

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
3 May 2018  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 4  
UN Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

## **Briefing on the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics**

### **Meeting Purpose**

To provide updates on the preparation for the **First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics** to be held from 29 to 31 May 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

### **Background**

Pursuant to resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 marine litter and microplastics of the UN Environment Assembly of December 2017, the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group will be convened to further examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources. The following programme of work has been set by the Assembly:

- (i) To explore all barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries;
- (ii) To identify the range of national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches;
- (iii) To identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options;
- (iv) To examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options; and
- (v) To identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly

### **Officers**

The Secretariat proposed that Member States elect co-chairs and a rapporteur at the First Meeting. Further to this, the Secretariat invited nominations by regional groups by 30 April 2018.

### **Organization of the Meeting**

The Meeting will be conducted as outlined in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/Add.1). The Rule of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly applies to the Meeting. An initial proposal for the Organization of the Meeting is attached as **Annex 1**. Due to the time limitation, the working documents are prepared in English only. However, interpretation to all 6 UN languages will be provided during the plenary sessions.

### **Expected outcome of the Meeting**

It is expected that the proceedings of the Meeting is compiled as a meeting report. A Co-Chairs' summary that highlight issues raised at the meeting is proposed to be included in the meeting report as an Annex.

### **Documentations**

All the documents are found at: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/adhoc-oeeg-working-documents>

UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/2	Discussion paper on the barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/3	Discussion paper on national, regional, and international response options, including action and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches.
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/4	Discussion paper on environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/5	Discussion paper on feasibility and effectiveness of different response options
UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/6	Report of the meeting

### **Position Papers**

The position papers submitted to the Secretariat has been posted at the Meeting Portal at: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/adhoc-oeeg>

### **Logistical Matters**

- A cut-off date for the travel support request was on 30 April 2018. Based on the list as of 30 April 2018, travel support will be granted. Late applications will be taken as long as funds are available, in order to facilitate the participation of Member States.
- All participants are requested to register themselves to the Meeting as was done for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/24456/overview>
- The registration desk will be available from 28 May 2018 to issue the badges.
- Further logistical communication will be done via Portal or via email.

### **Key messages**

- Member States as well as the observers to the Assembly are encouraged to participate in the meeting.
- Member States are invited to submit their position papers and travel applications to the Secretariat as soon as possible

### **Contact Persons for Feedback and Follow-up**

- Habib El-Habr, Coordinator, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities  
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- Heidi Savelli, Programme Officer, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities  
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Draft Programme of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group: (As of 27 April 2018)			
	Tuesday 29 May 2018	Wednesday 30 May 2018	Thursday 31 May 2018
08:00 – 10:00	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meeting	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meeting	Regional Groups Meetings Bureau Meeting
10:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Item 1: Opening of the meeting</b> - Welcome remarks</p> <p><b>Item 2: Organization of the meeting</b> (a) Election of officers (b) Adoption of the agenda (c) Organization of work <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p> <p><b>Item 3: Introduction of the discussion papers</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p> <p><b>Item 4: Barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p>	<p><b>Item 5: National, regional, and international response options, including action and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches</b></p> <p><b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p>	<p><b>Item 8: Outline of the paper on potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p>
11:30 – 13:00			
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break Regional Groups Meetings	Lunch break Regional Groups Meetings	Lunch break Regional Groups Meetings
15:00 – 18:00	<p><b>Item 4: Barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries (Ctd.)</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p>	<p><b>Item 6: Environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p> <p><b>Item 7: Feasibility and effectiveness of different response options</b> <b>CR 1: ACEFRS</b></p>	<p><b>Item 9: other matters</b> <b>CR 2: ACEFRS</b></p>
			<p><b>Item 10: Adoption of the report</b> <b>CR 2: ACEFRS</b></p> <p><b>Item 11: Closure of the meeting</b> <b>CR 2: ACEFRS</b></p>
18:00 – 19:00	Break	Break	
19:00 – 21:00	Contact group to discuss Co-Chairs' summary (English only) <b>CR3 or 4 (TBC) English only</b>	Contact group to discuss Co-Chairs' summary (English only) <b>CR3 or 4 (TBC) English only</b>	