

Norwegian comments to the revised roadmap for the work of the AHEG 24 June 2020

- Norway welcomes the revised roadmap for the work of the AHEG. Norway is committed to making progress in the work of the AHEG in these challenging times.
- The main focus of the work of the expert groups should be on the response options going forward. It is important that there is **enough time available for discussions on potential response options** before UNEA5. It is critical that the AHEG completes its mandate by UNEA-5, and that we have a good report including options for further work to strengthen global commitment at that meeting.
- In the revised roadmap several of the webinars have been moved to a later date than originally scheduled. Respecting that we are moving into the holiday season in different parts of the world, we encourage the secretariat and the Bureau to consider ways in which to keep up the engagement of the expert group in both July and August. Once everybody returns in late August/September there will be very little time left to meet the required deadline of 29 November for UNEA-5.
- We note the good level of attendance in the webinars on stocktaking, effectiveness and financial and technical resources respectively. However, there was little opportunity to engage in discussions between the members of the expert group. This is something we encourage the bureau and the Secretariat to look into since it will be critical to make sure that the AHEG makes progress.
- In the previous version of the roadmap, the non-paper on response options by the Chair was scheduled for presentation in early June. In the revised roadmap we note that the non-paper has disappeared, being replaced by a draft meeting report to be presented on 3 September.
- We encourage the Chair and the bureau to reconsider this. As it stands now, the proposal of a meeting report will not be sufficient to make necessary progress on identifying areas of action for response options at UNEA-5 as per the mandate of the AHEG from UNEA-3/7. We strongly encourage the Chair and bureau to move forward with the original plan. The draft outline of summary of submissions will not be sufficient for the discussion we need to have in the AHEG and a non-paper bringing forward key issues for discussion will be most welcome.
- Looking at the various submissions received on the previous webinars, we encourage the bureau to consider ways of bringing together elements of emerging consensus and key questions to be discussed by the AHEG. Norway highlighted a number of key questions that we would like to discuss in the AHEG when identifying response options at the global level. We would like these to be reflected in the non-paper for further discussions by the group. This is also in line with the aim of making the 30 July webinar on identification of various elements for further discussions based on the submissions for potential response options most effective.

- To prepare the ground for productive discussions on potential response options, we think that it will be critical to clarify what the end-product of the different assessments (stocktaking / technical/financial resources / effectiveness) will look like and when they will be available. A draft extended roadmap for webinars and other activities taking place after 30 September should be developed and discussed as soon as possible.
- Could the Chair and Bureau consider ways to engage the members of the AHEG on various topics at the global level (such as measures to strengthen waste management systems, national action plans, science-policy interface, engagement with industry and private sector, reporting, monitoring and assessment, product policy and design, regional level, existing mechanisms) to make progress on the various response options? Would it be possible to organize dedicated calls on different topics identified in the submissions? Norway is willing to provide support if needed.
- There is a deadline of 15 August on submission of potential response options. It is not clear what is envisaged with this deadline or the substantial content of the submissions at this date?
- We welcome the opportunity to provide a presentation of the submissions that we have provided on response options. However, there are two different dates suggested for these presentations. We would like to know which submissions will be presented when? Could a list of the different presenters be provided to the group?
- Finally, the comments that we have provided for the effectiveness analysis have not been posted in the one-stop-shop portal. We trust the Secretariat to do this within the shortest of delays.