**Small Intersessional Working Group for the Update of the Technical Guidelines on**

**Plastic Waste**

**September 24th, 2019 Teleconference**

**13h to 14h Geneva time**

For the list of attendees, please see Annex I of this document.

**Agenda & Introductory Remarks**

1. **Opening remarks**

* The representative of the Secretariat welcomed all members and observers to the new SIWG. She mentioned that the group has about 25 Parties’ representatives and 25 Observers’ representatives, with a few requests from new ones to join.
* The group adopted the meeting agenda without any amendment.

1. **Recall mandate from COP-14**

* The representative of the Secretariat explained the mandate of the work, which is rather general, as per decision BC-14/13, item V on the update of the technical guidelines on the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal.[[1]](#footnote-1) Therefore, it is for the group to consider areas of the technical guidelines that may need to be changed and be updated with newer information.

1. **Discussion on co-lead countries**

* The representative of the Secretariat explained that 3 countries, namely China, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) have volunteered to lead the work on these guidelines.
* The group supported and showed appreciation for the co-leadership with the above-mentioned countries.
* Representatives of the 3 co-lead countries then explained their interest in this work.
* One representative suggested that the revised version of the guidelines should be in line with the title and structure used in other ESM technical guidelines under the convention, to the extent possible.

1. **Discussion on way forward until COP-15 (e.g. outline of the TGs, survey needed, online meetings and need for face-to-face meeting, etc)**

* The representative of the Secretariat explained that there could be different options for the co-leads and the group to undertake the updates and asked for the views of the SIWG.
* After ensuing discussions, the group agreed that the 3 co-lead countries would work together on a proposal for a new Table of Content (ToC) indicating what is expected/wished in each of the sections. This new ToC would then be circulated to the SIWG for comments with about 15 days for the SIWG feedback. Based on comments received the 3 co-leads would then agree on a new draft. And, if needed, the Secretariat would help engaging one or more consultants to help.
* The group also shared the views that the new revised guidelines should be planned for adoption at COP-15 in 2021.
* The group discussed the draft work plan and a few dates should be adjusted by the Secretariat in consultation with co-lead countries. The new version of the work plan should be circulated to the SIWG. This should include a longer period for the consultation with the SIWG from Dec 2019 to Jan 2020, and a round of comments by all Parties on the INF document containing the revised version of the guidelines, which will be prepared for the OEWG-12 meeting.
* The group discussed also to have a second round of consultation with the SIWG, after the OEWG-12 meeting. The version of the guidelines to seek comments would be a new one, prepared by the co-leads taking into account comments received before and during the OEWG-12 meeting.
* The group agreed to tentatively save a few days for a face-to-face meeting of the SIWG at the end of September/early October 2020 in order to finalize the document for COP-15 in 2021. The Secretariat and co-leads should agree on a tentative date and inform the SIWG.
* The group further discussed a second round of public consultation, with all Parties and observers, on the pre-COP15 versions of the draft technical guidelines.
* The co-leads agreed with the proposals and will work together on a new Table of Content of the guidelines.

1. **Any other topic**

* One representative mentioned that the scope of the revised technical guidelines should take into consideration the interpretation of the recent amendments to the convention adopted at COP-14.
* The group agreed to consider the scope and what would fit in during the revision process.
* It was pointed out that other initiatives and working groups under the convention might influence the updates of the guidelines, for example the review of Annexes and the partnership on plastic waste.

1. **Closing remarks**

* It was briefly discussed that summary notes of the meeting would be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the co-lead countries, together with a revised version of the work plan. The new documents would be circulated to the SIWG for comments.
* It was also agreed that the co-leads would assess when a new meeting/consultation with the SIWG, in the form of a teleconference/webinar, would be needed.

**The meeting was closed at 14h.**

**Annex I – List of attendees**

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| Name | Representing |
| Ms Adina Renee Adler | Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) |
| Mr Alain Heidelberger | Hazardous Waste Europe |
| Mr Cristian Brito | Ministry of Environment |
| Ms Emilie Winch | United States Department of State |
| Mr Erik Westin | Swedish EPA |
| Mr Jay West | American Chemistry Council |
| Mr Jindrich Petrlik | Arnika/IPEN |
| Mr Joe DiGangi | IPEN |
| Ms Karen Watson | Guyana EPA |
| Mr Karim Ouamane | National waste agency, Algeria |
| Ms Larke Williams | United States Department of State |
| Mr Lee Bell | IPEN |
| Ms Liabeth Yohannes | United States EPA |
| Mr Maxime Dubé | Environment and Climate Change Canada |
| Mr Michael Ernst | Federal Environment Ministry,Germany |
| Ms Nana Zhao | Tsinghua University, China |
| Mr Patrick McKell | UK Government |
| Mr Peter Wessman | European Commission |
| Ms Sara Brosche | IPEN |
| Ms Sirine Rached | Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives |
| Mr Sonu Singh | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India |
| Ms Sophie Bernier | Environment and Climate Change Canada |
| Ms Susan Winter | CECA |
| Mr Toru Terai | Ministry of the Environment, Japan |
| Mr Yorg Aerts | European Commission |
| Ms Zheng Yang | MEESCC, China |
| **Scretariat** |  |
| Ms Carla Valle-Klann | BRS Secretariat |
| Ms Juliette Voinov-Kohler | BRS Secretariat |
| Ms Melisa Lim | BRS Secretariat |
| Mr Shunsuke Kudo | BRS Secretariat |

1. Decision VI/21 and UNEP/CHW.6/21, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)