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**United Nations  
Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment  
Programme**

**Ad hoc open-ended expert group  
on marine litter and microplastics**

**Third meeting**

Bangkok, 18–22 November 2019

Items 2 (b) and 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda;  
organization of work**

**Annotated provisional agenda**

**Item 1**

**Opening of the meeting**

1. The third meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group established by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its third session<sup>1</sup> and whose mandate was extended at its fourth session<sup>2\*</sup> will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 18 November 2019. Working documents for the meeting will be provided in all official languages of the United Nations, while information documents will be provided in English only. Interpretation into all United Nations official languages will be provided during all plenary meetings.

**Item 2**

**Organizational matters**

**(a) Election of officers**

2. Pursuant to the relevant rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, member States will be invited to elect one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur to the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group.

**(b) Adoption of the agenda**

3. The Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group will draw participants' attention to the provisional agenda (UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1) and propose its adoption.

**(c) Organization of work**

4. The Chair will invite the secretariat to brief participants on the programme of work as outlined in document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/6 and on logistical arrangements for the meeting.

5. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to establish small groups and other in-session working groups as it may deem necessary, and to specify their mandates.

\* UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/EA.3/Res.7.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.6.

### **Item 3**

#### **Update on previous work and options of the ad hoc open-ended expert group**

6. An update will be provided on the work undertaken by the ad hoc open-ended expert group during its first and second meetings, held in 2018, on the action mandated by the fourth session of the Environment Assembly under resolution 4/6 and on the related developments that took place in 2019.

### **Item 4**

#### **General statements**

7. Participants will be invited to deliver general statements. For efficient time management and to ensure that all delegations have the opportunity to deliver statements, the Chair will recommend a time limit of five minutes for representatives speaking on behalf of regional and political groups, three minutes for representatives of member States, and two minutes for representatives of observers.

### **Item 5**

#### **Mapping of all relevant United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and expertise with relevance to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics**

8. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 4/6, by which the Environment Management Group is invited to engage in and contribute to the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics by providing, inter alia, mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, the ad hoc open-ended expert group is invited to consider document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/5 on progress in the mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics.

### **Item 6**

#### **Introduction to activities pursuant to resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics**

9. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 4/6, the Environment Assembly decided to extend until its fifth session the mandate of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics established in its resolution 3/7, and to request the ad hoc open-ended expert group, building on its previous work, to carry out activities as outlined in subparagraphs 7 (a) to 7 (d) of the resolution.

10. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 4/6, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP, subject to the availability of resources and benefiting from the work of existing mechanisms, to immediately strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter, including marine plastic litter and microplastics, through the activities outlined in subparagraphs 2 (a) to 2 (d) of the resolution.

11. The ad hoc open-ended expert group is invited to provide general comments on the activities carried out under resolution 4/6, with a specific focus on paragraphs 2 and 7, on the basis of a comprehensive presentation by the secretariat on the proposed approach and relevant working and information documents. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to consider individual activities under subparagraphs 7 (a), (b) and (d) and subparagraph 2 (b) in breakout groups, in preparation for final consideration by the plenary. When considering these subparagraphs, meeting participants may wish to address subparagraph 7 (c), by which the ad hoc open-ended expert group is requested to encourage partnerships that undertake activities such as the development of source inventories, the improvement of waste management, awareness-raising and the promotion of innovation in relation to the prevention of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, as a cross-cutting issue.

**(a) Stocktaking**

12. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7 (a) of resolution 4/6, in which the group is requested to take stock of existing activities and action by governments, regional and global instruments, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant contributors to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics with the aim of the long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/2, entitled “Approach for the stocktaking of existing activities and actions towards long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics by relevant contributors”.

**(b) Technical and financial resources or mechanisms**

13. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7 (b) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/3, entitled “Identification of financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics”.

14. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to continue its consideration of subparagraph 7 (b) of resolution 4/6 on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/4, entitled “Draft approach for technology and innovation mapping”.

**(c) Methodology for assessment of effectiveness**

15. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7 (d) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities with regard to marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution that they make to solving the global problem, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/5, entitled “Proposed methodology for analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans”.

**(d) Scientific advisory committee**

16. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will also be invited to consider subparagraph 2 (b) of resolution 4/6, by which the Executive Director is requested, subject to the availability of resources and benefiting from the work of existing mechanisms, to immediately strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter, including marine plastic litter and microplastics, inter alia, by compiling available scientific and other relevant data and information to prepare an assessment on sources, pathways and hazards of litter, including plastic litter and microplastics pollution, and its presence in rivers and oceans; scientific knowledge about adverse effects on ecosystems and potential adverse effects on human health; and environmentally sound technological innovations, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/6, entitled “Progress on the assessment on sources, pathways, and hazards of litter, including plastic litter and microplastic pollution: approach and structure”

**Item 7****Other matters**

17. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to consider any other matters related to its work.

**Item 8****Identifying options in preparation for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

18. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to identify options for continued work for consideration at its fourth meeting. A document reflecting the outcome of the meeting will be annexed to the final report of the meeting. The final report will be cleared by the Rapporteur of the Bureau.

**Item 9**

**Closure of the meeting**

19. The third meeting is expected to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 22 November 2019.
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