

***Ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups established by the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding
instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment***

Work Programme

Expert Group 2 / Technical

Introduction

At its fourth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), decided to establish two ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups. The ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups (hereafter “expert groups”) are not part of the negotiations under the Committee but are established to inform and help advance the work of the Committee.

The Committee requested the two expert groups to commence their work using electronic means, and the Secretariat to organize, subject to availability of financial resources, an in-person meeting for the expert groups in the intersessional period before the Committee’s fifth session (INC-5).

This note outlines the proposed organization of work for Expert Group 2, mandated to identify and analyse criteria and non criteria based approaches regarding plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products, and product design focusing on recyclability and reusability of plastic products, considering their uses and applications, for the consideration by the Committee at INC-5.

Nomination of Member Experts

The secretariat issued a notification on [30 May 2024](#) inviting Members to nominate their experts to participate in the work of the ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups. The nomination deadline was 4 July 2024.

To ensure efficient and consistent work of the groups, it is strongly encouraged that the nominated experts participate throughout the entire expert group process.

Modalities of work

Expert Group 2 will meet three times using electronic means (i.e. virtually) in advance of the in-person meeting scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 – 28 August 2024. The expert group will work in English only.

The purpose of the virtual meetings is to facilitate preparation for the in-person meeting, including to inform the synthesis document to be prepared by the co-chairs in advance of the in-person meeting, as outlined in the [concept note](#) prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the expert groups’ Co-chairs, in consultation with the INC Chair.

Methodology

Expert Group 2 will undertake its work in the following manner:

Co-chairs to issue a questionnaire

- An online questionnaire will be circulated in advance of the first virtual meeting.
- The questionnaire is intended to support the preparations for the virtual meetings and inform the development of a synthesis and other documentation, as needed, to be available in advance of the in-person meeting, as well as to provide an avenue for nominated experts to share technical information relevant to the matters discussed under the intersessional work.

- In the case where more than one expert is nominated per Member, experts are requested to provide only one joint response to the questionnaire on behalf of that Member.
- Nominated experts are requested to only respond to the questions in the questionnaire relevant to their field of expertise.
- All responses received within the deadline will be posted on the webpage of the ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert group.

Conduct of the virtual meetings:

- The virtual meetings will take place on the Interactio platform. Further details and meeting links will be communicated by the secretariat in due course.
- Guiding questions and other information will be made available to experts in due time ahead of the virtual meetings to focus discussions. The co-chairs may also use other online tools to encourage interaction of experts at the meetings.

Inputs from technical resource persons

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, will invite selected technical resource persons, to help inform the work of the Expert Group. The selected technical resource persons may be invited to provide information to the co-chairs upon request to the extent that it is relevant to the mandate of the expert group for the discussion during the intersessional period. Beyond ad hoc provision of information, the technical resource persons may further be requested by the co-chairs to:

- Participate in ad hoc meetings with co-chairs;
- Attend the virtual and in-person Expert Group Meetings.

Synthesis document

- The co-chairs will prepare a synthesis of factual information to be published on the webpage for the intersessional work in advance of the in-person expert group meeting.
- The responses to the questionnaire and the discussion of nominated experts in the virtual meetings of the expert group will inform the development of the synthesis.

Conduct of in-person meeting

- The in-person meeting is scheduled to take place at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok (UNCC) from 24 to 28 August 2024. The deadline for registration was 4 July 2024.
- The in-person meeting of expert group 2 will run in parallel with the in-person meeting of expert group 1.
- Some evening sessions may be scheduled as appropriate.
- Preparatory materials will be made available by 3 August 2024.
- For more information, see the [information note](#) for participants prepared by the INC secretariat.

Proposed output of the in-person meeting of EG2:

1. Meeting report of the in-person meeting of Expert Group 2.
2. Co-Chairs' report, including:
 - Identification and analysis of criteria and non criteria based approaches regarding plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products, and product design focusing on recyclability and reusability of plastic products, considering their uses and applications;
 - Issues identified by the expert group for consideration by the Committee at INC-5.
 - Other concrete products that may be identified by the expert group for consideration at INC-5.

Overview of planned virtual meetings for Expert Group 2

Virtual meeting 1. 18 July 2024 / 14.00 – 18.00 EAT.	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts have the opportunity to meet. • Experts are clear about the scope and proposed approach to intersessional work. • Start discussion based on the compilation text on the matters under the mandate
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Outcomes achieved at INC-4 • Programme of work • Initiate discussion on expected outcomes and criteria and non criteria based approaches • Closing and next steps
Guiding questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the expected key outcomes of our expert group? 2. What can we learn from existing best practices for the design of criteria and non criteria based approaches under the future instrument? 3. Are there any knowledge gaps that need to be filled to fulfil the mandate of this expert group?
Documentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work programme 2. Compilation text available on the INC web page 3. Questionnaire

Virtual meeting 2. 30 July 2024 / 14.00 – 18.00 EAT	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress substantive discussions to inform the identification of criteria and non criteria based approaches regarding plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products, and product design focusing on recyclability and reusability of plastic products, considering their uses and applications
Preliminary agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Outcomes of the first virtual meeting and questionnaire • Substantive discussion on criteria and non criteria based approaches • Closing and next steps
Guiding questions	<p>What characterizes effective criteria and non criteria based approaches for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Plastic products? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) level of intervention (national, international etc.) b) level of obligation (voluntary, mandatory, etc.) ii. Chemicals of concern in plastic products? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) level of intervention (national, international etc.) b) level of obligation (voluntary, mandatory, etc.) iii. Product design focusing on recyclability and reusability of plastic products? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) level of intervention (national, international etc.) b) level of obligation (voluntary, mandatory, etc.)

Documentation	Synthesis of the questionnaire responses
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Virtual meeting 3. 13 August 2024 / 14.00 - 17.00 EAT	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize experts with the organization of work for the in-person meeting and expected outcomes • Familiarize experts on the logistics of the meeting • Familiarize experts with the documentation for the meeting
Preliminary agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the meeting • Synthesis document • Organization of work of in-person meeting • Expected outcomes of in-person meeting • Logistics of the in-person meeting • Closing and next steps
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda for the in-person expert group meeting • Synthesis document • Scenario note for the in-person expert group meeting