

Meeting of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics
Wednesday 2 September 2020, 15:30 to 17:00 (GMT+3)
Virtual meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda and background documentation is available on the [meeting portal](#).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Acting Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Ms. Canan Bilecen, Deputy Head of Mission from the Turkish Embassy in Nairobi, representing the President of the Western Group and Others, as an observer to this Bureau meeting, while the process of nomination for a replacement of New Zealand as WEOG representative is being concluded.
2. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the fourth meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

3. The Acting Chair referred to the final version of the Scenario Note following the silent procedure by the Bureau, and highlighted the changes made.
4. The Scenario Note was adopted by the Bureau without further changes.
 - a. Draft provisional and annotated agenda for AHEG-4**
5. The Secretariat informed the Bureau Members and presented the draft provisional and annotated agenda, building on the initial version that was made available to the Bureau at the meeting of 25th March, taking into account that AHEG-4 will be a virtual meeting and that it will be the last meeting before UNEA-5.
6. The Acting Chair thanked the Secretariat for the update and opened the floor for interventions. No Bureau Member requested the floor.
7. The Acting Chair raised several questions regarding the content and order of agenda items 4-6 and suggested that the draft is revised to ensure full consistency with the relevant UNEA resolutions and to align with the adopted Scenario Note.
8. The Bureau agreed to reconsider the matter at the next meeting of the Bureau based on a revised proposal from the Secretariat.
9. The Secretariat presented the proposed programme of work for AHEG-4, and highlighted the following points:
 - (i) The proposed time of the meeting is 1-3 pm and 3.30-5.30 pm EAT, which was proposed to allow for as many experts as possible from different time zones to attend the meeting, taking into account experiences from meetings the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi. The 30 minute break would allow for the replacement of interpreter teams as they operate in 2-hour sections;

- (ii) The need to devote significant time for discussions on agenda items 4, 5 and 6;
 - (iii) Further guidance would be needed to agree on appropriate timing for Bureau meetings throughout the week.
10. The acting Chair suggested that the main task of AHEG-4 should be to consider an outcome document for AHEG-4 and proposed that the programme of work should be modified accordingly by the Secretariat for reconsideration by the Bureau at its next meeting.

b. Status of meeting documentation for AHEG-4

11. The Secretariat presented a list of pre-session documents (working documents provided in all UN languages, and information documents in English only), and reminded the Bureau that the working documents will be made available to experts 6 weeks before the AHEG-4 meeting, on 25 September.
12. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that 14 response options submissions have been received from member states and regional and political groups as well as 6 submissions from Major groups and Stakeholders.
13. The Acting Chair thanked the Secretariat for the update and requested further clarification on the role and function of the different types of meeting documents, including with regard to the structure and format of the outcome document for AHEG-4, in the form of an information note to be made available at the next meeting of the Bureau.

c. preparatory technical meetings

14. The Acting Chair noted that following the recent changes in the Scenario Note, the number of virtual preparatory meetings had been reduced to two meetings, one in September and one in October (exact dates TBC).
15. The Secretariat provided further information on the preparation for the virtual preparatory meetings, with a 2-hour meeting planned for September in English to focus on a summary on the analysis of effectiveness and submitted response options; and that virtual meeting in October will be longer and conducted in all UN languages in preparation for the virtual AHEG-4 meeting.

d. Online Forum

16. The Secretariat presented plans for the AHEG Online Forum which will be launched in mid-September until 13 November 2020, to facilitate interactive feedback in writing and provide opportunities for information sharing on relevant topics. Guidance, FAQ, Demo and support during registration will be provided to those who are eligible to join, and proposed topics of discussion include Stocktaking of existing activities and action (subparagraph 7a of Resolution 4/6), Identification of technical and financial resources or mechanisms (subparagraph 7b of Resolution 4/6), Analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities (subparagraph 7d of Resolution 4/6), Identification of potential response options (subparagraph 10d of Resolution 3/7), Virtual Preparatory Meetings and Regional Consultations.
17. The Acting Chair thanked the Secretariat for the update and welcomed the progress made for this online tool.

e. Regional consultation meetings

18. The Secretariat informed the Bureau Members about the organization of 3 regional meetings, namely for Asia-Pacific, held last week 26-27 August, Africa, planned for 7-8 September, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with dates yet to be determined.
19. One Bureau Member representing commended the good work of the Secretariat to support the organization of regional preparatory meetings.

Agenda item 3: Any other matters.

20. The acting Chair proposed to hold the next Bureau on 23rd September.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the Meeting.

21. The acting Chair thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for an informative and productive discussion and declared the meeting closed.