

Follow up to UNEA resolution 4/9 entitled “Addressing single-use plastic products pollution” (SUPP)

**Committee of Permanent Representatives
Sub-Committee Meeting 24th March 2020**

UNEA4/Res 9

Addressing single-use plastic products (SUPP) pollution

Encourages Member States to deal with the pollution generated by SUPP, considering all environmental impacts across their life cycle.

It requests UNEP to (Operative Paragraph 8, OP8):

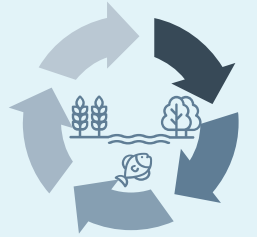
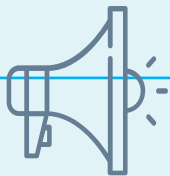


- (OP8a) Support development and implementation of *national or regional action plans*;



- (OP8b) *Technical and policy support* regarding the environmental impact of single-use plastic products and the promotion of solutions for their replacement;

- (OP8c) *Make available existing information on actions taken* to address plastic pollution and the *full life cycle environmental impacts of plastic products and their alternatives* in advance of UNEA 5.



Key components of the follow-up to the SUPP resolution (UNEA4/9)

OP8a (action plans on SUPP)

- Building into Action Plans on Marine Litter; plastic waste management plans; guidelines for public procurement; communication materials to addressing problematic single-use plastics items

OP8b (technical and policy support)

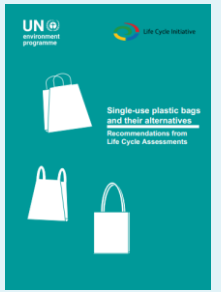
- Legislative guidance (May 2020) and toolkit (during 2020) for effective implementation of legislative frameworks for single-use plastics

OP8c (report to UNEA5: actions by MS and LCAs)

- Existing reports with information on actions on SUPP
- On-going meta-analyses of LCA of SUPPs
- Preparation of the report to be submitted to UNEA5

Single-use plastic bags (SUPB) and their alternatives

Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



LCA

- **Assess** the environmental impacts of bags across their full life cycle
- **Fair comparison** of SUPB and their alternatives across environmental impacts
- Allow to **prioritise** among bags; identify potential **trade-offs**

Single-use plastic bags (SUPB) and their alternatives

Recommendations from LCA: Conclusion



- It is not just about choosing, banning, recommending or prescribing specific materials or bags, but also about **changing consumer behavior: increasing reuse rate and avoiding littering**
- **Promoting reusable bags over alternative single-use bags: Alternative material single-use bags (e.g. paper, biodegradable) are not necessarily better than SUPB**
Bags designed to be reused and effectively reused (5-100 times depending on the material) are consistently better than SUPB
- **Banning of SUPB can be adequate in some circumstances, e.g. inefficient waste collection, but should always be combined with the promotion of the best alternative (e.g. reusable)**

The bag with the least impact on the environment is the bag the consumer already has at home.

Additional meta-analyses of SUPP and their alternatives

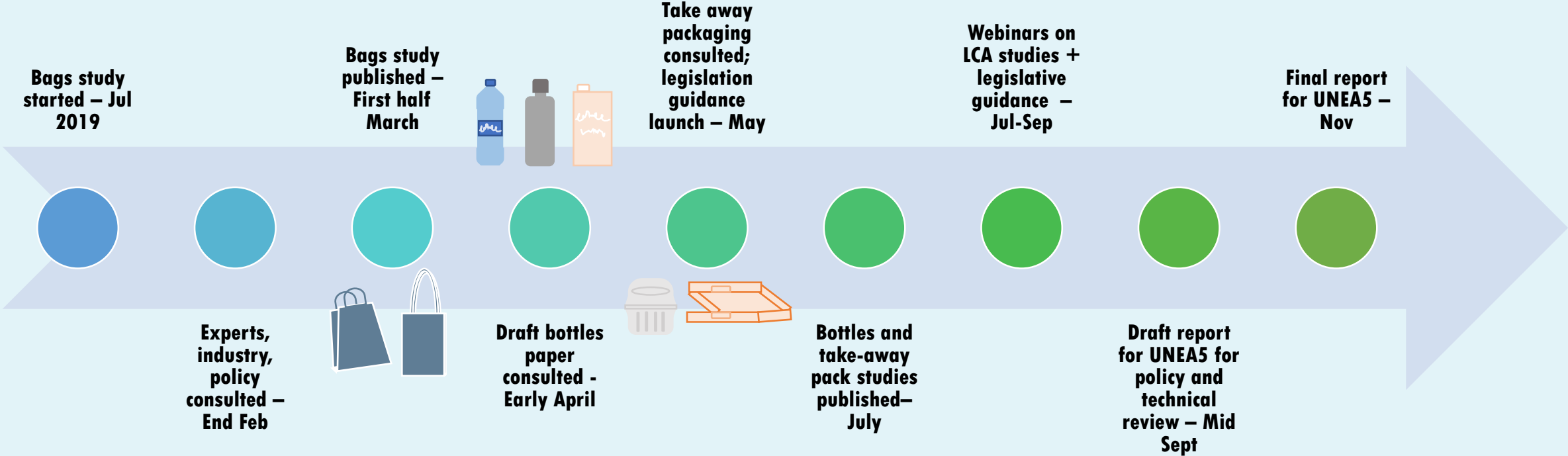
Two more studies are on-going:

- **Beverage bottles** 
- **Take-away food packaging** 

**Additional studies and integrative report with policy recommendations:
resources not yet available**

**Planning webinars explaining these reports and draw policy
recommendations**

Timeline for the follow-up of the SUPP resolution



Thank you



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