have a large amount of work done (reports, expert groups, national/regional statements, etc.), therefore if we establish an INC at UNEA5.2, the international community will have a global agreement on marine litter and microplastics within a few years. Rwanda and Peru are preparing a draft resolution for UNEA5.2, and he requested participants of this forum to urge their governments to take action.

“Multi-stakeholder engagement for global actions”, Bureau of International Recycling- Ross Bartley, Trade & Environment Director

Ross Bartley of the Bureau of International Recycling presented how multi-stakeholder partnerships towards global action on the marine plastic litter issue should be set-up and function, citing the Basel Convention’s Plastic Waste

Partnership (PWP) as an example. The PWP aims to improve and promote environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste at all levels and prevent and minimize its generation, with membership open to Parties and observers. Currently, membership is comprised of government agencies (about 50%), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs, about 20%), industry and NGOs (combined about 20%), and regional centers (about 10%). PWP has conducted pilot projects, across a wide range of regions. There are four project groups in PWP: prevention and minimization, collection/recycling and other recovery, transboundary movements, outreach/education and awareness-raising. Key messages should be tailored for different stakeholders (governments, municipalities, and general public), and PWP has created a wide variety of outputs such as videos, factsheets, best practices, talks at events, pilot project experiences, and virtual “Meet & Greet” with other stakeholder bodies.

“Introducing the Alliance to End Plastic Waste”, Alliance to End Plastic Waste – Nick Kolesch, Vice President of Projects

Nick Kolesch introduced the Alliance to End Plastic Waste and its activities. The Alliance was established in early 2019 to address the global plastic waste challenge and support the creation of a circular economy. It brings together actors from the plastic value chain, under the recognition that collective action is needed. Its four strategic pillars are infrastructure, innovation, education & engagement, and cleanup. Regarding the activities of the Alliance, they are project focused, with more than 30 projects selected under five investment themes (engaging with cities, creating value for recyclates, advanced recovery and recycling, design for circularity, and societal behavior). It also established an open-source platform to centralize and harmonize plastic waste information called Plastic Recovery Insight and Steering Model (PRISM), in partnership with IBM Singapore. PRISM has adopted the IUCN/UNEP hotspot methodology, in order to ensure consistent methodologies, and is accessible for all user groups. Mr. Kolesch mentioned that PRISM could form a component of the GPML Digital Platform, meeting the needs of the “Virtual Quarterdeck”, and be adaptable to the needs of the Digital Platform.

<Q&A session>

The presenters in this Session were asked a question on what collaboration among different types of stakeholders could most effectively address marine plastic litter and plastic pollution. One pointed out the need to consider which actors are relevant at each stage of the life-cycle, and to design measures accordingly. For example, for the production stage, polymer producers would be the relevant stakeholders, but another set of stakeholders are needed for product design. Another pointed out the key importance of an intergovernmental science panel, seen in other successful UN treaties, and the need to bring those stakeholders together and listen to their mandate of what action is needed. Finally, another presenter pointed out that the Basel Convention has a strong structure but allows for flexibility on definitions of waste and for governments to provide information on their waste management capabilities and facilities. He also mentioned the importance of promoting connectivity amongst stakeholders and transparent information.

Questions from the participants of the forum included one on the type of waste management data found in PRISM. It was clarified that PRISM currently contains 500 data sources, including municipal solid waste data, polymer type, plastic waste flow into the environment, waste management infrastructure, and policy-related information from governments. Another question was whether the oil and gas sector will be one of the stakeholders at the table. One presenter answered that many members of their organization are from that end of the value-chain and that they need to be part of the discussion and solution.

