

Information and Monitoring Workshop

3 December – Room 1

Summary:

Main priorities:

- There is a need for a common platform to share scientific data in an accessible manner and for an needs assessment;
 - Promote harmonized monitoring systems and methodologies rather than standardization as some countries will have different access to for instance technology and this will affect the type of monitoring is undertaken;
 - Explore and better understand alternatives to single-use and problematic plastics (e.g. non recyclable), such as multiple-use plastics and other materials,
 - Promote awareness raising, innovative solutions and behavior change;
 - Better understand changing import and export patterns of plastic raw material, products and waste;
 - Health and environmental implications of additives;
 - Increase transparency at the stage of production to facilitate better monitoring down the line;
 - In order to know where to make a change we need to know what the different plastics are used for, and what can be changed.
 - Increase focus on life cycle and upstream production in addition to waste management
-
- Improve waste management by gathering more global information as well as good reports at national level on waste management.
 - Prepare an assessment on existing information and map possible solutions to inform policy makers
 - Understand plastic pollution from a geographical perspective and better identify the source and type of debris, geographic, quantities, distribution and transport.
 - Establish neutral coordination to collect and analyze data at a global level is essential to tackle this global issue.
 - Work more closely with the fishing industry and ministry working on fishery to reduce the marine litter from the fishing industry and improve the monitoring.
 - Address the capacity gaps in monitoring and information in certain countries.
 - Relative contribution of sea-based sources when deciding priorities for monitoring

How existing legal instruments can support monitoring and information

- Monitoring and/or reporting systems under Basel, Stockholm, MARPOL, London and the Regional Seas Conventions as well as country monitoring and/or reporting systems collect some relevant information;

- Looking at existing platforms, such as Global partnership on marine litter to host platform for dissemination and have a one convening area to gather existing data, such as OEDC waste data and different reporting mechanism under Basel and others, SDG related global fora for collecting data in particular with respect to SDG 12 and PROC
- Robust analysis on what is working, and gaps in reporting requirements;
- FAO guidelines of marking of fishing gears has reporting requirements complemented by mandatory MARPOL reporting requirements made mandatory under MARPOL.
- Regional fisheries management organization can play a role with respect to fisheries, and enhance coordination between regional fisheries and organizations and regional seas.
- National monitoring systems could be tweaked to look at plastic to address the gaps of existing international, such as national level impacts;
- Existing international instruments are limited in scope- focusing on international movements or downstream aspects - and there is a need for an harmonized and comprehensive monitoring approach that takes into consideration upstream information, production patterns, design and use.
- Recognize landlocked countries in the context of Basel OAWG

Question: Implication of options 1,2 and 3 for information and monitoring

- Monitoring is relevant to all options. Monitoring will depend on the legally binding requirements of the convention. The governance will determine the monitoring and not the other way around.
- The status quo is not an option, measures need to be taken even if data is not perfect yet;
- There is a need to address the gaps on information and monitoring, provide global coordination, collect and share information.
- Examples of governance approaches that take into consideration the whole life cycle are the Montreal Protocol for CFCs.
- We need to take action before a global instrument enters into force. Following the example of the Minamata Convention, global partnerships, such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and others, can be established in parallel with the negotiating process.
- There is a need to strengthen the involvement of industry to improve data collection;
- Need for further analysis before a decision can be taken on a legally binding agreement

What needs to be done?

- There is a need to conduct gap, SWOT and impact analysis on reporting and monitoring;
- Galvanizing public interest, through Citizens Science and other programmes, to improve data collection on leakages and strengthen monitoring.