

Interactive technical briefing: "Presentations of submitted response options followed by a Q&A session with the submitter's" – Q&A Follow Up

Q&A Session 1

| First and Last Name, Email Address and Organization | Question Asked Time | Question Asked | Answer Given |
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| <p>Abe Tatsuya TATSUYA_ABE@env.go.jp Government of Japan</p> | <p>09:40:49 AM EAT</p> | <p>to Nordic how can global agreement promote domestic market excepting interference in domestic affairs?</p> | <p>A new global agreement would aim to enable countries to manage their domestic markets by providing tools to assist in this regard but allowing for flexibility in how these tools are used at the domestic level. To this end, global product sustainability criteria could be embodied in the text of the agreement. Countries would commit to cooperate in the development of global sustainability criteria e.g. a working group under the agreement could be tasked to develop needed standards and guidelines to help countries meet the criteria. Countries could then choose to use these tools to manage their markets within their domestic context.</p> |
| <p>Abe Tatsuya TATSUYA_ABE@env.go.jp Government of Japan</p> | <p>09:43:33 AM EAT</p> | <p>To African group As you mentioned need for target by certain year, Do you think how duration fits international vision and target, long term or/and short term?</p> | <p>Answer from African Group: Yes, we definitely see commitments regarding sustainable production and consumption. We don't see it being national action plan only, but national action plans will compliment efforts through clear targeted actions and timelines just like it's happening in many MEAs which have NAPS</p> |

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| <p>Adhiambo Rozilla radhiambo@acrl-rfp.org, African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL-RfP)</p> | <p>08:57:39 AM EAT</p> | <p>To Japan- How best can monitoring be harmonized or standardized based on the different contextual environments? This question is from Rozilla working for African council of religious leaders- Religions for Peace</p> | <p>Japan is working on harmonizing the monitoring methods of ocean surface and microplastics monitoring methods. For example, equipment and natural environments are different according to the countries. To enable harmonization Japan has published the Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastic Monitoring Methods to allow different types of countries to implement the survey measures.</p> |
| <p>Han Thaw Thaw thawthawhannpw@gmail.com , Environmental Conservation Department, Myanmar</p> | <p>08:20:58 AM EAT</p> | <p>This is Thaw Thaw Han from Myanmar. Norway submission is quite comprehensive. How about monitoring and financial mechanism?</p> <p>To Norway, i would like to know your view on establishing a mechanism for monitoring and reporting of transboundary plastics in international water. Also i would like to know you view on funding mechanism to support developing countries against reducing plastic pollution. Thank you .</p> | <p>1. On monitoring and reporting Norway believes that monitoring and reporting of the sources, pathways and impact of marine plastic litter is a key function of a stronger global response to this issue. As such, it should be an important part of a new global agreement on marine litter and microplastics. As of today we do not have any systematic mechanism to know whether we are moving on the right track towards our long-term goal of eliminating all discharge of plastic litter into the ocean as agreed by UNEA-3 in 2017. We welcome a discussion amongst the experts in the AHEG on the key features of such a monitoring and reporting function, and how that can be integrated as part of a new global response option. This will be important to make sure that it is relevant to different needs in different countries and regions. The Nordic</p> |

Environment and Climate Ministers decided at their meeting in April to commission an assessment on how to strengthen the science-policy interface in a new global agreement on marine litter and microplastics, which also will be relevant for such a discussion.

2. Funding to support developing countries

Norway see the need for a funding mechanism to support a global agreement. In line with other MEAs we foresee the need to finance a secretariat as well as support to enabling activities in developing countries. Additionally, there are a large number of financing sources for marine plastic litter coming from both public and private sector. We would like to see a funding mechanism support better coordination of existing sources of finance, especially ODA funding. We would welcome a discussion amongst experts in the AHEG on the possible modalities of a funding mechanism we believe the mapping of technical and financial resources in the AHEG will give a good overview that can feed into such a discussion. The Nordic Environment and Climate Ministers decided at their meeting in April to commission an assessment of possible funding mechanisms to support a global agreement. We hope to see this report also