2. Product design: chaired by Hugo Schally, European Commission

<Presentation session>

“Upstream Innovation: Practical solutions to achieve a circular economy for plastics”, Ellen MacArthur Foundation- Carsten Wachholz, Senior Policy Manager

Carsten Wachholz explained a strategy hierarchy for managing and reducing plastic packaging and waste, with concrete examples of innovation. Upstream innovation means working out waste prevention (packaging, delivery, etc.) at the design stage, and he emphasized the need to think beyond incremental packaging improvements by rethinking the packaging itself, the product, and business model. Below is a description of the three strategy hierarchy and its main concepts:

1. Elimination
 - Direct elimination of packaging that does not serve an essential function
 - Innovative elimination of packaging that serves an essential function (i.e. edible coating on vegetables, solid personal care products)
2. Reuse

- Four consumer reuse models: refill at home, refill on the go, return from home, return on the go

3. Material Circulation

- Three routes for circulation: plastics recycling, plastics composting, substitution

Mr. Wachholz concluded that there is also a need for action at policy level, such as the harmonization of standards for packaging and design of products, deposit and other mechanisms to increase reuse including extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, tax reduction on reuse/recycling, and disincentives of non-sustainable outcomes.

PlasticsEurope- Anne-Gaelle Collot, Senior Manager of Consumer & Environmental Affairs

Anne-Gaelle Collot gave an overview of *PlasticsEurope*, which is representing plastic resins producers in Europe with over 100 members covering 90% of all polymers produced in Europe. *PlasticsEurope* has established strong value chain partnerships to accelerate solution-driven approaches to deliver safe, circular and sustainable solutions. *PlasticsEurope*, working jointly with the World Plastics Council, welcome efforts at international level to develop response options towards a global agreement on marine litter and microplastics that is legally binding. The organization developed *Plastics 2030*, a voluntary commitment for its members. Its goal is to reach 100% reuse, recycling and/or recovery of all plastic packaging by 2040. Under the Circular Plastics Alliance, there is an aim to promote new voluntary actions to ensure that 10 million tons of recycled plastics are used in new European products by 2025, and *PlasticsEurope* plays a leading role in delivering that target by planning to contribute with 1.2 Mt of recycled plastics produced through chemical recycling by 2025 and invest more than 7 billion Euros in chemical recycling in Europe by 2030, to complement mechanical recycling. The Alliance also selected a number of products and is contributing to the development of EU and industry standards such as quality of recyclates and setting up a monitoring system. She mentioned that coordination with the plastics value chain is key to progress on the circularity of plastics and reaching targets.

“Product Design Innovations”, American Chemistry Council- Stewart Harris, Senior Director, Global Plastics Policy, Plastics Division

Stewart Harris presented on the goals and activities of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) related to plastic product design. The ACC Plastics Division members represent plastics producers in the USA. ACC adopted 2030 and 2040 goals which are: 100% of plastic packaging will be recyclable or recoverable by 2030, and 100% of plastic packaging will be reused, recycled or recovered by 2040. ACC also developed a series of guiding principles and “The Roadmap to Reuse” report. Regarding product design that fits into the larger achievement of circularity, Mr. Harris pointed out as key considerations the availability of material and designing products in a way that infrastructure can capture materials after use. He also mentioned partnerships as critical to achieving product design innovations, with research & development work with customers and brands to improve packaging design.

“Introduction of CLOMA and Recycle initiatives for PET Bottles”, Japan Clean Ocean Material Alliance (CLOMA)- Seiji Morihara, Senior General Manager, Corporate Sustainability Division, Suntory Holdings Limited

Seiji Morihara from CLOMA explained the aims and activities of CLOMA within Japan and in other countries. CLOMA was established in 2019 as a platform for different stakeholders to collaborate and prevent plastics from flowing into the ocean. CLOMA’s goals are to accelerate the 3Rs, encourage plastic recycling through public-private partnerships, and disseminate its “Japan model”. It aims to achieve 100% recycling of plastic products by 2050. There are five key action Working Groups, with each group being led by CLOMA member companies. CLOMA intends to share Japan’s know-how and best practices with Indonesia and other Asian countries. Mr. Morihara explained that there are two key factors to achieve a high recycling rate: regulation by law, with PET bottles designated and targeted for recycling, and voluntary design guidelines. Regarding the latter, association of beverage industry has developed standardized specifications for what plastic caps, bottle bodies, and labels should be made of, and other design considerations.

