

## Annex 1

### ELEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER WORK - ADHOC OPEN-ENDED EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS MEETING- 28<sup>TH</sup>-31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018

This is a compilation of areas mentioned by participants at the meeting that could benefit from additional work. All relevant stakeholders are invited to see how they may be able to contribute to the implementation of these elements.

#### **1. Ongoing assessment of ideas submitted from member states, major groups and key stakeholders**

- United Nations Environment Programme to identify an appropriate platform for submissions and develop a working classification of ideas and inputs

#### **2. Analysis of the feasibility, effectiveness and limitations and gaps in existing conventions and agreements**

In addition to the mapping work already undertaken, invite parties to the various relevant conventions and international instruments to explore the possibilities existing under those other conventions, for future coordinated actions, especially with Basel and Stockholm, Regional Seas as well as the London and MARPOL Conventions. as was done by the parties to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

- In addition to the mapping work already undertaken in AHEG. INF 3, Parties to relevant MEAs are invited to start collecting all relevant information (or to take a decision in their governing body) to determine those aspects of each convention which would contribute to a comprehensive, holistic approach to address the management and lifecycle of plastics and prevent marine plastic pollution.
- United Nations Environment Programme also to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) or the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), for example, to serve in a central coordination role.

#### **3. Cost and benefits and cost of inaction analyses**

United Nations Environment Programme, member states and stakeholders to:

- Develop a series of focused, contextually structured cost benefit studies on different aspects including:
  - improving resource efficiency and basic solid waste collection, transport and recycling rates including through new technologies and innovations
  - upstream design to improve recyclability and sustainability. New technologies, such as marine degradable plastics, biodegradable plastics, and bio resourced plastics should be evaluated and disseminated, as appropriate.
  - prices of virgin plastics ref. fossil fuel subsidies versus recycled plastics
  - infrastructure development, e.g. port facilities (IMO), wastewater treatment plants able to extract micro plastics.
- Collect information on the available resources for building capacity in basic solid waste management infrastructure including the level of resources available from lending institutions, bi-lateral assistance and regional banks
- Collate examples of costs of inaction in different contexts arising from lack of adequate waste management in freshwater, marine environments and on land; inadequate sectoral controls (e.g. fishing gears); poor air quality controls; and climate change. The costs of inaction calculations would include *inter alia*: impacts on key economic sectors (e.g. tourism) and trade, human health (plus mental health), ecosystem functioning, resource management and livelihoods
- Quantifying the economic impact of marine litter on major economic sectors such as tourism, aquaculture and fisheries at the national/regional level to help countries make the case internally for action

#### **4. Review of existing technology options, voluntary and regulatory solutions across the waste hierarchy**

- United Nations Environment Programme to present a summary of ongoing initiatives on labelling standards and harmonization of products including voluntary industry-led initiatives
- United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with all relevant entities, also provides an inventory of existing measures, guidelines, standards and labels related to microplastics intentionally used in products or released from products, such as tyres and textiles, or from leakages of pre-production plastic pellets.
- Invite member states, private sector and stakeholders to submit feasible ideas on upstream product design and production processes, considering resource efficiency, circular economy and life cycle approaches

## **5. Expert review of data gaps on impacts, monitoring methods**

- United Nations Environment Programme to merge and consolidate the working documents 2-5
- Need to gather information on the status of basic solid waste infrastructure at the national level and regional level including waste characterizations where possible
- United Nations Environment in collaboration with industry, BRS and other relevant entities, to provide an inventory of existing guidelines, standards and labels to inform consumers and flows of materials on products and materials characteristics
- United Nations Environment Programme to collate existing scientific and expert knowledge from ongoing processes, using the most appropriate modalities including academic conferences, expert meetings of conventions and other agreements, on impacts of marine litter on marine life, human health and ecosystem functions and services
- United Nations Environment Programme to provide a report on the harmonization of monitoring frameworks, indicators and data on marine litter, for example between the Regional Seas Conventions such as the ongoing work of the Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection

## **6. Review of financial instruments and measures**

- United Nations Environment Programme, together with other UN agencies and IGOs, to examine existing and potential trade and economic instruments linked to limiting the export and importation of certain plastics goods, including Extended Producer Responsibility
- Recycling incentives including bottle return-schemes, upscaling recycled plastic products
- United Nations Environment Programme to work with other initiatives and conventions to analyse potential investment instruments for waste and wastewater technology infrastructure, research and development and capacity building as well as potential instruments for liability and compensation for environmental damage related to plastic litter and microplastic

## **7. Governance**

- Identify potential useful governance models
- Overview of existing international and regional governance structures to further identify gaps and tools to address the gaps
- Analysis of barriers at the national level to enhance solid waste infrastructure and recycling.
- Identify mechanisms including the following areas:

- Coordination
  - Role of existing instruments/platforms such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and its Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
- Data, Methodologies
- Financial and market instruments
- Generating new instruments and updating policies
- Cooperation
- Innovative solutions to fishing gear management, abandoned loss and otherwise discarded fishing gear
- Mechanisms for raising awareness and communications of all stakeholders
- Identification of innovative practices and initiatives around prevention and reduction of marine litter