

Intersessional work for the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

The Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG) decided at its meeting of [25 March 2020](#), to postpone the fourth session of the AHEG (AHEG-4) initially scheduled for 4-8 May 2020. This decision was taken due to the current situation with the COVID-19.

In light of this decision, and with a view to facilitate further progress and revision of the working documents ahead of the next expert group meeting, the Secretariat has prepared, at the request of and in close consultation with the Bureau of the expert group, an intersessional roadmap of virtual meetings and other activities. The roadmap has been designed to allow for the provision of updates on progress made for various areas of work, further discussions, consultations and engagement amongst participants of the expert group as well as to encourage additional submissions to the stocktaking (resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7a) and potential response options (resolution 3/7 subparagraph 10d).

As outlined in the roadmap a series of online webinars for the expert group are planned to take place in the upcoming months. To maximize transparency, ensure inclusivity and participation from all regions, webinars will be organized at different times (e.g. 8 AM and 4 PM EAT). The presentations will be recorded, and voice-over will be made available in all UN languages under the [Intersessional Period section](#) of the UNEP marine litter [web portal](#).

The outcome document of the AHEG 3 meeting specifically requested the Secretariat to provide guidance for the submission process and provide support as needed for the stocktaking. It also requested the Secretariat to consult Member States during the intersessional period on a revised methodology for the analysis of effectiveness and to carry out a few pilot studies by applying the updated methodology and make them available prior to the fourth meeting of the expert group.

Therefore, following the webinar on the **revised** methodology for analysis of the **effectiveness** of existing and potential response options and activities held 18 May 2020, three webinars are proposed on **case studies on the analysis of effectiveness**. **Each webinar will present the application of the revised methodology to analyses effectiveness** through different case studies. Therefore, the webinars are proposed to be organized as Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3 to be able to accommodate different case studies.

The proposed webinars on **potential response options** will provide the opportunity for submitters of potential response options to present their submissions and answer questions from participants. Based on these presentations and comments received within two weeks after the webinars, a draft meeting report on the progress, identifying various elements for further discussion is planned to be presented by the Chair of the Bureau.

The proposed webinar on **stocktaking** of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of **technical and financial resources or mechanisms** for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics will build on the previous webinar held 21 May 2020 and provide an update on the submissions received by 31 July 2020.

After each webinar participants will be invited to provide written comments to the presentations and the background documentation **within 2 weeks** to: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org. The Secretariat will make available the written comments through the UNEP marine litter web portal.

The Secretariat wishes to also highlight that **UNEA-5** documentation must be finalized by **29 November 2020** for translation and editing. Comments on the roadmap should therefore take this into account to ensure that the group can deliver what UNEA-4 has requested.

The Secretariat welcomes further input from the AHEG Bureau, Member States, Stakeholders and all members of the expert group and registered participants on this intersessional roadmap, as well as on how to improve the

web portal, possible accessibility challenges to the webinars, and choice of meeting platforms. Based on further guidance from the Bureau and members of the expert group, the roadmap is expected to be updated over time as a living document.

Roadmap: Proposed timeline of activities

A. Proposed upcoming webinars and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation
JUNE		
10 June	The Secretariat will invite the AHEG Bureau, Member States, Stakeholders and all members of the expert group and registered participants to provide feedback on the revised draft roadmap.	Revised draft roadmap
24 June	Deadline: Feedback on the revised draft roadmap by 24 June to: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org cc: zhu.shuang@un.org and stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org	
30 June	Webinar: Presentations on submitted potential response options by submitters Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly Received submissions on potential response options Link Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link
JULY		
7 July	Webinar: Presentations on submitted potential response options by submitters Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly Received submissions on potential response options Link Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link
10 July 2020	Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 1) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans. Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)	Draft revised 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 Received submissions on approaches to analyse effectiveness Link Comments to be sent to: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org
28 July	Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 2) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of	To be confirmed

	<p>discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	
30 July	<p>Webinar: Identification of various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</p> <p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p> <p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>
31 July	<p>Deadline: Voluntary inputs to the report on stocktaking, pursuant to UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7(a)</p>	
AUGUST		
15 August	<p>Deadline: Submission of potential response options, pursuant to UNEA resolution 3/7 subparagraph 10(d)</p>	
28 August	<p>Webinar: Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	To be confirmed
SEPTEMBER		
3 September	<p>Webinar: Presentation of a draft meeting report on progress, identifying various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options and comments received.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)</p>	To be confirmed
9 September	<p>Webinar: Presentation of case studies on the analysis of effectiveness (Part 3) of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	To be confirmed
30 September	<p>Webinar: Feedback on a draft meeting report on progress, identifying various elements for further discussion based on the submissions made on potential response options.</p>	To be confirmed

	Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 – 6:00 pm (EAT)	
30 September	Revision of Intersessional Roadmap: Proposed webinars and activities are expected to be revised based on lessons learned, feedback and an assessment of the ongoing COVID-19 situation.	

B. Past webinars and activities

Date	Activity	Background documentation	Webinar Presentation Recordings
MAY			
18 May	<p>Invitation for member States and Stakeholders that have submitted response options to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review summary and confirm accuracy of content 2. Submit pre-recorded presentations¹ on their respective submissions for response option (7-10 min per presentation) 	<p>Draft outline of summary of submissions on potential response options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly</p> <p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p>	
18 May	<p>Webinar on the revised methodology for analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities in contributing towards long-term elimination of discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft revised 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</p> <p>Received submissions on approaches to analyse effectiveness Link</p> <p>Comments to be sent to stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org Cc: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org</p>	<p>Session 1: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>Session 2: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p>
21 May	<p>Webinar on Stocktaking of existing activities and action to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics.</p> <p>Time: 8:00 am (EAT) and 4:00 pm (EAT)</p>	<p>Draft Provisional summary of the stocktake of existing activities and action towards the long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics and Draft Provisional summary of the Inventory of technical and financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics</p>	<p>2.1 Stocktaking (part 1): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.2 Stocktaking (Part 2): عربي 中文版 English Français Русский</p>

¹ The Secretariat will provide a “how-to” guide to facilitate participants to record their presentations.

		<p>Received narrative submissions: Link</p>	<p>Español</p> <p>2.3 Technical resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p> <p>2.4 Financial resources and mechanisms: عربي 中文版 English Français Русский Español</p>
29 May	<p>Deadline for submission of pre-recorded presentations on potential response options by relevant member States and Stakeholders for upload.</p>	<p>Received submissions on potential response options Link</p> <p>Pre-recorded presentations should be sent to: stephanie.vanderpoel@un.org Cc: unep-gpmarinelitter@un.org</p>	<p>Received pre-recorded presentation on potential response options Link</p>