



# Elements of a global response option to combat plastic pollution

Submission on behalf of the EU and its Member States

*Hugo-Maria Schally, European  
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# Progress to date

- Urgency to act recognised since the very first UNEA in 2014
- AHEG established in 2017 by UNEA Resolution 3/7 with the mandate to identify national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches
- AHEG1 (May 2018) – Status quo is not an option
- AHEG2 (December 2018) - Significant progress, however, without consensus on global response option
- AHEG's mandate extended by UNEA Resolution 4/6
- AHEG3 (November 2019) agreed to discuss response options in the following AHEG meeting and Chair invited experts to send submissions

# Global agreement on plastics – Holistic approach

- Global action needed – the problem is transboundary in scale and nature therefore action at national or regional level is not sufficient
- Focus on prevention – global action based on resource efficient and circular approach to plastics along its life-cycle
- Filling the gaps: regulatory and governance gaps exist along the full life-cycle but are most prominent in the upstream part
- Build on existing instruments and not duplicate efforts
- National commitments adjusted to national specific context
- Need for structures to support such holistic approach

# Global agreement on plastics– Key elements

- Common vision at a global scale (UNEA Res. 3/7)
- Sustainable Production
- Sustainable Consumption
- Environmentally sound waste and wastewater management
- Monitoring and assessment
- Resource mobilisation

# Global agreement on plastics - Structures

Efficient coordination mechanism to enable policy making and broader interaction at the global level:

- Dedicated single venue for governments at the global level
- Coordination and exchange of best practices between existing instruments/streams of work
- Multi-stakeholder platform

# Way forward

- Finalise AHEG's work before UNEA5 (on the basis of UNEA Res. 3/7 and 4/6)
- Discussion on response options
- Global agreement on plastics one of the options
- Decision at UNEA5 on response option