

Asian Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting under UNEA- AHEG

under

Myanmar's Submission of Potential Response Options

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Myanmar

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Marine Debris in Myanmar

- Myanmar is one of the top 20 countries (Rank 17) in terms of mismanaged plastic with the quantity of marine plastic debris up to 0.07 - 0.18 million metric tons per year (Jambeck and et al, 2015).
- The Ayeyarwaddy, one of the 15 worst polluted rivers in Asia (Rank 9), discharges more than 0.03 MMT per year into the ocean (Lebreton, et al,2017).
- The upper and lower Irrawaddy regions contribute 90 tons of plastic pollution per day and Yangon, Myanmar's capital, add 29 tons a day. (FFI)
- A study conducted by the Fridtjof Nansen research vessel recently found that micro-plastic particles were widespread in Myanmar water.
- Myanmar Ocean Project's first survey and clean-up expedition into the Mergui Archipelago removed 1,821kg of ALDFG gear.
- The top 10 most abundant plastic items leaking into the environment make up 76% of all waste, and the top 5 plastic items are responsible for 71% of the waste leakage.



Barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries:

Plastic pollution is a global problem that needs to be addressed in a sustainable manner and the major barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics in Myanmar are as follows:

- Base line data and material flow analysis
- Plastic Waste Management Action Plan
- Behavioral Change
- Public Sector Engagement
- Financial Resources and Technical Assistance

Based on our national context, the following areas cannot be addressed domestically but may effectively be addressed globally;

- Legislation and a governance framework
- Monitoring and managing transboundary plastic waste
- Technical cooperation and financial mechanisms
- Regional and global coordination and cooperation

The range of national, regional and international response options

The potential mechanisms for national, regional and international response options on plastic pollution are as follows;

➤ Policy Support and Planning

- ❖ The International Framework should have a common vision and commitments that are specific, measurable and time-bound.
- ❖ All parties commit to adopt and implement a national action plan setting goals and targets, which can follow the recommendations of UN SDG 14.1.
- ❖ Goals and targets should be differentiated between developed and developing nations.

➤ Public sector engagement

- ❖ Public-Private Partnerships can be a mechanism to facilitate cooperation between governments and private sector.
- ❖ Engage with the private sector, including the informal waste sector, and promote investment in waste treatment facilities and other infrastructure for waste management and material recovery.

The range of national, regional and international response options

➤ Research, Innovation and Capacity Building

- ❖ Enhance scientific knowledge, transfer marine technology and promote innovative solutions to combat marine debris.
- ❖ Enhance science-based decisions and policies through the establishment of an intergovernmental scientific panel drawing on the knowledge and scientific research of all relevant institutions.
- ❖ Consolidate knowledge and manpower by mapping out existing committees so as to prevent duplicates and over expenditure of funding.

➤ Public Awareness, Education and Outreach

- ❖ Promote public awareness on the status and impacts of marine debris and microplastics.
- ❖ b. Encourage behavior change programs or strategies on using single use plastic.
- ❖ c. Create a knowledge sharing platform or strengthen existing ones to promote innovative technology.

The range of national, regional and international response options

- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
 - ❖ Establish a mechanism for monitoring and reporting of transboundary plastic waste flows, especially in international waters.
 - ❖ Strengthen coordination and cooperation between various existing scientific platforms to harmonize reporting needs, data collection methods and to prevent future duplications and divergences where possible.
 - ❖ Develop minimum standards for countries on reporting related to their national, regional and global commitments.
- Funding Mechanism
 - ❖ Set up a global fund to support the efforts of countries to reduce plastic pollution.
 - ❖ Countries' access to the global fund can be based on common but differentiated responsibilities and should consider national circumstances.
 - ❖ Countries with greater means can potentially pledge funding.
 - ❖ Eligibility to access the funds should extend even to land-locked countries to stop the leakage from rivers and waterways into the ocean.

The range of national, regional and international response options

Reducing inputs of plastic to the environment must be prioritized and the following are potential policy measures covering the life cycle of plastics:

➤ **Production**

- ❖ Regulate certain types, composition and production methods of plastics.
- ❖ Introduce incentives for innovative, new products.

➤ **Consumption**

- ❖ Create a labelling mechanism to promote better consumer choices.
- ❖ Reduce consumption of unnecessary single use plastic.

➤ **Waste management**

- ❖ Create an international financial mechanism for waste management and recovery.
- ❖ Set international standards on waste management practices, including the export and import of recycled waste.
- ❖ Implement Extended Producer Responsibility schemes to support private sector participation.
- ❖ Set national targets for waste avoidance, diversion and recovery.
- ❖ Introduce national laws and regulations on waste management.

The range of national, regional and international response options

➤ International Trade

- ❖ Regulate and control the import and export of plastic and plastic products.
- ❖ Introduce safety measures on the international trade of plastic and plastic products.
- ❖ Strengthen compliance to international standards in the trade of plastic waste, linked to the Basel Convention.

➤ Clean up

- ❖ Set up waste management systems that can support waste collection.
- ❖ Consider regional efforts for the removal of fishing gear.
- ❖ Provide data on the sources and types of waste to inform upstream measures.

Way Forward

- The AHEG should also consider ways to facilitate the development and support of international frameworks and regional and national action plans to combat marine debris and microplastic effectively.
- Potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
- Collect relevant response options of functioning frameworks and initiatives at the regional and international scale by holding regional meetings and make decisions at the AHEG meeting to submit to UNEA.

Thank You for Your Attention!