<Q&A session>

During the Q&A section of Session 3-2, presenters were asked what stakeholders can use as key enablers for sustainable production and consumption at a global level. One presenter pointed out the necessity to provide flexibility for product design that is based on the local context. Another agreed with the importance of flexibility, with the need for development of definitions and metrics at the global level without fixing implementation details. He also pointed out that a global treaty could make more technical and financial resources available than what is currently available. Another presenter agreed with the necessity of a global agreement on marine litter and microplastics, as it would enhance coordination and collaboration, and also mentioned that a life-cycle approach should be promoted. Finally, another presenter stated the importance of establishing infrastructure, especially in Asian

countries, and that educating citizens, working with governments and using EPR as a means are needed.

A participant asked a question about the intersection of upstream innovation and final production cost, and whether changes in product design would affect the costs to consumers. A presenter pointed out that elimination of packaging leads to cost-reduction while for reuse it depends but a key aspect is that the reuse model incorporates elements other than simply replacing single-use plastics, such as additional opportunities for interactions with customers. Another presenter stated that design changes do typically cost more but that companies are either absorbing or passing along the costs. Furthermore, there is a strong demand from consumers for more recycled content in products, which is a driver for changing product design.

A presenter was asked about how to incorporate recyclability and reusability in the automotive sector. The presenter responded that the concept of repair and refurbishment was gaining importance, with exploration of techniques to attach and remove vehicle parts, as well as how to separately collect those materials at the end-of-life. Finally, there was a comment from a participant about what actions are key to enabling sustainable production and consumption, in particular regarding product design. The participant cited the example of his country, which passed a new law on circulation of plastics to promote voluntary efforts by industry. The government has also created guidelines for the business sector regarding product design.

3. Environmentally sound waste management – Chaired by Takaaki (Alaska) Ito, Japan

<Presentation session>

“Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific”, Asian Development Bank- James Baker, Program manager for Regional Program Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific

James Baker presented ongoing activities by the Asian Development Bank in the Asia and the Pacific region to combat marine plastic litter and pollution. He explained that there is a sustainable development and climate change thematic group, which promotes solutions for plastic pollution from source to sea. The thematic group is working with the private sector to understand waste management and fugitive plastics, and with governments on how to prevent plastic pollution and engage with communities on the collection of waste. ADB is using a city approach to learn from target cities’ activities and share that knowledge around the region. Key activities are as follows:

- Data, metrics, measurement: a key aspect involving development of standard baselines and methodologies
- City level action plans: to understand where action should go, and share it with other cities and other countries
- Collaborative forums: bring stakeholders across the plastics value chain together to create analyses and solutions. Development of knowledge toolkits, guidance and share learning.
- Pilot projects and test facilities: ongoing projects in Indonesia, Thailand, etc.
- Knowledge products: to allow city and provincial governments to invest in waste management facilities and toward the circular economy goal
- Catalytic financing: to look at smaller projects and match knowledge created with available funding

“ISWA Marine Litter Task Force”, International Solid Waste Association - Costas Velis, Leader – ISWA Marine Litter Task Force

Costas Velis gave an overview on the ISWA Marine Litter Task Force and its activities and tools for waste management. ISWA is working with many stakeholders across the supply chain. The organization has also developed the Plastic Pollution Calculator, which helps to establish a baseline, quantify sources and hotspots, and prioritize areas and interventions. It operates at a city level because many interventions will occur there. The calculator has features such as quantifying plastic pollution at the level of plastic items and looking at how climate/anthropogenic conditions lead to plastics in the environment. He also outlined the four sequential steps that are needed to address plastic pollution, which are:

1. Understand sources and after-use products
2. Quantify leakage in the environment/hotspots
3. Identify, rank and prioritize interventions
4. Benchmark

“Expand Waste Management System to Medium/Small Cities and Rural Area”, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia- Michikazu Kojima, Research Fellow

Michikazu Kojima presented the research and findings on waste management in Japan and Southeast Asian countries that ERIA has conducted. He noted that one major challenge to achieve ESM of waste in developing countries is to expand waste management and collection services in small cities and rural areas. He explained that we should utilize

economies of scale to expand such management and services to these jurisdictions. He then detailed a unique system in Japan called Partial Affairs Associations, which is an intermunicipal corporation organization which collects and manages waste jointly. This system can lead to cost savings in waste management. There are also regional schemes on waste management in Southeast Asian countries, such as a waste-to-energy plant in Indonesia by the provincial government, waste-to-energy in Thailand with the city contracting with surrounding municipalities and private companies. He concluded that governments should utilize regional waste management schemes to expand waste management in rural areas.

