

***Ad hoc* intersessional open-ended expert groups established by the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding
instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

Work Programme

Expert Group 1 / Finance

Introduction

At its fourth session (INC-4), the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, decided to establish two *Ad Hoc* Intersessional Open-Ended Expert Groups. The ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups (hereafter “expert groups”) are not part of the negotiations under the Committee but are established to inform and help advance the work of the Committee.

The Committee requested the two expert groups to commence their work using electronic means, and the Secretariat to organize, subject to availability of financial resources, an in-person meeting for the expert groups in the intersessional period before the Committee’s fifth session (INC-5).

This note outlines the proposed organization of work for Expert Group 1, mandated to develop an analysis of potential sources, and means that could be mobilized, for implementation of the objectives of the instrument, including options for the establishment of a financial mechanism, alignment of financial flows, and catalysing finance, for the consideration by the Committee at INC-5.

Nomination of Member Experts

The secretariat issued a notification on [30 May 2024](#) inviting Members to nominate their experts to participate in the work of the ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups. The nomination deadline was 4 July 2024.

To ensure efficient and consistent work of the groups, it is strongly encouraged that the nominated experts participate throughout the entire expert group process.

Modalities of work

Expert Group 1 will meet three times using electronic means (i.e. virtually) in advance of the in-person meeting scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 – 28 August 2024. The expert group will work in English only.

The purpose of the virtual meetings is to facilitate preparation for the in-person meeting, including to inform the synthesis document to be prepared by the co-chairs in advance of the in-person meeting, as outlined in the [concept note](#) prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the expert groups’ Co-chairs, in consultation with the INC Chair.

Methodology

Expert Group 1 will undertake its work in the following manner:

Conduct of the virtual meetings:

- The virtual meetings will take place on the Interactio platform.
- Guiding questions will be made available to experts to focus discussions.
- The co-chairs may also use other online tools to encourage interaction of experts at the meetings.

Inputs from technical resource persons

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, will invite selected technical resource persons, to help inform the work of the Expert Group. The selected technical resource persons may be invited to provide information to the co-chairs upon request to the extent that it is relevant to the mandate of the expert group for the discussion during the intersessional period. Beyond ad hoc provision of information, the technical resource persons may further be requested by the co-chairs to:

- Participate in ad hoc meetings with co-chairs;
- Attend the virtual and in-person Expert Group Meetings.

Synthesis document

- The co-chairs will prepare a synthesis of factual information to be published on the webpage for the intersessional work in advance of the in-person expert group meeting.
- The discussion in the virtual meetings of the expert group will inform the development of the synthesis.
- An addendum to the synthesis will be published after the third virtual meeting to reflect the discussion of that virtual meeting.

Conduct of in-person meeting

- The in-person meeting is scheduled to take place at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok (UNCC) from 24 to 28 August 2024.
- The in-person meeting of expert group 1 will run in parallel with the in-person meeting of expert group 2.
- Some evening sessions may be scheduled as appropriate.
- Preparatory materials will be made available by 3 August 2024.
- For more information, see the [information note](#) for participants prepared by the INC secretariat.

Proposed output of the in-person meeting of EG1:

1. Meeting report of the in-person meeting
2. Co-Chairs' report, including
 - Analysis of potential sources, and means that could be mobilized, for implementation of the objectives of the instrument, including options for the establishment of a financial mechanism, alignment of financial flows, and catalysing finance,
 - Issues identified by the expert group for consideration by the Committee at INC-5
 - Other concrete products identified by the expert group for consideration at INC-5

Overview of planned virtual meetings for Expert Group 1

Virtual meeting 1. 16 July 2024 / 14.00 – 17.00 EAT.	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Members of EG1 have an opportunity to meet</u> • Discuss the mandate and proposed organization of work. • Align EG1 members on purpose and understand how ISW fits into the overall process
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Outcomes achieved at INC-4 and mandate for expert group 1 • Overall objective of intersessional work for expert group 1 • Summary of the current means of implementation provisions in the compilation text • Closing
Guiding questions / Proposed approach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What key outcomes are foreseen for this expert group? • What form of output will best support the Committee’s work at INC-5? • What are the current means of implementation provisions in the compilation text? How do they link to other provisions?
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme • Compilation text

Virtual meeting 2. 1 August 2024 / 14.00 – 17.00 EAT	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate experts having a common appreciation of the scope and magnitude of the financial requirements to implement the treaty, and the landscape of financial sources and flows relating to plastic pollution
Preliminary agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Outcomes of the first virtual meeting • Discussion on financial requirements to implement the instrument. • Discussion on the landscape of financial sources and flows relating to plastic pollution • Closing and next steps
Guiding questions / Proposed approach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about the scale and complexity of the challenge? • What are examples of funding and finance sources (traditional and non-traditional) which currently (or could) tackle plastic pollution? How quickly can these be scaled up? • What is meant by ‘aligning’ financial flows? • When it comes to financial flows, what decisions need global agreement and oversight? What decisions need guidance to encourage global consistency? What could be determined at a national level? • What works effectively in other MEAs?
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INF paper provided for INC4

Virtual meeting 3. 15 August 2024 / 14.00 – 18.00 EAT	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate common understanding of the options available to establish a Financial Mechanism for the instrument • Facilitate common understanding of the other (non-financial) means of implementation, including capacity building, technical assistance, technology transfer, stakeholder engagement etc, and how (if at all) they are related to the financial landscape. • Familiarize experts with the organization of work for the in-person meeting and expected outcomes • Familiarize experts on the logistics of the meeting • Familiarize experts with the documentation for the meeting
Preliminary agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Outcomes of the second virtual meeting • Discussion on options available to establish a Financial mechanism • Discussion on non-financial means of implementation • Organization of work at in-person meeting • Expected outcomes of in-person meeting • Logistics of the in-person meeting • Closing and next steps
Guiding questions / Proposed approach:	<p>The co-chairs will open with an overview of the current options for a financial mechanism identified in the compilation of draft text (UNEP/PP/INC.5/4). They will also invite Technical Resource Persons to provide examples of existing financial mechanisms and their related structures to inform the expert group.</p> <p>Guiding questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the pros and cons of each financial mechanism option to meet the implementation needs of the instrument? • What are the possible governance approaches for the financial mechanism, and what are their relative pros/cons? • When it comes to the non-financial means of implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do we best assess and build capacity in different locations and sectors to tackle plastic pollution? ○ What is needed to effectively facilitate sharing of technical knowledge and technical assistance? ○ Are there any other non-financial means of implementation that could support implementation of the future ILBI?
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis document. • Annotated agenda for the in-person meeting, including the organization of work.