

Elements of a Marine Litter Coordinating Mechanism

The work of any coordinating body on marine litter should be based on best available science, with efforts to improve understanding of the impacts of plastic litter on the marine environment and to promote local, national, and regional action, especially through close collaboration with UN Regional Seas Programs and other relevant UN entities (e.g. IMO, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO).

Such a global marine plastic litter coordinating mechanism could:

- (1) Serve as a forum for governments, industry, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders to share experiences and coordinate action, either on a regular or ad hoc basis.
 - (a) Coordinate closely with UN Regional Seas bodies to implement activities that address marine litter through action plans, protocols, local-level partnerships, etc. The Regional Seas could be primary entities through which implementation takes place.
 - (b) Engage and develop partnerships with key industry actors, especially on design innovation and recyclability, to better understand the lifecycle of plastics on varying levels, as well as to promote environmentally sound practices.
 - (c) Assist governments and other entities to access available resources from a variety of sources for marine litter activities.
 - (d) Promote engagement with relevant UN efforts that are currently addressing solid waste management and materials management.
 - (e) Identify priority regional and multilateral entities to engage or determine how their efforts can be complementary.
 - (f) Encourage voluntary reporting tool on marine litter.
- (2) Serve as a source of, and clearinghouse for, national assessments on how countries are addressing land-based sources of waste, conceptual and practical guidance materials for governments, organizations, and private entities to address aspects of marine litter.
- (3) Raise global awareness of the issue with a wide variety of audiences, such as governments, policy-makers, resource managers, educators, private sector entities, and the public.
- (4) Provide access to reliable scientific research and data. This could include, for example, dissemination of sound scientific practices, such as guidelines for the sampling and analysis of marine macro-plastics and microplastics.