

Meeting of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics
Wednesday 8 July 2020, 15:30 to 16:30 (GMT+3)
Virtual meeting, organized from the United Nations Office in Nairobi

Draft Scenario Note

Planning for the AHEG and path forward to UNEA-5

Prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration of the AHEG Bureau

I INTRODUCTION

1. The ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine plastic litter and microplastics (AHEG) was established by [resolution 3/7](#) of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and its mandate extended by UNEA [resolution 4/6](#).
2. Recently, the third meeting of the AHEG (AHEG-3) was held from 18-22 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand and two additional meetings of the AHEG were initially scheduled for May and November 2020. However, due to the current COVID situation, the Bureau of the AHEG decided at its [meeting on 25 March 2020](#), to postpone the fourth meeting of the AHEG (AHEG-4). Information on the AHEG is available under the [UNEP/AHEG web page](#).
3. In light of this decision, and with a view to facilitating further progress under the AHEG, the Secretariat prepared in consultation with the AHEG Bureau, Member States and AHEG focal points as well as Major Groups and Stakeholders an intersessional roadmap of virtual meetings and other activities. The updated roadmap that is attached as an Annex to this document is now presented to the AHEG Bureau for their review, comment and approval.
4. The roadmap charts a path to UNEA-5 and also updates Member States on the current planning for the AHEG.

II. PROPOSED OUTCOMES OF THE AHEG

5. The proposed outcomes of the AHEG is to develop the following recommendations for the consideration of UNEA-5 to be held from 22-26 February 2021:
 - a. An outcome document including 2 to 3 outcomes to be submitted to UNEA-5 for decision-making on next steps. The messages may include considerations related to the following key elements: waste management; responsible production; monitoring

and review; science-based actions; as well as financial and technical resources and capacity-building;

- b. Elements for a proposed draft resolution for the consideration of UNEA-5;
 - c. Recommendations for an expression of political commitment, through possible proposed text in a potential high-level ministerial declaration at UNEA-5 building on 5a and 5b.
6. To support the discussions of the AHEG, the Secretariat will prepare, under the guidance of the Bureau, papers related to the above proposed outcomes. In particular, a key elements paper that is policy neutral with a focus on analysis and identification of potential response options based on the submissions and feedback from the Member States will be prepared to support the development of the outcome document.

III. PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

7. Only one AHEG meeting in a virtual format is foreseen to take place during the week 9-13 November 2020 for two to three hours daily to accommodate different time zones.
8. An Online space is planned to be available from September for informal exchange amongst experts on key elements. To that end, virtual working groups on key elements can be set-up and facilitated to discuss specific subjects and support the AHEG. The AHEG Bureau can provide guidance on the small virtual working groups and appoint the Facilitators from Member States. Results of such virtual working groups would be made available online.
9. Member States can organize regional consultations within their region if desired. The Secretariat will provide expertise and logistics support upon request. The consultations can be carried out virtually. Such consultation meetings can be organized in late August or early September, at the earliest and may include consultations with the Chair to contribute inputs on regional specifics to feed into the larger AHEG process.
10. Online interactive technical briefings will take place on effectiveness (subparagraph 7d of UNEA resolution 4/6), stocktaking (subparagraph 7a of UNEA resolution 4/6), technological and financial resources and mechanisms (subparagraph 7b of UNEA resolution 4/6), and response options (subparagraph 10d of UNEA resolution 3/7) as well as on other items included in the draft agenda of AHEG-4 ([UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/1](#)). A preparatory technical meeting can also be organized back to back with the AHEG if deemed necessary. The proposed schedule for the interactive technical briefings is set out in the roadmap in the Annex.
11. The Secretariat can provide technical inputs to other meetings upon request, such as Major Groups and Stakeholders Meetings.

ANNEX

Roadmap of virtual meetings and other activities for the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (Version of 6 July 2020)¹

A series of online interactive technical briefings and small virtual working groups for the expert group are planned to take place in the upcoming months. To maximize transparency, ensure inclusivity and participation from all regions, interactive technical briefings and small virtual working groups will be organized at different times (e.g. 8 AM and 4 PM EAT). Online interactive technical briefings and small virtual working groups will contain pre-recorded presentations which will be made available in all UN languages and uploaded on the [Intersessional period section](#) of the UNEP marine litter [web portal](#).

