



Joint statement from the Conventions and Action Plans of the Regional Seas Programme

The Conventions and Action Plans of the Regional Seas Programme, in their support to the work to fight marine litter and microplastics have:

1. Emphasized the role of the Regional Seas Programme as an important framework for regional cooperation and a mechanism for global ocean governance to achieve sustainable development goals, taking note of the transboundary nature of marine litter and microplastics;
2. Agreed, within each Programme's respective mandate, to enhance their work of marine litter and microplastics noting that some Regional Seas Programmes have developed and are implementing Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter and do play a vital role in coordinating national and transboundary interventions within each respective region;
3. Noted that national level interventions are a core and foundational basis for combating the problem of marine litter and microplastics at a global scale and agreed, within each Programme's respective mandate, to complement national and trans-national efforts in support of stronger global responses, including under the United Nations Environment Assembly;
4. Recognized the urgency and the need for short to medium term interventions on marine litter and microplastics and in this regard agreed, within each Programme's respective mandate, to coordinate relevant regional level interventions, acknowledging the need for strengthened Regional Seas Programmes to support the development and implementation of dedicated marine litter and microplastics Work Programmes in each Regional Sea Programme, to the extent possible.

The Conventions and Action Plans of the Regional Seas Programme, therefore, reiterate their support to the marine litter and microplastics programme, welcome the ad hoc open-ended expert group meeting on marine litter and microplastics and agree, within each Programme's respective mandate, to coordinate in collaboration with respective contracting parties and governing bodies, the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the ad hoc open-ended expert group meeting.



The joint statement is supported by the following Regional Seas Programmes:

- Abidjan Convention
- Cartagena Convention
- Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
- Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Barcelona Convention
- Nairobi Convention
- Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
- Tehran Convention
- Black Sea Commission
- South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
- Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission -Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
- OSPAR