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| | | | contributing to the discussions going forward. |
| Haugsgjerd Inger ihaugsgjerd@wwf.no WWF | 09:22:58 AM EAT | Q for Japan. Mr. Satoru, thank you very much for your presentation. Do you see the G20 initiative as model for a potential new global framework? A place where, these and other functionalities are covered: templates for national plans are developed, countries report on their national achievement, Scientific knowledge is collected, and monitoring tools and measures are developed? Thank you. Inger Haugsgjerd - WWF | We think that accumulation of scientific knowledge is important for evidence-based policy making. Monitoring is important because distribution of marine plastic litter can identify high-risk areas and measure effects of policy and actions. Harmonizing monitoring methodologies is very important for making monitoring data comparable. It is also important to investigate whether harmonized monitoring methods can be used under different environmental conditions. The monitoring method that Japan developed has been tested in various marine areas, for example in the bay and the open sea. In addition, we are cooperating with the Indonesian government to investigate the applicability of the monitoring method in the tropical zone. As we mentioned in the presentation, we revised the guidelines, and we continue to update the guidelines so that they can be applied in different environmental conditions. |

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| <p>Haugsgjerd Inger ihaugsgjerd@wwf.no WWF</p> | <p>10:07:55 AM EAT</p> | <p>To the EU Commission: Can you please elaborate on why we need a legally binding treaty?</p> | <p>A legally binding treaty is one of the options to close current gaps in the international acquis. This can mean to further develop existing instruments, e.g. BRS, and addition also to set up a new overarching framework. Whereas the nature of those instruments is legally binding as such, this does not necessarily mean that all of the provisions contained are of obligatory nature. To provide a level playing field and reliable basis for action as well as long-term planning for all stakeholders certain provision like the area scope, goals, targets and other crosscutting issues have proven to be only sufficiently successful if, apart from the level of ambition, they are binding for the parties. For implementation of those, several other including self-determined and voluntary instruments on national, regional or also on international level will be needed for public and private sector, which can already be used to address the most urgent problems now, with a future treaty being able to provide the necessary coordination after its entry into force in the mid- and long-term.</p> |
| <p>Vu Hai Dang haidangvu@gmail.com</p> | <p>09:47:30 AM EAT</p> | <p>Can we have the PPT presentations sent to us later?</p> | <p>The presentations are available at https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/submissions-</p> |

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| Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE) | | | <p>potential-response-options-documents-and-recordings</p> <p>Please find all the recordings and PowerPoint presentations here: https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/submissions-potential-response-options-documents-and-recordings</p> |
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Q&A Session 2

| First and Last Name, Email Address and Organization | Question Asked Time | Question Asked | Answer Given |
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| Axel Borchmann, Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de , European Union and its Member States | 04:37:00 PM EAT | When will the comments on the draft concept note be incorporated so we will have a final version – closely connected to the question of Stewart Harris, one could think about an in-person AHEG rather close to UNEA early 2021 if November 2020 remains impossible | No one denies the desire to meet in person to discuss, but at the same time it may be difficult. We need to consider and understand the challenges caused by COVID and national situations. We should focus on online communication to continue discussions. We hope to meet in the near future. As for the scenario note, it is being finalised, in the meantime we will continue with the agreed schedule and deadlines. |
| Axel Borchmann, Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de , European Union and its Member States | 04:59:16 PM EAT | How will the lifecycle approach be followed by the Osaka Blue Ocean vision framework? It is very useful to have monitoring of implementation on the ground as well as scientific evidence whereas we are sure to have sufficient knowledge for a problem description as agreed in G20 framework. Since there is need to monitor progress on the implementation on the ground, it | You can see an example of both qualitative and quantitative criteria to evaluate progress in each country or region is shown in the template e.g. recycling rate, clean up waste amount, reduction of dumping. As it is voluntary each stakeholder is required to think about how to evaluate progress, specify challenge |

