

Norwegian comments to the draft inventory of technical and financial resources to combatting marine litter and microplastics

1. The revised draft is a good report, taking into account the feedback from the AHEG3 in Bangkok. The task at hand is now well understood and it provides a good overview of the information that was requested in the AHEG3.
2. It also clearly builds on the important deliberations and progress made in the two first meetings of the AHEG. This is very welcome.
3. As stated in Bangkok there was a concern that the analysis was done purely based on English language resources. As underlined in our interventions during AHEG4, we would like the exercise to assess if gaps may exist due to some resources only being available in other languages than English.
4. The report states that it will feed into the stocktaking exercise, but how will it be relevant to the discussion of the AHEG on the future response options?
5. Financial barriers have been identified by the previous AHEGs, and so is the cost of inaction. This report should contribute to the discussions of global response options that needs to take place during AHEG4 and AHEG5. We suggest that some key questions and issues for consideration by AHEG are identified based on this report. Suggestions for such issues are provided in several of the comments below.
6. The report finds that all parts of the world are well covered, while highlighting that there are more initiatives in certain regions than others. This is an important finding that the AHEG should address when considering future response options.
7. Interesting to note that for this topic in particular, agriculture and textiles are those sectors receiving the least amount of funding.
8. The report clearly highlights how marine litter and microplastics is a global challenge, and while implementation will be a national issue it needs to be linked to the global response. We note with interest that the report recognizes that there is a clear need for better coordinated global response to support the national implementation. This is something that the AHEG also needs to consider as part of the work on global response options.
9. The report also brings forward the role that national and regional action plans can play in monitoring, but that there is a need to harmonize reporting and monitoring to get in place a baseline and measure progress. Norway believes this is a central element that should be addressed by the AHEG in its deliberations on future response options.

10. The lack of reporting of the consumption, use, final treatment, trade of plastic waste, , production and end-of-life treatment is highlighted in the report. We believe that a new global agreement will provide a framework for such a reporting to take place systematically and at regular interval. The reporting will also need to be harmonized so that, taking into account local and national circumstances, we can be able to measures progress and change on a global level.
11. The report confirms the barriers that have already been identified by the AHEG, and similar analysis that have been carried out as part of building the Norwegian Development Aid Programme to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics.
12. Another challenge that could be mentioned is identifying baselines and reporting indicators, also on the project level, in order to measure results and identify successful solutions. Coordination between donors is important at project level is also key.
13. It will be crucial that the AHEG in moving forward, addresses barriers and identify solutions to overcome some of these. It should be paramount to increase coordination in bilateral and multilateral funding so as to overcome the challenges of duplication and replication of projects and funding. Accessing funds from multilateral sources is identified as a barrier, especially as we learn that there is a lot of funding available. We note that regional development banks are also focusing on marine litter and should be included in coordination efforts.
14. We also take note of the lack of mainstreaming gender in this context. The Norwegian Development Aid Programme to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics recognizes that women and vulnerable groups are particularly prone to the adverse effects of plastic pollution as they are overrepresented in the informal waste sector. This should be given due priority in our actions going forward. .
15. Furthermore, the report lists several innovative approaches to financing, such as Extended Producers Responsibilities, blended finance, sustainable procurement, that are very interesting but need to be part of a broader framework. Norway believes that a new global agreement will provide a framework that can assist countries in getting in place new financial measures to deal with the growing challenge of marine plastic litter and microplastics.
16. Some additional questions, that emerges from this report, that we would like to highlight in the future discussions of the AHEG:
 - How do we strengthen our attention to gender and vulnerable groups?
 - How do we strengthen our attention to informal sectors (e.g. waste pickers)?
 - Could a marine litter Readiness programme be considered?

- How do we strengthen the collaboration with the private sector (including small and medium sized enterprises), so these actors can take their share of the responsibility, for both upstream and downstream activities?

17. Furthermore, B.31 bullet five states that there are no equal standards on recycling.

The parties to the Basel Convention are currently revising the guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste that will address this issue. We suggest that this is mentioned in an updated version of the report.

18. The Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste has launched a project to address the challenges identified in B.31 bullet one on waste management in mountains/remote areas to address these challenges.

19. The Partnership on Plastic Waste will also provide systems to gather more information about the global trade in plastic waste in support of the entry into force of the amendments to the Basel Convention on 1 January 2021.