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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
Item 2(b), 2(c) of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and 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 through resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 entitled “Marine litter and microplastics” and whose mandate was extended through resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 entitled “Marine plastic litter and microplastics”, will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 18 November 2019. Working documents in support of the meeting will be provided in all UN official languages, while information documents will be provided in English only. Interpretation to all UN official languages will be provided during all plenary meetings.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Election of officers

2. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, that are applicable, as appropriate, to this meeting, Member States will be invited to elect a bureau for the ad hoc open-ended expert group, comprising of one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

3. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will consider for adoption the provisional agenda of its third meeting as set out in UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1.

(c) Organization of work

4. Delegations will consider the organization of work and logistical arrangements for the meeting on the basis of a presentation by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/1

Item 3

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

5. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be provided an update of the work undertaken by the expert group during its first and second session in 2018 and of the decisions taken by the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly under resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, as a basis for its further deliberation.

Item 4

General Statements

6. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to deliver general statements. In order to allow for efficient time management ensure that all delegations will be given 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 from Member States, and two minutes for representatives from Observers.

Item 5

Mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and expertise with relevance for the issue of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics

7. Pursuant to UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, paragraph 8, 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, a 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 expected to consider the information document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/5 on Progress on 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 included in the mandate of the ad hoc open-ended expert group pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6* on marine plastic litter and microplastics

8. Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, the United Nations 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 by its resolution 3/7, and to request the expert group, building on its previous work, to carry out activities as outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (d) of that paragraph.

9. Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, 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* carrying out activities as outlined in subparagraphs (a) – (d) of that paragraph.

10. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to provide general comments on the activities carried out in response to resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 with a specific focus on paragraphs 2 and 7, on the basis of a comprehensive presentation by the Secretariat of the proposed approach and relevant working and information documents prepared by the Secretariat in support of the meeting. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to consider individual activities under subparagraphs 7 (a), (b) and (d), as well as subparagraph 2 (b) in resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 in breakout groups, in preparation for

* UNEP/EA.4/Res.6. Available at

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28471/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>. Relevant subparagraphs: stocktaking – 7 (a); financial mechanisms – 7 (b); technology resources – 7 (b); methodology for assessment of effectiveness – 7 (d); scientific advisory committee – 2 (b).

final consideration by the plenary. When considering these subparagraphs, the meeting 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.

Item 6(a)

Stocktaking

11. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(a) of UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, by which the ad hoc open-ended expert 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 working document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/2 entitled “Approach for 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”.

Item 6(b)

Financial mechanisms

12. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(b) in UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, by which the ad hoc open-ended expert 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 working document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/3 entitled “Identification of financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics”.

Item 6(c)

Technology resources

13. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to continue to consider subparagraph 7(b), on the basis of working document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/4, entitled “Draft Approach for Technology and Innovation mapping”.

Item 6(d)

Methodology for assessment of effectiveness

14. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(d) in UNEP/EA.4/Res.6, by which the ad hoc open-ended expert 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 working document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/5, entitled “Proposed methodology to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities on marine litter and microplastics at all levels to determine the contribution in solving the global problem”.

Item 6(e)

Scientific Advisory Committee

15. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will also be invited to consider subparagraph 2 (b) in UNEP/EA.4/Res.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, through “*(b) 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 information document UNEP/AHEG/2019/3/INF/6, entitled “Progress on the assessment”, including the draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Committee as annexed to that report.

Item 7

Other matters

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

Item 8

Agreed conclusions and recommendations

17. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider and agree on the key conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which will be annexed to the final meeting report of its third meeting. The final meeting report will be cleared by the Rapporteur of the bureau after its conclusion.

Item 9

Closure of the session

18. The third meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended expert group is expected to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 22 November 2019.
