



**United Nations
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**Ad hoc open-ended working group to
prepare for the intergovernmental
negotiating committee to develop an international
legally binding instrument on plastic pollution,
including in the marine environment**

Dakar, Senegal, 30 May – 1 June 2022

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Preparations for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating
committee: Organisation of the forum for the exchange of
information and activities related to plastic pollution**

Preparations for the forum

Note by the secretariat

1. The present note has been prepared by the secretariat, acting on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the convener of the ad hoc open-ended working group, to assist participants to prepare for the meeting of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
2. By its resolution 5/14, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group to hold one meeting during the first half of 2022. The objective of the working group is to prepare for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and to discuss, in particular, the timetable and organization of the work of the committee, taking into account the provisions and elements identified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of that resolution.
3. Paragraph 16 of the resolution requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of financial resources, to convene, in conjunction with the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, and building upon existing initiatives, where appropriate, a forum that is open to all stakeholders for the exchange of information and activities related to plastic pollution.
4. The present note provides considerations on the preparations for the forum. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider the information presented in this note as well as the engagement with stakeholders during the

* UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/1.

multistakeholder dialogues organized in conjunction with the open-ended working group and provide additional guidance.

I. Key aspects of a forum to exchange information and activities related to plastic pollution

5. Many governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector initiatives exist, with varying aims and goals, to address aspects of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. To date, these initiatives have mostly acted independently with different degrees of coordination among them. The organization of a forum, in conjunction with the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, would facilitate exchange of information and activities related to plastic pollution. It could also help set the stage for technical deliberations among various stakeholders, for example on aspects relevant to the initiation of a multi-stakeholder action agenda.
6. It is envisaged that the forum called for in paragraph 16 of UNEA resolution 5/14 would include the widest possible participation. Given the multiplicity of stakeholders engaged at the different stages of the plastic life cycle, the forum would provide the space for discussing multistakeholder action.
7. The forum could be intended to gather perspectives from different stakeholders across the plastics life cycle on challenges and opportunities that should be considered and actions that are already helping to shift the needle on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Perspectives could include those of different government sectors; private sector actors at different stages of the plastics life cycle, from polymer producers, converters, packaging companies, brands and retailers to waste management and recycling facilities; scientists; the private finance sector; and consumers and other civil society groups including the informal sector, indigenous people, women and youth.
8. The objectives of the forum could also include: providing entry points for engagement of non-state actors and under-represented private sector groups, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); providing occasions for discussions among actors on specific topics; enhancing transparency and inclusivity; coordinating and building upon existing actions; promoting commitments from responsible stakeholders; and exploring potential opportunities to discuss a multi-stakeholder action agenda. In addition, the forum could provide opportunities to showcase successful business models, promote public-private partnerships that deploy innovations on the scale needed to make a difference, and guide research and innovation to create technologies and practices that reduce plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
9. The forum may be convened one day in advance of the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the aim of building upon existing initiatives where appropriate. It would be open to all stakeholders to exchange information and activities related to plastic pollution. The summary outcome of the forum would be reported to the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee.
10. A potential agenda for the forum could include:
 - a. Introduction to the intergovernmental negotiation process and opportunities for different stakeholders to engage in this process.
 - b. Voices and experiences of those directly affected by plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on impacts, needs, and expectations for what the intergovernmental negotiation committee process might achieve.
 - c. Updates on recent developments in knowledge and action that can drive systems change across the plastics life cycle and from source to sea, including research and innovation on materials, product design, business models, and environmentally sound waste management.
 - d. Announcements of commitments from different stakeholders to make notable progress between now and 2025 on sustainable consumption and production across the life cycle of plastics, as well as to share statistical information on progress in reducing plastic pollution. (Commitments could include those made under the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and the Clean Seas Campaign, or during the UN Ocean Conference.)
11. Stakeholders could, during the forum, also discuss how different actors might best contribute to the multi-stakeholder action agenda the intergovernmental negotiating committee will design, without prescribing any action on specific issues, and discuss different approaches to measuring the collective impact all stakeholders are having with respect to plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
12. The engagement with stakeholders and the experience shared during the multistakeholder dialogues organized in conjunction with the ad hoc open-ended working group could help inform the forum.
13. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to consider the above and provide further advice.