

13 April 2018

Netherlands submission for the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

- The Netherlands would like to thank the Secretariat for the opportunity to submit a position paper ahead of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group Meeting.
- In response to the letter of 22 March 2018 of the Executive Director, inviting UN Member States to submit their views on: the major barriers to combatting marine litter and microplastics, potential national, regional and international response options and associated environmental, social and economic costs and the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options, we would like to share the following:
 - The Netherlands would like to note that following previous UNEA meetings, several reports have been developed by UN Environment Programme addressing the issues of Marine Litter and Microplastics, including the report "Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics", as prepared for UNEA-3.
 - These reports include a wealth of information relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group.
 - We also would like to note that other reports are available, e.g. through the regional seas programmes, addressing the options mentioned, including on economic and social effects of marine litter and microplastics.
 - It is our view that it is up to UN Environment Programme to analyse these and other relevant studies and information available, as a basis for the background documents addressing the issues highlighted in the Programme of Work for the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group, rather than based on the views or positions of MS at this stage.
 - In light of that, you will find at the end of this document an overview of studies and information that is publicly available, that we believe could include relevant information to be taken into account, when developing the background papers to inform the discussions at the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group.
 - Furthermore, we would like to highlight paragraph 7b) of the UNEA-3 resolution, requesting UN Environment to provide advice on the prioritizing of activities upon request based on best available scientific knowledge, and the most environmentally sound and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics, according to resolutions 1/6 and 2/11 and the present resolution (3/7). We believe it would be informative for the Expert Group to receive an overview of key activities identified so far.
- With regard to the work and the agenda of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group, we would like to share the following:
 - The Netherlands support the proposed agenda and believe the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group should focus its discussions items 4-7 on the draft agenda with a view to work towards a recommendation on potential options for future work to combat marine litter and microplastics for discussion at UNEA-4.
 - The background documents should clearly facilitate those discussions and would serve as a basis to identify those options to be further outlined and discussed at the meeting in November.

List of relevant studies:

- UNEP (2016). Marine plastic debris and microplastics – Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. (UNEP), 2016 , ISBN No: 978-92-807-3580-6
- Gesamp: SOURCES, FATE AND EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: PART TWO
- <http://www.gesamp.org/site/assets/files/1720/rs93e.pdf> A
- [GESAMP 2016 Microplastics in marine environment.pdf](#)
- [IEEP ACES Product Fiche Single Use Plastics Final April 2017.pdf](#)
- [IEEP ACES Plastics Marine Litter Circular Economy briefing final April 2017.pdf](#)
- [IEEP ACES Microbeads Product Fiche Final April 2017.pdf](#)
- [IEEP ACES Polystyrene Product Fiche Final April 2017.pdf](#)

OSPAR publications and assessments:

- OSPAR: Marine Litter Regional Action Plan, 2015, **ISBN**:978-1-906840-86-0
- OSPAR intermediate assessment 2017, pressures from Human Activities/ Marine Litter
- Guideline for monitoring marine litter on the beaches in the OSPAR Maritime area - amendment 2014, ISBN: 978-1-906840-86-0
- Overview and assessment of implementation reports Fishing for Litter, 2014, ISBN 978-1-909159-62-
- Fishing for Litter Guidelines, 2017 **C**
- CEMP Guidelines for monitoring marine litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (beach litter) Adopted: 2017, Cork. No: Agreement 2017-0R **PLAS**

EU Plastics Strategy and related documents

- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy.pdf>
 - <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bb3ec82e-9a9f-11e6-9bca-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-56357670>
 - UNEP: Biodegradable plastics and marine litter: misconceptions, concerns, and impacts on marine environments (2015);
 - Ellen MacArthur Foundation: The new Plastics Economy: rethinking the future of plastics (2016);
 - European Bioplastics: 'Oxo-biodegradable' plastics and other plastics with additives for degradation (2015);
 - European Bioplastics: 'Oxo-biodegradable' plastics (2009).
 - OWS: Benefits and challenges of oxo-biodegradable plastics (2013);
 - European Commission (DG Environment) Intentionally added microplastics in product <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/pdf/39168%20Intentionally%20added%20microplastics%20-%20Final%20report%2020171020.pdf>
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