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| | | would helpful if you could elaborate a bit more on that. | and how to reflect it in the planning. You can see all the examples of the country reports online on the G20 site. Saudia Arabia will take over the G20 chair, this is why they are working really hard to invite additional participation in the framework, updating the reports on the problem of those who have already submitted reports. https://g20mpl.org/ |
| Axel Borchmann Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de European Union and its Member States | 05:15:00 PM EAT | Will there be an overview of Vietnam submission since they have not recorded something themselves? | To access all the written submissions of response options please use the following link: https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/potential-response-options-submissions Here is the link to Vietnam submission, https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/submission_of_potential_response_options_by_vietnam_representative_0.pdf#overlay-context=potential-response-options-submissions |
| Axel Borchmann Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de European Union and its Member States | 05:22:35 PM EAT | To African Group: About National Plans and implementations on the ground, could you elaborate a bit more on your opinion on sustainable consumption including producer's responsibility considering the global dimension of the value chain? How should we address this from side and in the European Union? | If we look at the example of Europe on sustainable production, we know they have EPR concept, which has been a pride for more than 20 years. When it comes to national action plans, we are also thinking of something going in the same direction. In fact, when looking at plastic pollution we need something medium-long term, which can sustain production chain of plastics. If the producer will still be responsible of his/her products globally, then we need to think how this concept can still help at a global level. |

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| | | | This can be a way to see how to support sustainable management of plastics efforts. |
| <p>Axel Borchmann Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de European Union and its Member States</p> | <p>05:52:20 PM EAT</p> | <p>Question to EIA and CIEL: On the need for clean-ups, we agree there is a potential to raise public awareness, but on the other hand do you see a risk in running clean-ups? In fact, this may give a signal to original polluters that clean-ups can be enough to eliminate problem to might even be counterproductive.</p> | <p>We agree we should be focusing on prevention. There is a need to consider remediation when it makes sense. Where we may be against actively fishing for waste, passively fishing for waste is a good option. Also, there is a need for targeted clean-ups where we find there are certain species that are threatened. We can also imagine remediation from a navigation perspective, especially with fishing gear which can cause problems and hazard. There should be a conversation on the activities that should be addressed and how to best do so, but we will not be able to address all pollution in the environment. So, prevention is a priority and first measure, but in the context of a comprehensive global agreement we can see a role for thinking about targeted remediation.</p> |
| <p>Axel Borchmann Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de European Union and its Member States</p> | <p>06:04:00 PM EAT</p> | <p>Question to Association Welfare: Please elaborate on the difference between the option 2 and 3? Can option 2 save us time? Are you proposing to have the GPA as an obligatory instrument?</p> | <p>Option 3 is the best option, but it has lots of risks, since it may take a long time to negotiate instruments e.g. the Paris agreement has taken 21 years to operationalise it. If we spend too many years negotiating. Even the option of having a Treaty is an illusion, because we have seen it's a lengthy process, which may be voluntary and does not involve everybody. Instead, a GPA is more realistic approach e.g. SICAM – a voluntary approach</p> |

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| | | | <p>which is based on the GPA which has worked well for all of us.</p> |
| <p>BOPE BOPE LAPWONG Jean Marie jmbope2lap@gmail.com Democratic Republic of the Congo</p> | <p>05:32:09 PM EAT</p> | <p>Does someone or country have or is preparing a draft of global agreement from what we can discuss in future?</p> | <p>Originally, the AHEG is not a place to discuss a draft of a global agreement. We could exchange views and exchange information instead bilaterally or as a group.</p> <p>Answer from Mona Aarhus: the Nordic report presented earlier speaks about elements on the Global agreement, so I want to clarify there is ongoing work on that issue.</p> |
| <p>Gordana.TOPIC@ec.europa.eu European Union and its Member States</p> | <p>05:49:26 PM EAT</p> | <p>Question to EIA and CIEL: Question on the national action plans, could you elaborate in a bit more detail what they will be focusing on and their role in the convention on plastic pollution you are proposing?</p> | <p>We see national action plans as a compilation of commitments countries would make to achieve plastic pollution reduction. They would be including policies and legislation, as such as targets and market restrictions related to waste prevention and management, recycling and promoting secondary markets, as well as sustainable financing mechanisms. It would possibly include commitments on infrastructure investments and international and other regional commitments made possibly under regional seas program conventions. It would be a deliberative process to look at inventories and establish baselines to get a sense of how much plastics has been put into the economy and how much has been lost to the environment. It would then take into account those national circumstances, look at policies and measures through</p> |

