



11 December 2019

Letter to participants at the third ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics

Distinguished experts to the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics,

I have the honor to address you in my capacity as Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics. On behalf of all members of the Bureau of the expert group, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation for your active participation at the third meeting of the expert group, held in Bangkok from 18 to 22 November 2019. Thanks to your constructive inputs, we achieved a solid outcome and very useful guidance on the next steps towards the fourth and fifth meetings, in order to fulfil our mandate to inform the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5).

The draft meeting report, which is still under finalization by the United Nations Office in Nairobi, as well as the Outcome Document, are available through the meeting portal.¹ As soon as the full draft meeting report is finalized, member States will be given the opportunity to correct factual mistakes, if any, after which the report will be approved by the Rapporteur of the Bureau.

As we look ahead, the Bureau looks forward to receiving further inputs from interested member States on several key issues, including in particular:

- **The dates and venues of the next meetings** of the expert group – in this context, I wish to remind member States of the offers already made by the Governments of Rwanda and Peru, and the agreed deadline of 31 December 2019 to submit formal offers to host a future meeting of the expert group;
- **Voluntary financial contributions** in support of the organization of the two remaining meetings;

¹ https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/aheg_3_outcome_document.pdf and <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/third-meeting-ad-hoc-open-ended-expert-group-marine-litter-and>, respectively.

- **Voluntary submissions** in writing from member States and stakeholders, as referred to in the third meeting, as per guidance provided in the annex to this letter;
- **Voluntary inputs** from member States and stakeholders to the intersessional work of the Secretariat.

You will recall that the expert group agreed to entrust the Bureau to decide, in close consultation with member States, on the dates and venues of future meetings, by 31 January 2020 at the latest. To this end, I will aim to present a proposal which is endorsed by the Bureau and which takes into account the guidance already provided in the Outcome Document, any additional advice provided by member States as well as by the UNEP Secretariat, by **15 January 2020**, in view of taking a final decision by the Bureau before 31 January 2020.

I look forward to a continued close cooperation with you all as we proceed with our important work in line with the mandate provided in UNEA resolutions 3/7 and 4/6.²

Yours sincerely



Jillian Dempster

Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

To:

Registered participants to the third meeting of the ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics

Cc:

UNEP Focal Points in capitals

Members of the CPR

NGOs accredited to UNEP

Annex: Inputs from Member States and stakeholders to the working documents for the fourth meeting of the ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics

² <https://papersmart.unep.org/resolution/uploads/k1800210.english.pdf> and <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28471/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>, respectively.

ANNEX

Inputs from Member States and stakeholders to the working documents for the fourth meeting of the ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics

Member States and stakeholders are invited to provide their inputs for any or all of the below listed work streams through the following web portal, which will be launched by mid-December: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/reporting-tool>

- Voluntary inputs on examples of approaches to analyze effectiveness (subparagraph 7 (d) in UNEA resolution 4/6) – by 10 January 2020;
- Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking (subparagraph 7 (a) in UNEA resolution 4/6) - by 1 February 2020;
- Updates of relevant previous submissions to the first and second meeting of the expert group, pursuant to subparagraph 10 of UNEA resolution 3/7 – preferably by 1 February 2020;
- Submission of potential response options, pursuant to paragraph 10 (d) of UNEA resolution 3/7 – also by 1 February 2020.

For any questions relating to these submissions, please write an email to: unenvironment-gpmarinelitter@un.org and stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org.