

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 22 November 2018
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 3

**Background Document for Agenda Item 3:
Secretariat briefing on the preparation of the second Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meeting
on the marine litter and plastic resolution**

This note serves as a background document for discussions under Agenda Item 3: Secretariat briefing on the preparation of the second Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meeting on the marine litter and plastic resolution.

Secretariat briefing on the preparation of the second Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meeting on the marine litter and plastic resolution.

1. Background

Pursuant to resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 marine litter and microplastics of the UN Environment Assembly of December 2017, the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meetings are 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

The first meeting was convened by the Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 to 31 May 2018. The meeting report is here: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1801471.pdf> . A coordination meeting amongst major groups and stakeholders was held prior to the meeting on 28 May 2018.

The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group will be held in Geneva, Switzerland 3-7 December 2018. A coordination meeting amongst major groups and stakeholders will be held 2 December 2018.

The meetings are convened with generous support from the Governments of Norway, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the Nordic Council.

2. Expected outcome of the meeting

Paragraph 10 (f) of resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 further requests: “the Executive Director to provide a progress update to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the programme of work, including on the results of the meeting(s).”

The progress update report will include an annex outlining potential options for continued work as described in UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 Operative Paragraph 10 (d) (v). It is expected that this will be a 2-3 page document which will be prepared and finalized during the meeting. As this is not a negotiation meeting, several options for continued work may be included but should aim to relate to the options provided in the UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/INF/3.

3. Organization of work

3.1 Rule of Procedure

The Rule of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly applies to the Meeting.

3.2 Interpretation

Interpretation to the six official languages of the United Nations will be available during the morning and afternoon sessions from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm in the plenary room. Interpretation would not be available in the smaller breakout rooms.

3.3 Meeting portal and registration

The meeting portal is operational and information for the meeting including documents are uploaded: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeeg>

Registration portal is open: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/26945/>

Travel support is provided to delegates Least Developed Countries and small island developing States in line with UN rules and regulations (one representative per eligible country).

3.4 Structure of meeting

The proposed structure of the meeting is available here: https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/draft_structure_of_the_second_ad_hoc_open-ended_experts_group_meeting_december_2018_geneva_.pdf

In order to allow for discussions in smaller groups, the meeting will start with a short plenary session followed by thereafter two days of workshop format discussions in seven break out groups supported by the Secretariat.

Interpretation in all UN languages will be provided in the plenary room which will also serve as one breakout room during workshop discussions with interpretation. Six additional rooms will be used which will not have interpretation. Discussions will be linked to UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/INF/3. and the options in it as well as priority barriers to address. The themes are:

- **Information and monitoring:** all groups will discuss various issues related to this theme.
- **Governance:** all groups will discuss various issues related to this theme.

Short introductory documents to each workshop are being prepared (UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/3 and UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/4) that will outline the rules of engagement and discussion areas. These will be available in English two weeks before the meeting.

The meeting will reconvene in plenary day three to review discussions from the workshops. The following days will be in plenary (with interpretation) with an option of additional breakout group discussions.

3.5 Documents

Documents are made available on the meeting portal.

Document number`	Document
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/2	Summary paper on the barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, and options to address them
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/3	Paper for Information and monitoring workshops (3 pages)
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/4	Paper for Governance workshops (3 pages)
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/5	Report of the meeting (procedural report – prepared after meeting)
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/6	Progress Report to UNEA-4 (which will include options for additional work – prepared during meeting)