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| | | | <p>knowledge exchange and best practices, policies and measures that can be adopted to reduce the pollution. Finally, it would go towards adoption, implementation, monitoring and reporting on their progress when needed they will be updated periodically.</p> |
| <p>Gordana.TOPIC@ec.europa.eu European Union and its Member States</p> | <p>6:14:51 PM EAT</p> | <p>Question to India Water Foundation: Do you think reduction of production in general is key? We have heard a lot of focus on waste management but not on the upstream part.</p> | <p>Replacement of plastics has raised opportunities towards “Resource Efficiency”, a key approach that addresses challenges posed by plastic waste and management. The conceptual framework to reduce plastics on the ‘production’ side holds significance as it encourages us to minimize the increasing trash that is produced. However, considering the full life cycle of plastics in a holistic approach for eliminating marine plastic pollution shall be considered in the context of sustainable production-consumption patterns through circular approach. It’s time we highly encourage such principles with focus on recycle, re-use, regenerate, and reduce etc. through a lens of environment and socio-economic outcomes.</p> <p>Marine litter, both sea-based and land-based caused by poor waste management strategies requires scaling up of innovative solutions through circular approach with a mandate to rethink our solutions & prioritizes actions at upstream source (e.g.coasts/land) rather than resources on pathway (e.g. rivers) and target (e.g. ocean). Communities and stakeholders shall be streamlined towards efficient waste management strategies through outreach Information-Education-Communication modules and capacity building activities towards</p> |

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| | | | <p>'source' management of garbage while differentiating into dry & wet garbage at households, which otherwise often gets mixed, ending up at water sources. Waste management strategies at 'Upstream' shall productively address plastic waste management and prioritize actions at the source of the problem in a holistic way but also bring attitude change among multi-stakeholders as well.</p> |
| <p>Harris Stewart Stewart.Harris@americanchemistrymistry.com International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)</p> | <p>04:19:41 PM EAT</p> | <p>General question - is there an intention that the AHOEEG will have an in-person meeting or the ability to have a more detailed discussion between now and UNEA-5?</p> | <p>Answer from Satoru: Thank you very much for the question on G20 activity. I am not very sure if my answer could properly address your question. If that wasn't enough, please follow up.</p> <p>The Secretariat at this stage plans to have a virtual event in November, since it will be difficult to organize an in-person meeting until UNEA5. It is all illustrated in the scenario notes.</p> |
| <p>Soobron Soodevi ssoobron@govmu.org Government of Mauritius</p> | <p>05:27:33 PM EAT</p> | <p>To African Group: what are the financial facilities being given to African countries including SIDS to control of plastic pollution</p> | <p>We need to have a common understanding on plastic pollution measures, since it goes beyond national borders. A common vision on the financial support, it could help well manage and tackle plastic pollution at a national level. Most of the plastics reaching African regions haven't been necessarily produced in Africa. We need to think of financial measures that can assist the continent, which is facing some serious issues in that regards. Looking at the EPR will be one of the options, so we need to</p> |

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| | | | come up with a new approach to enable sustainability. |
| <p>Soobron Soodevi ssoobron@gov.mu.org Government of Mauritius</p> | <p>06:19:09 PM EAT</p> | <p>Question to India Water Foundation: what are the eco-friendly alternatives for plastics?</p> | <p>Reusable eco-friendly bags, baskets, straws, food wraps, cutlery, bamboo/ glass water bottles, soap bars by the common public shall be a viable and environment friendly option. Promoting nature-based solutions, including green and natural options such as green leaves for packing, food habits can dissuade people from major use of plastics. In the light of COVID-19, biodegradable alternatives to plastics such as cloth masks, re-usable PPE kits can be suggested. Alternatives to fishing net made from biodegradable material, agricultural wastes, mushroom root and recycling old nylon nets shall be utilised to prevent entry of plastic products into water bodies. With focus on reuse, rethink, recycle, we make personal lifestyle alterations and also eliminate the sources of single-use plastic bags from entering our oceans and waterways. Moreover, communities shall practice eco-friendly options in their everyday lives which have a potential to lead to transformational behavioural change towards discarding plastics in any form.</p> |
| <p>Vedder Alois alois.vedder@wwf.de WWF</p> | <p>06:49:32 PM EAT</p> | <p>Dear Mr. saturo lini, in your summary you mentioned all kinds of response options very well, but on the same level, would you see any major group of states supporting especially</p> | <p>I don't think we should count the numbers of countries supporting or proposing, but instead address proposed options. Rather than</p> |

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| | | a legally binding global agreement with its components or a bigger group of countries advocating against a legally binding global agreement? | competing, the working group should address the substance of response options. |
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