

Second Meeting Ad Hoc open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
Statement by:
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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Marine pollution is a current and growing threat to the integrity of the oceans, on a planetary scale, contaminating all marine habitats. Marine litter has been recognized as one of the most diffuse pollution problems the oceans are facing, causing not only environmental but also economic, public health and degradation of natural landscape value problems. The marine litter is derived from different marine and terrestrial sources and consists of different materials with emphasis on inorganic wastes, which by their non-biodegradable nature have a high degradation interval. Taking into account this fact, there are different approaches and strategies at different levels to mitigate and / or minimize this environmental problem, such as beach cleaning campaigns, environmental education projects, application of good practices in industrial processes and waste management, and wherever possible, reduce, reuse and recycle.

On the other hand, the political-legislative and strategic framework to address the problem of pollution whose source is plastics, in many countries and regions policies and strategies are nonexistent or if it exists and very weak or opaque.

At the Policy level, Mozambique has approved the regulation to banning single use plastics bags and approved also the Policy and Strategy of the SEA, which aims at promoting sustainable utilization of the SEA. It has also revised and approved the National Law of the SEA and is currently in the process of formulation the National plan to combat marine litter, through the Ministry of the Sea Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP).

While preparing an instrument which will structure our intervention in terms of actual action to be implemented, many action of sensitization and cleaning of beaches and shorelines have been conducted in all the coastal provinces. For instance, during the celebrations of the 8th June, Ocean day, a nationwide campaign to clean the shorelines has yielded a total of 20 tons of litter collected.

With regards to international engagement, Mozambique has signed the letter of adherence to the Commonwealth “Clean Oceans” initiative and we are implementing in partnership with IUCN, the regional project “MARPLASTICS” which aims at piloting a scalable to tackle the issue of marine plastic pollution.

It is worth to indicate that apart from Government driven process highlighted above, there are several non-government initiatives implemented by NGOs and private sector such as the 3R and other initiatives that aim at promoting circular blue economy in the country.

Thank you for your attention,