

AHEG SHORT SUMMARY - PROPOSED DOCUMENT OUTLINE

(First Draft)

AHEG short summary intends to help better understanding of the process and outcome of AHEG. It will be annexed to the formal AHEG-4 meeting report, and to the Executive Director report to UNEA5.

That is why the contents is to be laid out in line with the mandates given by relevant UNEA resolutions

The summary itself does not seek any implication beyond the result of AHEG. The summary itself should be made in accordance with the consultation with member states although such consultation is not meant to be a negotiation-style discussion among the member states.

A. Introduction

- The ad hoc open-ended expert group (AHEG) was established through United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 3/7 paragraph 10. Through UNEA resolution 3/7 subparagraph 10(d) and UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7, the AHEG was requested to review the present situation³ and consider response options⁴ related to marine plastic litter and microplastics.
- The AHEG has met four times, three times in person and once on-line (to be held 9-13 November 2020). Following AHEG-4, the AHEG has completed its mandates assigned by UNEA.
- This summary describes how the AHEG has delivered on its mandate and to inform UNEA of the range of views for its considerations of next steps for marine plastic litter and microplastics.

B. Review of the present situation

- As described in UNEA mandates 3/7 paragraph 10(d) (i) as well as 4/6 paragraph 7 (a) and (b).
- The result of exercises of stocktaking of existing activities and actions as well as formulating inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms contribute to description of the current focus of countermeasures taken presently.
- The summary includes a diagram with some text, including activities noted in the submissions and their interrelationship.

C. Potential national, regional and international response options

- Include actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (2)).
- Analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities (UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7 (d)) in terms of maturity, feasibility, time frame and impact. The result shows that analyzed option have distinctive features that may take effect according to the diverse circumstances.

D. Options for future and continued work at global level

- Identify potential options for continued work for consideration by UNEA (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (5)), based on the submissions and related documentation (including document UNEP/AHEG/4/5), including following features.
 - Sharing a long-term vision and objective toward elimination of all discharge of plastic into the ocean.

NOTE: See footnotes on next page.

- Developing a national action plan that covers all life cycle stages of plastics from upstream including sustainable production and consumption to downstream including sound waste management.
- Regional and international cooperation to facilitate such national responses through sharing experiences, financial/technological assistance, capacity-building,
- Further sharing scientific knowledge including monitoring data and source inventories.
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- New global instrument that intends to accelerate above-mentioned action items, either legally binding or non-binding, and/or strengthening existing instruments.
- Note that there was unanimous agreement at AHEG-1 that maintaining the status quo was not an option.
- Identify a possible vision for future work, to guide future actions. Consider possible modalities to deliberate and propose feasible global targets, actions and indicators to achieve the vision.

Footnote 1:

The following mandates are particularly relevant to reviewing the present situation:

- a. Explore all barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (i)).
- b. Take stock of existing activities and action with the aim of the long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans (UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7(a)).
- c. Identify technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries (UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7 (b)).

Footnote 2:

The following mandates are particularly relevant to the consideration of response options:

- a. Identify the range of national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (ii)).
- b. Identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (iii)).
- c. Examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (iv)).
- d. Analyse the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities at all levels to determine the contribution that they make to solving the global problem (UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7 (d)).
- e. Identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the UNEA (UNEA resolution 3/7 paragraph 10d (v)).
- f. Encourage partnerships that undertake activities such as the development of source inventories, the improvement of waste management, awareness-raising and the promotion of innovation (UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7 (c)).

NOTE: See footnotes on next page.