

Briefing note for the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics. 3-7 December, Geneva, Switzerland.

1. Background

Pursuant to resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 marine litter and microplastics of the UN Environment Assembly of December 2017, the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meetings are convened to further examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources.

The following programme of work has been set by the Assembly.

- (i) To explore all barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries;
- (ii) To identify the range of national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches;
- (iii) To identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options;
- (iv) To examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options; and
- (v) To identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly

The first meeting was convened by the Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 to 31 May 2018. The meeting report is here: [Report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group](#)

A coordination meeting amongst major groups and stakeholders was held prior to the meeting on 28 May 2018.

The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group will be held in Geneva, Switzerland 3-7 December 2018. A coordination meeting amongst major groups and stakeholders will be held 2 December 2018.

The meetings are convened with generous support from the Governments of Norway, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the Nordic Council.

2. Expected outcome of the meeting

Paragraph 10 (f) of resolution [UNEP/EA.3/Res.7](#) further requests: “the Executive Director to provide a progress update to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the programme of work, including on the results of the meeting(s).”

The progress update report will include an annex outlining potential options for continued work as described in [UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 Operative Paragraph 10 \(d\) \(v\)](#).

It is expected that this will be a 2-3 page document which will be prepared and finalized during the meeting. As this is not a negotiation meeting, several options for continued work may be included but should aim to relate to the options provided in the [UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/3](#).

3. Organization of work

3.1 Rule of Procedure

The Rule of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly applies to the Meeting.

3.2 Interpretation

Interpretation to the six official languages of the United Nations will be available during the morning and afternoon sessions from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm in the plenary room. Interpretation will not be available in the smaller breakout rooms.

3.3 Meeting portal and registration

The Registration portal will remain open until 30 November 2018:

<https://reg.unog.ch/event/26945/>

Kindly note that all attendees are responsible for securing a visa and making hotel reservations

[Information on Hotels](#)

Additional information is available here: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>

3.1 Meeting venue:

The meeting will be held in room XVI, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), housed at the Palais des Nations.

Delegates enter the Palais through the **Pregny Gate** (Portail Pregny - [see map](#)) entrance, which faces the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters on the Route de Pregny. In order to obtain your identity badge from the Security Services, you will be asked to present a **valid passport or a national identity card**. Your badge is strictly for your own personal use. Please note that delays here are common and lengthy and delegates are unfortunately required to wait in the open air.

Please also bring the **QR code** that was sent out to you after registration to complete the registration process. Since this meeting is a paperless meeting, you may come with it on your smart gadget for the first day of the meeting 3 December 2018.

Please also bring a refillable bottle as this is a plastic free meeting. There will be refill stations in the main meeting room.

3.2 Structure of meeting

The proposed structure of the meeting is available here:

https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/draft_structure_of_the_second_ad_hoc_open-ended_experts_group_meeting_december_2018_geneva_.pdf

In order to allow for discussions in smaller groups, the meeting will start with a short plenary session followed by thereafter two days of workshop format discussions in seven break out groups supported by the Secretariat.

Interpretation in all UN languages will be provided in the plenary room which will also serve as one breakout room during workshop discussions with interpretation. Six additional rooms will be used which will not have interpretation. Discussions will be linked to UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/3.

and the options in it as well as priority barriers to address. The themes are:

- **Information and monitoring:** all groups will discuss various issues related to this theme.
- **Governance:** all groups will discuss various issues related to this theme.

Short introductory documents to each workshop are available (UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/3 and UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/4) that outline the rules of engagement and discussion areas.

The meeting will reconvene in plenary day three to review discussions from the workshops. The following days will be in plenary (with interpretation) with an option of additional breakout group discussions.

3.3 Statements from participants

In order to allow for as much discussion as possible, participants that wish to prepare statements are invited to submit such written statements for upload to the platform instead of delivering these in plenary.

Please send statements to victor.oburu@un.org

Written Statements from participants will be made available at this link:

<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/written-statements-second-aheeg>

Please note that the online Voluntary reporting tool is open for submissions:
<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/reporting-tool>

3.4 Documents

Documents are made available on the meeting portal.

Document number`	Document
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/2	Summary paper on the barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, and options to address them
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/3	Guidance note for Information and monitoring workshop
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/4	Guidance note for Governance workshop
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/5	Report of the meeting (procedural report – prepared after meeting)
UNEP/AHEG/2018/2/6	Progress Report to UNEA-4 (which will include options for additional work – prepared during meeting)