

Update on informal processes on marine litter and plastic pollution

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Recent country-driven initiatives and activities

- **New York Group of Friends** to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution, led by Antigua and Barbuda, Norway and the Maldives (launched on 8 June 2020)
- **Nairobi Group of Friends** to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, led by Chile and Portugal (launched on 6 July 2021)
- **Forum of the Multi-stakeholder Platform** on Marine Litter and Microplastics hosted by Japan (13 July 2021)
- **Geneva Environment Network** – Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues Part II has started
- **Ministerial Conference** on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its Pre-meetings co-convened by Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Vietnam(1-2 September 2021, May & June 2021)

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: **brought together governments and major groups and stakeholders to raise level of commitment and keep momentum in the lead up to UNEA 5.2**

- **Over 1200 participants from 146 countries convened online and in Geneva at WTO on 1-2 September, building upon the momentum created by AHEG.**
- **Ministerial Statement calling for urgent action** including a decision at UNEA 5.2 to establish an **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a global agreement finalized during the meeting**
- **A number of countries have expressed support** for the Ministerial Statement at or after the meeting (pending updates from the co-conveners)

Key considerations raised by Member States

- **Transboundary nature** of problem requires plastics to be addressed across the life cycle, considering both land and sea-based sources of pollution.
- **Coherent framework** needs to build upon, but not duplicate, existing mechanisms.
- **Industry involvement** needed to achieve a sustainable and circular plastics economy with some companies calling for a binding treaty to level playing field.
- **National action plans** to prevent and reduce marine litter and plastic pollution, tailored to local and national circumstances, are a tools that can guide actions and facilitate cooperation.
- **Need for urgent action stressed** and commitment affirmed to take the next steps by working towards an ambitious decision at UNEA 5.2.

Related country-driven initiatives

- **Draft resolution presented by Rwanda and Peru** co-sponsored Costa Rica, Ecuador, European Union and its Member States, Guinea, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal and Switzerland.
- **Others expressed intent to submit** a draft resolution on the matter to UNEA 5.2 (Japan)
- **Ministerial Statement** open for signature until 15 October
<https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

Continued UN work

- Secretary General's call for action by the UN System / EMG mapping efforts
- Clean Seas Campaign 2.0 Source to Sea
- GPML Action Tracks strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination of action
- New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, co-led with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, aligning over 500 signatories from business and governments behind a common vision.
- Key upcoming publications:
 - From Pollution to Solution
 - Vital Graphics on Marine Litter and Plastic Waste
 - Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution using a Life Cycle Approach
 - One Planet review of cross programme initiatives on Sustainable Production & Consumption

Road to UNEA 5.2

- **Annual sub-committee meeting 25-29 October 2021:** opportunity to present draft resolutions for UNEA 5.2
- **UNEP stands ready to support informal coordination and engagement** of informal country-led processes as requested.
- UNEP will lead UN System-wide coordination.

Thank you



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