



NEW ZEALAND
Permanent Mission
TE AKA AORERE

Geneva, 6 February 2020

Future meetings of the ad hoc open ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

Distinguished experts to the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics,

I have the honor to address you in my capacity as Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, on behalf of all members of its Bureau.

At its third meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 22 November 2019, the expert group on marine litter and microplastics entrusted its Bureau to decide, in close consultation with member States and by 31 January 2020 at the latest, on the dates and venues of its future meetings.

As announced at its third meeting and confirmed in writing through formal submissions, two formal offers have been received to host the fourth and fifth meetings of the expert group, one from the Government of Peru and one from the Government of Rwanda. These offers have been considered in relation to the default option, which is to host both meetings at UNEP Headquarters in Kenya. In doing so, informal consultations have been carried out with the experts at the third meeting of the expert group in Bangkok, and with member States and stakeholders on 21 January in Geneva (at the Geneva Environment Network), and on 23 January in Nairobi (at the meeting of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives).

After careful consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of the different options on dates and venues for the fourth and fifth meetings of the expert group, I have the honor to inform you that, at its meeting on 29 January 2020, the Bureau decided unanimously that the fourth meeting of the expert group take place in Lima, Peru, from 4 to 8 May 2020, and that the fifth meeting of the expert group take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 9 to 13 November 2020.

To facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries, the Secretariat will, subject to available resources, offer travel support and daily subsistence allowance for delegates from developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states with special vulnerabilities.

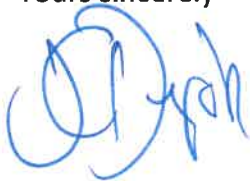
On behalf of the Bureau, I wish to thank member States and stakeholders for their guidance on the matter, and to the Secretariat for providing the necessary information and analysis in order for the Bureau to thoroughly review the different options and arrive at this important decision.

In this context, I also wish to state that the Bureau has carefully noted the views expressed by some member States regarding the desirability to keep Nairobi-based experts informed on our work, and to facilitate a smooth transition between the work of the expert group and the discussions on marine litter and microplastics foreseen to take place at the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

Accordingly, the Bureau is working with the Secretariat to enhance the access to information regarding the work of the expert group, including further opportunities for CPR briefings in Nairobi, and a “one stop shop” online portal where interested delegates and stakeholders will be able to find all relevant information and documentation related to the previous and upcoming meetings of the expert group, as well as to the meetings of the Bureau.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to ensure the success of our upcoming expert group meetings in 2020 and a successful outcome of the fifth sessions of the UN Environment Assembly in February 2021.

Yours sincerely



Jillian Dempster

Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics