

Meeting of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics  
Wednesday 29 January 2020, 15:30 to 16:30 (GMT+3)  
Executive Office Boardroom - UNEP  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

*Agenda and background documentation is available on the [meeting portal](#).*

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. The Chair welcomed Bureau members and the Secretariat to the meeting and the Bureau adopted the draft annotated Agenda.

#### **Agenda item 2: Update on current status of preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the expert group.**

2. The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an update to the meeting on the status of preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics Group Meeting.

##### **a) Update on status of submissions**

3. The Secretariat provided the following update with regard to online submissions from member States and stakeholders, to date:
  - Voluntary inputs on examples of approaches to analyze effectiveness (subparagraph 7 (d) in UNEA resolution 4/6) – by 10 January 2020:
    - 18 submissions received through the papersmart portal;
    - 6 submissions received from the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Assessment.
  - Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking (subparagraph 7 (a) in UNEA resolution 4/6) - by 1 February 2020:
    - 10 submissions received using the G20 template;
    - 52 submissions received via the stocktaking survey.
  - A webinar on the stocktaking survey was held on 20 January, with 157 registered participants and 60 - 70 online participants. The webinar was recorded and uploaded to the [papersmart platform](#) and the FAQ was updated.
  - Submission of potential response options, pursuant to paragraph 10 (d) of UNEA resolution 3/7 – also by 1 February 2020: 3 submissions received.
  - Updates of relevant previous submissions to the first and second meeting of the expert group, pursuant to subparagraph 10 of UNEA resolution 3/7 – preferably by 1 February 2020
    - 3 new submissions received on ongoing work in relation to elements
    - 3 inputs received on the resolutions (1 from governments and 2 from stakeholders).
    - 2 submissions received on voluntary commitments.

**b) Update on document preparation**

4. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that a webinar on approaches to analyze effectiveness will be organized the week of 10 February, guided by a background note to be made available in advance of the webinar.
5. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to share the outlines of the working documents with the Bureau in advance of the next Bureau meeting which is scheduled for 4 March.
6. The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to provide a breakdown of submissions received so far (see Annex 1), and to make the G20 submissions publicly available online through the expert group main website.

**Agenda item 3: Discussion on venues, dates for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> meetings of the expert group.**

7. The Chair recalled the decision by the expert group to mandate the Bureau to decide, in close consultation with member States, on the dates and venues of the future meetings of the expert group, by 31 January 2020.
8. The Chair provided a briefing to the member of the Bureau on consultations 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). The Chair pointed out that member States had given mixed views regarding the venues for the next expert group meetings, and that there are advantages and disadvantages for all the different options.
9. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the background document prepared for Agenda Item 3, which outlined advantages and disadvantages for the various options regarding the venue for the two remaining meetings of the expert group. The document is available on the meeting portal.
10. The Bureau agreed to consider the following criteria to facilitate the discussion, on the basis of a proposal from the Chair:
  - Facilitate the broadest possible participation of experts;
  - Ensure as far as possible regional balance and ownership of meetings;
  - Cost effectiveness;
  - Practical and logistical capacity of the venues, including technical equipment;
  - Fair treatment of the offers on the table.

**a) Dates and venue for the 4<sup>th</sup> ad hoc open-ended expert group meeting**

11. The Chair invited Bureau members to indicate their views on of the date and venue of the fourth meeting of the expert group, taking into account any feedback from their respective regional groups.
12. After careful consideration of the different options on the table, the Bureau unanimously decided to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Lima, Peru from 4 – 8 May 2020, taking into account the various views expressed by Member State experts and representatives and stakeholders, and the criteria outline in paragraph 10 above. With regard to cost efficiency, it was noted that each

option would entail advantages and disadvantages with regard to costs, that the cost differences were likely to be limited, and that regardless the choice of venue the meetings will be funded with extra-budgetary resources with no or limited impact on UNEP's Programme of Work.

**b) Dates and venue for the 5<sup>th</sup> ad hoc open-ended expert group meeting**

13. The Chair similarly invited Bureau members to indicate their views on of the date and venue of the fifth meeting of the expert group, taking into account any feedback from their respective regional groups.
14. The Bureau underlined the importance of equal treatment for both offers, and after further consideration of the available information, it unanimously decided to hold the fifth meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, from 9 – 13 November 2020. With regard to the date, the Bureau took into consideration a strong request of one delegation at the third meeting, as well as the need to finalize the work of the expert group in due time for UNEA-5.
15. Chair thanked the members of the Bureau and committed to ensure close consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi through regular briefings on the preparations and outcomes of the upcoming expert group meetings.

**Agenda item 4. Organization of work.**

16. The Bureau approved the revised roadmap for the Bureau.

**Agenda item 5. Any other matters.**

17. The Chair opened the floor for any other matters, and none were raised.

**Agenda item 6. Closing of the Meeting.**

18. The Chair thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for an informative and fruitful discussion and closed the meeting.

**BREAKDOWN OF SUBMISSIONS****1. Submission on Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking (As received on the papersmart portal):**Member States

- Argentina
- Eritrea
- Guyana
- Iran
- Mexico
- Morocco
- New Zealand (6 Submissions)
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Singapore
- Thailand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Major Groups and Stakeholders

- Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc.
- National Geographic Society
- Mississippi River Plastics Reduction Initiative
- MoreSe, Croatia
- Oceancare
- PEMSEA (Partnerships for Environmental Management in the Seas of East Asia)

UN Organizations

- Food and Agriculture Organization FAO
- UNEP North America Office
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**2. Voluntary inputs on examples of approaches to analyze effectiveness:**Member States

- Bahrain
- Kyrgyz Republic

## MGS

- Center for International Environmental Law (Submitted 2)
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- India Water Foundation
- ICENECDEV
- Association Welfare Togo (Submitted 2)
- Investhill Group/ African Foundation
- Global Alliance of Incinerator Alternatives
- Plastic Pollution Emissions working Group
- Ecology and Business Commitment

## UN Organizations

- Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

Anonymous submissions: 7

### **3. Updates of relevant previous submissions:**

#### **a) Submissions of ongoing work in relation to elements:**

## Member States

- Ecuador (Submitted 2)
- Japan (Submitted 4)
- Saint Lucia
- Sweden

## MGS

- India Water Foundation (Submitted 2)
- Association Welfare Togo

#### **b) Submissions on Resolutions:**

## Member States

- Japan (Submitted 2)
- Saint Lucia (Submitted 1)

## MGS

- Center for International Environmental Law
- India Water Foundation
- Association Welfare Togo

**c) Voluntary commitments:**

Member States

- Ecuador (Submitted 2)
- Japan (Submitted 4)
- Saint Lucia
- Sweden

MGS

- Center for International Environmental Law
- India Water Foundation
- Association Welfare Togo

**4. Submission of potential response options:**

Member States

- Iran
- Japan
- Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland)
- Norway
- Switzerland

MGS

- WWF
- Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
- Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Plastic Pollution Coalition
- OceanCare
- GAIA
- India Water Foundation
- Association Welfare Togo