The [outcome document of the AHEG-3 meeting](#) specifically requested the Secretariat to provide guidance for the submission process and provide support as needed for the stocktaking. It also requested the Secretariat to consult Member States during the intersessional period on a revised methodology for the analysis of effectiveness and to carry out a few pilot studies by applying the updated methodology and make them available prior to the fourth meeting of the expert group.

Therefore, following the webinar on the revised methodology for analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities held 18 May 2020, one online interactive technical briefing is proposed on case studies on the analysis of effectiveness. The two-hour long interactive technical briefings will present the application of the revised methodology to analyses effectiveness through different case studies. Therefore, the online interactive technical briefing will cover the different case studies.

The proposed interactive technical briefings on Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics will build on the webinar held 21 May 2020 and provide an update on the submissions received by 31 July 2020.

There will be interactive technical briefings on potential response options to provide the opportunity for submitters of potential response options to present their submissions and answer questions from participants.

An Elements Paper will be prepared in coordination with the Bureau taking into account the work of the previous AHEG meetings as well as the ongoing work of the working group. The Elements Paper will be used as a starting point for discussion, identifying various elements for further

¹ Comments received can be found at: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/submitted-comments-aheg-intersessional-roadmap-and-its-activities>

discussion in virtual working groups, the potential preparatory technical meeting and the AHEG meeting.

After each interactive technical briefing, participants will be invited to provide written comments to the presentations and the background documentation **within 2 weeks of its posting** to: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org. The Secretariat will make available the written comments through the AHEG web portal.

Proposed timeline of activities

Proposed upcoming interactive technical briefings and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation
JULY		
22 July	<p>Interactive technical briefing: Presentations of submitted response options followed by a question and answer session with the submitters</p> <p>Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</p> <p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p> <p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>
24 July	<p>Interactive technical briefing: Presentations of submitted response options followed by a question and answer session with the submitters</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</p> <p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p> <p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>
28 July	<p>Interactive technical briefing: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	To be confirmed
30 July	<p>Virtual working group: Discussion on various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options</p>	To be confirmed

	Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	
31 July	Deadline: Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking , pursuant to UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7(a)	Link
AUGUST		
6 August	Virtual working group on element 1² of Elements Paper	To be confirmed
13 August	Virtual working group on element 2 of Elements Paper	To be confirmed
15 August	Deadline: Submission of potential response options , pursuant to UNEA resolution 3/7 subparagraph 10(d)	Link Waste management Responsible Production
18 August	Virtual working group on element 3 of Elements Paper	To be confirmed
25 August	Interactive technical briefing: Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	To be confirmed
Week of 24 August	Potential regional consultations (upon request)	To be confirmed
Week of 31 August	Potential regional consultations (upon request)	To be confirmed
SEPTEMBER		
Week of 7 September	Potential regional consultations (upon request)	To be confirmed
30 September	Call on: Feedback on a draft meeting report on progress, identifying various elements for further discussion based on	To be confirmed

² Elements currently identified: element 1: waste management and responsible production; element 2: monitoring and review and science-based actions; Element 3: financial and technical resources and capacity-building.

	the submissions made on potential response options . Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)	
30 September	Revision of Intersessional Roadmap: Proposed Interactive technical briefings and activities are expected to be revised based on lessons learned, feedback and an assessment of the ongoing COVID-19 situation.	

Past webinars and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation	Webinar Presentation Recordings
MAY			
18 May	Invitation for member States and Stakeholders that have submitted response options to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review summary and confirm accuracy of content 2. Submit pre-recorded presentations³ on their respective submissions for response option (7-10 min per presentation) 	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly Received submissions on potential response options Link	
18 May	Webinar on the revised methodology for analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft revised methodology to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities on marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution in solving the global problem Received submissions on approaches to analyse effectiveness Link	Session 1: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español Session 2: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español
21 May	Webinar on Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for	Draft Provisional summary of the stocktake of existing activities and action towards the long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics	2.1 Stocktaking (part 1): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский

³ The Secretariat will provide a “how-to” guide to facilitate participants to record their presentations.

	<p>supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>and Draft Provisional summary of the Inventory of technical and financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics</p> <p>Received narrative submissions: Link</p>	<p>Español</p> <p>2.2 Stocktaking (Part 2): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.3 Technical resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.4 Financial resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p>
<p>29 May</p>	<p>Deadline for submission of pre-recorded presentations on potential response options by relevant member States and Stakeholders for upload.</p>	<p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p>	<p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>