



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Position Paper submitted to the first Open Ended Ad Hoc Expert Group on Marine Litter:

- Marine litter and particularly plastic waste in the oceans is a pressing global concern, a global concern of mankind.
- Combatting marine litter and microplastics is a key priority for the Norwegian government and we are committed to make the work of the Expert Group a success.
- The UNEA-3 resolution underlined the urgency to deal with this growing environmental challenge, and to step up efforts and put in place solutions on both short and long-term.
- The UNEA-3 report identifies that the current response is insufficient and that we need to strengthen our ambitions to promote more efficient frameworks for action on the ground. The report identifies a good starting point for further discussions. We encourage all delegations to make themselves familiar with the content and the options identified in the UNEA-3 report
- Norway believes that we should focus the discussions of the Expert Group on the international governance structures to find a sustainable and efficient long-term solution to combat marine litter.
- As a follow-up to the UNEA-3 study on international governance structures, we recognize that there is a clear need to develop a holistic global response and to strengthen global commitments. We support the development of a new global architecture with a multilayered governance approach. A permanent and dedicated structure provides a number of benefits that should be highlighted and brought forward for discussion.
- For instance, a global permanent and dedicated structure would provide a framework for implementation. Such a framework could should include regular global meeting place at government level, allow for a long-term perspective in planning, resource mobilization and ensure the effective use and dissemination of available and existing resources based on data from the member states, allow for expert advice and knowledge sharing and support national policy-making.
- Such a structure would provide a more systematic implementation of the principles agreed in the UNEA resolutions on marine litter.

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- The UNEA-3 resolution underlined that waste management should be given the highest priority. There is a special need to focus on how to best prevent the discharge of litter into the oceans from land-based sources. United Nations Environmental has a clear mandate to address the interlinkages between land-based sources and pollution to the marine environment.
- Sea-based sources have different regimes in place, where the shortcomings in the response might depend on a different set of challenges such as lack of effective implementation, enforcement or capacity than gaps in the global framework. We should however keep in mind that the measures to address marine litter from sea-based sources are also part of a holistic response.
- On the issue of microplastics, we appreciate the growing recognition that the nature of the problem is linked. However, effective measures to reduce microplastics from such as wear and tear and o primary microplastics in products may differ from microplastics stemming from marine litter. This particular challenge should be addressed in the discussion.
- The first Expert Group meeting in May should focus its work on paragraph 10 d) i-iv, and discuss the functions of and elements to be included in such a global response before concluding in any direction on the. We see that it is essential to use both Expert Group meetings effectively to present good options for further work at UNEA-4

Elements of a holistic and adequate response to be considered, could include:

- A long term vision for zero discharge of litter into the marine environment
- A structure for step-wise implementation of requirements (e.g. from the UNEA-resolutions as well as voluntary commitments and others)
- A structure to ensure necessary definitions, indicators and framework for effective monitoring
- A reporting structure, including a regular assessment of progress
- A financial mechanism or structure
- We would recommend that form should follow function. All relevant options for a new global architecture could be considered.
- The first meeting should not preempt the options to be considered, but should be dedicated to form a common understanding of the task at hand, as well as how to progress. The second meeting should ten be dedicated to the preparation of the options should be submitted to UNEA-4.

- We look forward to the discussions at the first Expert Group meeting in May and we encourage a large participation of a broad range of experts to this very important process.