

Norwegian statement on the progress on the mapping of all United Nations Agencies, programme, initiatives and other sources of expertise

- **Recalling the discussion we had in the Second Expert Group meeting in Geneva, this request was made to the Environment Management Group to provide information on the plethora of expertise and initiatives in the UN system.**
- **For those not familiar with this mechanism, the Environment Management Group proved instrumental in the process of bring the Aichi targets on biodiversity from the Convention on biodiversity to all of the UN system. More recently their work on the different nexi of the SDGs has been important for strengthening the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030.**
- **We welcome the establishment of the Task Team on this topic, and the three main activities listed in the background documentation. Avoid duplication is a key feature of this endeavour.**
- **The EMG has a unique mandate of bringing together all UN entities with a mandate relevant to the environment. Increased coordination between these were discussed in length at the Second meeting, and this mapping will prove as an important tool in providing this.**
- **In the ongoing UN reform, it will also be of interest to the Expert Group to be informed on how this can also contribute to better governance and increased coordination of UN activities at the country level. We believe that this mapping will provide useful information on how the global effort to tackle marine litter and microplastics can be best adapted to the country level priorities.**
- **Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-4 calling for more sustainable procurement policies, the UN as an important actor can lead by example on how to reduce and better manage its own plastic waste.**
- **How does this mapping relate to the work on the system-wide strategies on the environment? We would also like to engage in a discussion with the Environment Management Group as they progress in this effort as spelled out in the mandate of the UNEA4/6 para 8 invited to the 4th expert group meeting.**
- **Finally, we are not entirely sure how the stock-taking methodology can be applied to this mapping exercise. We also hope that there will be some substantial findings for the discussion in the Fourth expert group meeting, but the calendar attached in Annex 1 of the AHEG/2019/INF5 suggests that only progress update will be provided. That is too late to properly inform the discussions of this group as clearly is the intention in the UNEA-4 resolution.**
- **That said, this exercise will only prove useful if it becomes an integrated part of a coordinated global response as a structure for collaboration on the topic of marine litter and microplastics.**