

**WWF Inputs to Agenda Item 6.
21 November 2019, Third Meeting of the
Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter**

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), an international NGO with offices in more than 100 countries notes with concern the far reaching impacts of plastic pollution on biodiversity and people. This global crisis requires governments to act with urgency and concrete outputs for this UN Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group (AHEG3).

WWF highlights the urgency for the international community to respond with a holistic approach to this transboundary problem of plastic pollution, to sustainably manage plastics throughout their life cycle, prioritising prevention from leakage, consistent with the results of previous meetings of the Expert Group and the resolutions of the UN Environment Assembly since 2014. Building on this existing body of work, WWF puts forward the following recommendations for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group:

A. Agenda Items 6 (a) and (d) pursuant to UNEA Res 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastic [Stocktaking and Methodology for Assessment of Effectiveness]

[Note/Recall: 7. Decides 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 requests the expert group, building on its previous work, to:

(a) 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;

(d) 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;}

1. Methodology employed for the stocktaking exercise should be simple and replicable, to inform and benefit current and future global response options.
2. Effectiveness of response options should be benchmarked against, amongst others:
 - a. targets set at the national, regional or global levels to eliminate discharge of plastic;
 - b. environmental and health impacts; and
 - c. cost-efficiency vis-a-vis impacts.

B. Agenda Items 6 (b) pursuant to UNEA Res 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastic [Technical and Financial Resources or Mechanisms]

[Note/Recal: Mandate under UNEA 4/6. Par 7. Decides 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 requests the expert group, building on its previous work, to:

(b) Identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics;}

1. The identification or inventory or compendium should cover a broad range of technical and financial resources and mechanisms to support countries to address plastic pollution, especially marine plastic pollution.

These should include, among others:

a. A range of financial streams to address leakage across nature, throughout the full life cycle of plastic:

(i) Traditional funding - public and private sources;

(ii) Fiscal and revenue-generating streams, i.e., taxes or tariffs, incentives for eco-design;

(iii) Streams/resources for plugging the leakage, i.e. such as through extended producer responsibility; and

(iv) Introducing harmonised standards, i.e. how are funds coordinated/could be coordinated for resource optimisation, i.e. avoid duplication of funds for the same activities.

b. Categorisation of funds spent against activities undertaken throughout the full life cycle of plastics from upstream to downstream, including clean-up and recovery into secondary material.

2. Consistent with the AHEG's mandate, such identification should include, among others, a consideration of whether these technical and financial resources accessed at national, regional, global levels are delivering impacts to prevent leakage into nature.

These products, that builds on previous work and that can be considered as live documents, should be ready in time for the Fourth Meeting of the AHEG in May 2020, disseminated timely to allow member states as well as major stakeholder groups to review. To facilitate this, intersessional activities can be conducted, if needed.

Together with the past work of the AHEG and the UNEA, these can form part of the building blocks for a robust discussion in formulating recommendations in time for the Fifth Assembly of UN Environment Assembly.

This will in turn enable the world's highest level decision making body on environment to agree on an effective global response that matches the scale of the crisis.