“How do we see plastic waste towards sustainability?” UNEP- Shunichi Honda, Programme Officer, International Environmental Technology Centre, Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division

Shunichi Honda provided a perspective on plastic waste from the point of view of global waste generation and management overall. He explained that depending on the scope of the data, how we perceive plastic waste varies. For example, there are 240 million tons of plastics in municipal solid waste. Annually, 2.1 billion tons of municipal solid waste are generated at the global level, therefore plastic accounts for 11.4% in terms of volume. With regards to total global waste, municipal solid waste only accounts for 4%, which makes plastics in municipal solid waste only 0.3% of total global waste. Therefore, he proposed that it is crucial that we take various actions to combat marine plastic litter, but if we focus too much on that we miss the whole problem. He pointed out that we should recognize that the management of plastic waste is one of the means towards ESM of all waste. Moreover, focusing on only the plastic waste problem will not change anything, unless we seriously change the world into a circular economy.

<Q&A session>

Presenters were asked what the important aspects of environmentally sound waste management are in order to achieve a circular economy. One presenter expressed that balance and design in waste management are important towards achieving a circular economy, with the perspective of net environmental impacts. His organization is currently considering bridging technologies that can be implemented today to improve waste management and that more activities can build on in future. Another pointed out that there are packaging collection schemes by local governments that work as a part of an EPR system, which can be utilized. A presenter mentioned that it is more important for a large number of citizens to take one action, rather than one government to take a large number of actions, meaning that not only waste management but also a lifestyle change is needed.

A participant asked a question on how the Plastic Pollution Calculator can be applied to other sectors, to which the presenter replied that it can be applied to any region, municipality, or at larger scales. He mentioned that there has different levels of data collection, therefore it is important to choose the right type of effort and adapt to resources which can be very different in different parts of the world.

Session 4: Discussion on the way forward

Further expectations

Participants exchanged ideas on the functions and roles of the Multi-stakeholder Platform, and the following comments and questions were expressed:

- Expect peer-learning and information sharing as a key aspect of this platform. G20 Implementation Framework (2019) could collaborate well with this platform for information sharing amongst stakeholders.
- Cleaning-up waste upstream such as on Mt. Everest is important to prevent downstream pollution.
- The Ocean Plastics Leadership Network (OPLN) is a global network with 130 organizations that have joined, including companies and activist organizations, is hosting the Global Plastic Treaty Dialogue Series in March, June, September and December of 2021. OPLN is interested in supporting this Multi-stakeholder Platform. Members, especially the global food package sector, are very interested in a global treaty.
- How to make responsible stakeholders take their responsibility in waste management.
- What is being done to remove the large amount of plastics already in the ocean and what will be done to removed plastics.
- How this Multi-stakeholder Platform can benefit the national or local level actions. Behavior change that comes from citizens is a key. How can we contribute to regional and international actions?

Discussion items at the next forum

One participant proposed a topic to be discussed in the next forum as follows.

- Discussions are happening about plastic as if it is one type of material, but it is actually a wide-range of materials. An exploration of what plastic is (i.e. definitions, polymer types) could be a good topic for a future forum.

- Participants were invited to submit additional suggestions via email to unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org

Session 5: Closing

The facilitator from UNEP summarized the main points of the presentations and discussions in Sessions 1-4, and invited participants to share comments in the chat or via email.

Keiji Nakashima from MoEJ closed the forum, highlighting the success of the forum with the participation of various stakeholders to discuss specific topics. He also emphasized that marine plastic litter is an urgent issue on a global scale, and that there is a strong need to discuss practical measures in parallel with the discussion of an INC. He concluded that UNEP should take the lead collaborating with various stakeholders such as governments, businesses, the private sector, civil society, and academia.