

AHEG Virtual Preparatory Meeting

Day 2 – Intervention

- Thank you to chair, Secretariat.
- We appreciate that there are a number of different perspectives on the right response option to address the problem of marine litter and microplastics and thank colleagues for their interventions.
- We appreciate the opportunity to hear these perspectives, and look forward to future discussions. We would note, as others have already said, that it is not AHEG's mandate to recommend a specific response option, but rather to identify a slate of potential options for the consideration of UNEA. We appreciate the efforts of the Chair and Secretariat to present a range of options.
- In order to inform discussions at UNEA, Canada would like to ensure that AHEG's report includes consideration of the ways in which any coordinated global action on marine plastic litter can draw on existing agreements and initiatives, in order to avoid duplication, and ensure that the hard work that has gone into negotiating these agreements does not go to waste.
- Japan has provided a good example in the Osaka Blue Vision. We agree that the Osaka Blue Vision provides a useful starting point for global discussions of a common vision on marine litter and microplastics.
- In a similar vein, Canada would like to highlight the Ocean Plastics Charter.
- The Ocean Plastics Charter is a global framework that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing marine plastics pollution by encouraging ambitious action and cooperation by governments, businesses and organizations.
- The governments, businesses, and organizations that have endorsed the Charter have committed to ensure plastics are designed for reuse and recycling. By signing the Charter partners commit to a more resource-efficient and lifecycle approach to plastics stewardship on land and at sea.
- The Charter provides quantitative and time bound targets. These serve as ambitious guidelines to support partner achievement of the broader objectives of the Charter and Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 14 of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda.
- To date, 26 governments, and 70 businesses and organisations have endorsed the Ocean Plastics Charter.
- The objectives and targets outlines in the Charter can provide a useful starting point for discussions moving forward.

- Thank you.