

**Chair's summary of
UNEA AHEG
Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on
Marine Litter and Microplastics**

July, 13, 2021

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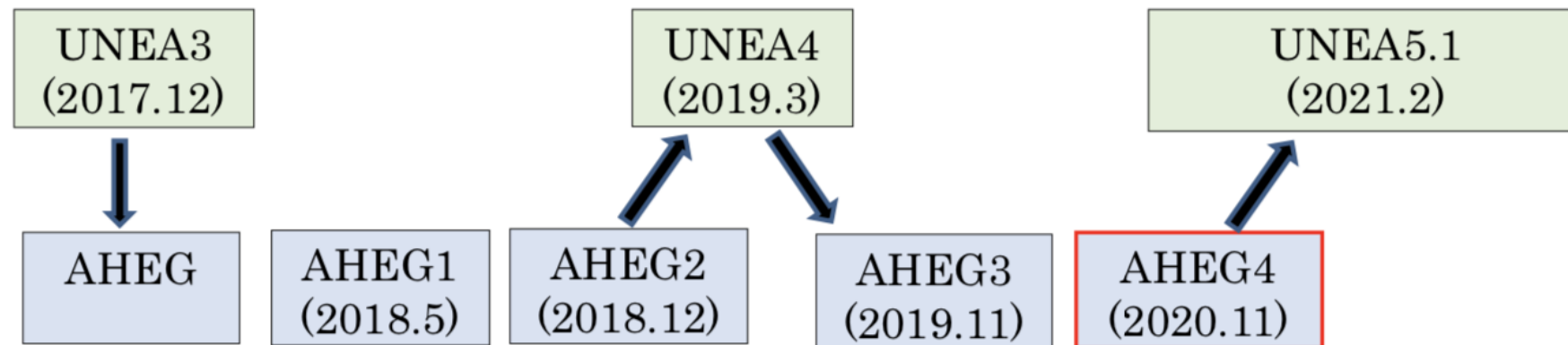
Ad-hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG)

Established by UNEA3 resolution (December, 2017) and conducted 4 times in total.

Its main mandates were;

- ① Take stock of existing activities and actions
- ② Identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms
- ③ Analyze the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities

⇒The last AHEG, AHEG4, was concluded in November 2020 and summarized outcome documents including the Chair's Summary and the Meeting Report.



Outline of AHEG4

Date

9-13 November, 2020 (online)

Participating Countries and Institutions

- National and regional representatives (79 countries / regions)
- UNEP Secretariat
- International organizations / NGOs

Key Agenda

- ✧ 3 Progress in relevant work pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics.
- ✧ 4 (a) **Taking stock of existing activities and** action
- ✧ 4 (b) Identification of technical and financial resources or mechanisms
- ✧ 4 (c) Encouragement of partnerships that undertake activities in relation to the prevention of marine litter
- ✧ 4 (d) **Analysis of the effectiveness** of existing and potential response options and activities
- ✧ 5 **Consideration of submissions on potential response options** pursuant to paragraph 10 (d) of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics.
- ✧ 6 Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

● **Global Vision and National Plan**

- ✓ **Global common vision**
- ✓ **National action plans and their implementation**
(policy-making with PDCA)
- ✓ **Regional and international cooperation to facilitate national actions**

● **Communication**

- ✓ **Scientific basis**
(monitoring technology to identify sources and flows of plastics, etc.)
- ✓ **Multi-stakeholder engagement**

● **Global Instrument**

- ✓ **Strengthening existing instruments**
- ✓ **A new global instrument**
- ✓ **Enhanced coordination among instruments**

20(e). Multi-stakeholder engagement

Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement in support of decision-making processes and implementation of actions to address marine litter.

Examples of model and/or possible partner of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral framework and platform include;

- A multi-stakeholder platform operated by UNEP.
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that could support efforts on chemicals and materials management.
- The Partnership under the Basel Convention.
- Online platform from the stocktaking exercise.

23. With the AHEG completing its mandate at its fourth meeting, potential options for continued work for consideration by UNEA5 are now identified. **Numerous participants expressed their view that the AHEG should recommend starting negotiations** on a global agreement (either legally binding or voluntary). **Other participants expressed a preference for other response options or noted that the AHEG's mandate is to provide technical information to UNEA across a range of potential response options,** not recommendations about what specific policy and/or policy formulation processes that UNEA should pursue. **All of the AHEG experts would like to call for member states and stakeholders to recognize the magnitude and urgency of this issue, seriously consider these identified options and work cooperatively toward UNEA5.**

24. Taking into account the broad agreement on the “two step approach” for UNEA-5, the **AHEG appreciated the willingness of the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that** the work undertaken to date remains current and updated for purposes of the resumed session of UNEA-5, and, upon request, **to organize informal preparatory consultations in support of preparations for the resumed session.**

Result of the G7 Climate and Environment Minister's Meeting

Date

Date: 20-21 May, 2021 (online)

Participating Countries

- G7 countries
- Guest countries (Australia, India, Republic of Korea, South Africa)

Reference to AHEG in the Communiqué

Recognising the scale, urgency and transboundary nature of the global action needed to tackle marine plastic litter and microplastics, including by considering a life-cycle approach, **we welcome the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group (AHEG)** established by UNEA resolution 3/7 and extended by UNEA resolution 4/6 **towards UNEA 5.2, and will fully engage in discussions or negotiations on the options identified**, with the aim of taking a step forward on that occasion on suggested options which include strengthening existing instruments, a potential new global instrument, and multi-stakeholder engagement. We look forward to the forthcoming OECD study on existing MDB resources that address marine litter, prepared in cooperation with the G7 Alliance for Resource Efficiency.