

## Annex to decision OEWG-11/8

### **Draft elements as a basis for a decision on marine plastic litter, to be considered at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on which Parties and others are invited to comment**

*Note: Some of the elements may be in preambular paragraphs.*

#### **1. General**

- (a) Reconfirm that marine plastic litter and microplastics are an issue of serious global concern;
- (b) Emphasize that work under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal can and will play an important role in addressing this problem;

#### **2. Preventing and minimizing the generation of plastic wastes**

- (a) Recognize the relevance of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (decision BC-12/2) and the importance of the activities identified in the road map for action on its implementation in addressing plastic wastes, including challenges related to marine plastic litter;
- (b) Emphasize the need to adopt a lifecycle approach and the importance of the waste management hierarchy;
- (c) Encourage Governments, industry and consumers to make efforts to prevent and minimize the generation of plastic wastes (e.g. relation to single-use plastics) and improve the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, in particular in order to prevent plastics from entering the marine environment from land-based sources;
- (d) Welcome the many initiatives that countries, industry, regional centres and civil society have taken in response to the challenge of marine plastic litter and microplastics, including regulatory action, financial and other incentives, extended producer responsibility, public awareness and voluntary action, and encourage further efforts;

#### **3. Removing hazardous constituents from plastic wastes**

- (a) Note that plastics may contain potentially hazardous substances, including additives such as plasticizers and flame retardants, or may be contaminated by hazardous substances, and as such may pose a risk to human health and marine ecosystems as marine plastic litter and microplastics;
- (b) Welcome the work of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to eliminate or control the production or use of persistent organic pollutants that may reduce the risk associated with marine plastic litter and microplastics at the global level;
- (c) Welcome the work of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in particular in relation to nanomaterials and to chemicals in products that may reduce the risk associated with marine plastic litter and microplastics at the global level;

#### **4. Scope of the Basel Convention: definition of wastes covered**

Consider whether any additional constituents or characteristics should be added to Annex I or Annex III, respectively, to the Convention through the ongoing work by the expert working group on review of annexes;

## **5. Technical and policy guidance**

(a) Decide to update the technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal adopted in 2002, inter alia to address the challenge of marine plastic litter and microplastics and establish a group for this purpose; invite Parties to indicate their interest in leading the group; and request the Secretariat to support the group;

(b) Invite Parties to provide information on their experiences in using the technical guidelines on plastic wastes;

## **6. Household Waste Partnership**

Request the Household Waste Partnership to coordinate closely with the new partnership on plastic wastes to be established;

## **7. Capacity-building, regional centres and the clearing house mechanism<sup>1</sup>**

(a) Note that the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants provides opportunities for capacity-building by Parties;

(b) Welcome the extensive work that the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions have already done, and invite them to continue their activities;<sup>2</sup>

(d) Request the Secretariat to utilize the clearing house mechanism to gather information about regional and national initiatives, including those on marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into account and in cooperation with other initiatives, and to make such information readily available;

## **8. Financial support<sup>3</sup>**

(a) Welcome the voluntary contributions by Governments and the support that the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme special programme on institutional strengthening<sup>4</sup> have provided;

(b) Encourage them, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support in particular projects that will help to address the problem of plastic wastes, including marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(c) Encourage further voluntary contributions to support work on those issues;

## **9. Cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives<sup>5</sup>**

Welcome the engagement of the Secretariat with other international organizations and encourage the Secretariat to continue to work closely with such organizations;

## **10. Public awareness, education and information exchange**

Consider how the Parties to the Convention can most effectively make relevant technical, social and economic information and expertise available by building on existing work, taking into account the scope of the new partnership on plastic wastes, and the work of the United Nations

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<sup>1</sup> To be considered under the agenda item on technical assistance of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/23.

<sup>3</sup> To be considered under the agenda item on financial resources of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

<sup>4</sup> Special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

<sup>5</sup> To be considered under the agenda item on international cooperation and coordination of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

Environment Programme and other agencies in order to achieve maximum impact and avoid duplication;

**11. Data collection and progress assessment**

(a) Consider what data should be gathered, and by whom, related to the generation, disposal of, and transboundary movement of plastic wastes in different waste streams; the environmental, economic and social impact of plastic wastes; and national policies and progress towards the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes;

(b) Consider whether, how and when the Conference of the Parties should assess the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Convention to address plastic wastes contributing to marine plastic litter and microplastics.