

# OUTCOME DOCUMENT FROM THE THIRD AD HOC OPEN-ENDED EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

*Final version, 22 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand*

## **A. Outcome of the third ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics**

1. The open-ended ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics (“the expert group”) met in Bangkok on 18-22 November 2019. This outcome document and summarizes key discussions from the meeting, based on inputs received from participants in plenary, following the items of the agenda adopted at the first day of the meeting, in particular to inform the future work of the expert group in 2020.
2. The expert group considered that the fourth meeting should preferably take place in May 2020 and that the fifth meeting should preferably take place in November 2020, and that future meetings will take place at the headquarters of the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi, unless formal offers to host a future meeting from member States are received by the Secretariat by 31 December 2019 at the latest.
3. The expert group entrusted its bureau to decide, in close consultation with member States, on the dates and venues of its future meetings, by 31 January 2020 at the latest.
4. With the aim of making full use of the intersessional period for the future process, the expert group particularly highlighted the following general guidance:
  - The mandate of the expert group is laid out in paragraph 7 of UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 and paragraph 10 of UNEP/EA.3/Res.7.
  - Other paragraphs under UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 and UNEP/EA.3/Res.7, as well as other relevant UNEA resolutions, such as UNEP/EA.1/Res.6 and UNEP/EA.2/Res.11, also remain relevant to inform the work of the expert group.
  - Future deliberations should build on the work already undertaken by previous meetings of the expert group.

## **B. Guidance to the UNEP Secretariat on the preparations for the fourth meeting of the expert group**

- I) Stocktaking (paragraph 7a of UNEA resolution 4/6)
5. The expert group requested the Secretariat to:
  - Consider relevant work undertaken by UNEP, as well as other relevant existing bodies of work, such as information submitted as part of studies undertaken by, for example, the Group of 20, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Regional Seas Programmes and the Basel Convention.
  - Invite voluntary contributions to the stocktaking exercise through the survey tool or through other submissions; such contributions need not be exhaustive and may address any activity considered relevant by respondents.
  - Capture a wide range of activities, bearing in mind that the exercise will not be exhaustive.
  - Provide guidance for the submission process and provide support as needed.
- II) Financial and technical resources and mechanisms (paragraph 7b of UNEA resolution 4/6)

6. The expert group requested the Secretariat to produce one report covering both aspects that will:
- Consider existing bodies of work such as the Basel Convention, the Partnership on Plastic Waste, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance.
  - Collect information from existing sources, look at funding resources and mechanisms such as bilateral donors, and development assistance through multilateral bodies including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional and sub-regional development banks, the United Nations system (including Multilateral Environmental Agreements), the Global Environment Facility and other relevant sources, including national sources, as well as information from the private sector, including for-profit institutions, non-profit, foundations, capital markets etc.
  - Promote a better understanding of the current state of play of technical and financial resources and mechanisms, including a lifecycle approach, as well as of the financing flows between key donors/financial institutions and recipients at regional and national level, including with regard to challenges and barriers.
  - Examine new opportunities through innovative financing, including public-private sector partnerships, blended finance, and other approaches<sup>1</sup>, with the aim to identify ways to promote cooperation.
  - Gather information on existing technical resources, environmentally sound substitutes and mechanisms, addressing aspects of the whole life cycle of marine litter and microplastics, taking into consideration information from both the public and private sector as well as civil society.
  - Take into consideration other work streams in particular the stock taking exercise.

III) Partnerships (paragraph 7c of UNEA resolution 4/6)

7. The expert group requested the Secretariat to:
- Continue to consider partnerships as a cross-cutting issue.
  - Present case studies and examples from relevant partnerships, including public-private and public-civil society partnerships.

IV) Effectiveness (paragraph 7d of UNEA resolution 4/6)

8. The expert group requested the Secretariat to:
- Ensure the stocktaking survey will feed into the effectiveness analysis.
  - Take into account comments provided during the third meeting of the expert group on the methodology proposed in the UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/5 report.
  - Consider the existing body of work on effectiveness analysis methodologies.
  - Consult Member States intersessionally on a revised methodology.
  - Make updated methodology available 6 weeks prior to the fourth meeting of the expert group.
  - Carry out a few pilot studies by applying updated methodology and make them available prior to the fourth meeting of the expert group.
  - Invite the scientific advisory committee to provide advice on methodological approaches related to effectiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> During the meeting, some participants noted approaches at the national and regional level, such as the extended producer responsibility and the polluter pays principle.