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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**Ad hoc open-ended expert group
on marine litter and microplastics**

Fourth meeting

Virtual meeting

9-13 November 2020, 13:00-15:00 and 15:30-17:30 (GMT+3)

Items 2 (a) and 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda;
consideration of the organization of work**

Draft annotated provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The fourth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group established by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its third session¹ and whose mandate was extended at its fourth session²* will be opened at 13.00 p.m. on Monday, 9 November 2020. Working documents for the meeting will be provided in all official languages of the United Nations, while information documents will be provided in English only. Interpretation into all United Nations official languages will be provided during all plenary sessions of the meeting.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Election of Officers

2. Pursuant to the relevant rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, member States will be invited to elect a Chair to the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group will refer to the provisional agenda (UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/1) and propose its adoption.

(c) Consideration of the organization of work

4. The Chair will invite the secretariat to brief participants on the programme of work, as outlined in document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/1, and the list of documents, as outlined in document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/2, for consideration and approval by the ad hoc open-ended expert group.

* UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/1.

¹ UNEP/EA.3/Res.7.

² UNEP/EA.4/Res.6.

5. The Chair will invite the secretariat to introduce logistical arrangements for the meeting.

Item 3

Progress update on relevant work pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6

6. The Secretariat will provide an update on work undertaken as mandated by the fourth session of the Environment Assembly under resolution 4/6. The Secretariat will update on the progress in the following areas:

(a) draft assessment on sources, pathways and hazards of litter including plastic litter and microplastics pollution (UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/3);

(b) establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for the immediate assessment on sources, pathways and hazards of litter including plastic litter and microplastics pollution (UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/4); and

(c) provisional mapping of all United Nations agencies, programmes, initiatives and other sources of expertise relating to marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics by the Environment Management Group (UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/5).

7. The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to take note of the work undertaken.

Item 4

Consideration of paragraph 7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6 entitled marine plastic litter and microplastics

(a) Stocktaking of existing activities and action (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7a)

8. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(a) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to take stock of existing activities and action by governments, regional and global instruments, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant contributors to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics with the aim of the long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/2, entitled “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 document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/6, entitled “Report on the stocktake of existing activities and action towards the long-term elimination of discharges into the oceans, to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics”.

9. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to take note of the findings of these stocktaking activities and consider them in the deliberations under agenda item 6.

(b) Identification of technical and financial resources or mechanisms (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7b)

10. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(b) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/3, entitled “Identification of technical and financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics” and document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/7, entitled “Report on the Inventory of technical and financial resources and mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics”.

11. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to take note of the findings of these stocktaking activities and consider them in the deliberations under agenda item 6.

(c) Encouragement of partnerships that undertake activities in relation to the prevention of marine litter (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7c)

12. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(c) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to encourage partnerships that undertake activities such as the development of source inventories, the improvement of waste management, awareness-raising and the promotion of innovation in relation to the prevention of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/8, entitled “Initial case studies on partnerships that undertake activities in relation to the prevention of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics”.

13. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to take note of the findings of these stocktaking activities and consider them in the deliberations under agenda item 6.

(d) Analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7d)

14. The ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider subparagraph 7(d) of resolution 4/6, by which the group is requested to analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities with regard to marine litter and microplastics at all levels, to determine the contribution that they make to solving the global problem, on the basis of document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/4, entitled “A 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”, and document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/9, entitled “A 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 and selected case studies”.

15. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to take note of the findings of these stocktaking activities and consider them in the deliberations under agenda item 6.

Item 5

Consideration of potential response options pursuant to subparagraph 10(d) of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7

1. Pursuant to subparagraph 10(d) of resolution 3/7, the open-ended ad hoc expert group will be invited to consider and identify response options for continued work, on the basis of working document UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/5 entitled “Summary of submissions on potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly” and UNEP/AHEG/2020/4/INF/10 “Submissions on potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly”

Item 6

Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

2. Based on consideration of Agenda Items 4 and 5, the ad hoc open-ended expert group will be invited to consider a summary of options in preparation for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22-26 February 2021.

3. Participants may wish to orient the discussion around possible approaches to address the following topics that have emerged from the submissions and deliberations to-date:

- (a) environmentally sound waste management;
- (b) responsible design and production;
- (c) monitoring and review.

4. The short summary reflecting the outcome of this discussion will be annexed to the meeting report.

Item 7

Other matters

5. The ad hoc open-ended expert group may wish to consider any other matters related to its work.

Item 8

Adoption of the meeting report

6. A draft meeting report will be considered by the meeting for adoption, subject to formal clearance by the Rapporteur of the Bureau after the closing of the meeting.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

7. The fourth meeting of the expert group is expected to conclude its work by 17:30 p.m. Nairobi time on Friday, 13 November 2020.

ADVANCE