

Potential Response Options

Singapore

Establishing a common vision

- An effective response to the global problem of marine litter and microplastics would require a common global vision.
- AHEG should conscientiously continue to develop a common vision to rally a concerted global action in addressing marine litter. A common vision would also galvanise targeted actions.

Identifying barriers and challenges

- For measures and actions to be more targeted and effective, AHEG should consider identifying the barriers and challenges to addressing marine litter.
- We understand that there exists a lack of consensus and scientific knowledge on a number of issues in addressing marine litter e.g. the lack of international harmonisation of monitoring methodology.
- By identifying the barriers and challenges to effectively address marine litter, AHEG could pave the way and provide the direction for further studies and actions to plug the gaps in our global capacity as any global response should be based on sound science.

Building on existing instruments

- Several existing regional and multilateral instruments and frameworks adopted to address marine litter i.e. the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, annexes to the Basel Convention, MARPOL's London Convention and Protocol to regulate the dumping of waste at sea.
- These frameworks continue to be strengthened and implemented by countries and organisations under their respective agreements and mandates.
- AHEG should take into consideration existing frameworks to ensure efficiency and build on what we already have.

Consideration of all response options

- Different regions and countries are faced with different circumstances
- Any global response should take into consideration all response options without prejudging possible outcomes at UNEA-5.
- In addition, AHEG should also bear in mind that a combination of response options might be effective in addressing marine litter at various levels i.e. local, national, regional.

A holistic approach

- The global marine litter issue is multi-faceted and different regions and countries have diverse circumstances.
- AHEG should take a holistic approach in addressing marine litter for the long-term.
- AHEG should also consider taking a life-cycle approach to promote sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy approaches to reduce the upstream production of litter.