

**Statement by H.E Dr. Aziza Geleta,
Minister Plenipotentiary for Political Affairs and
the United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**at the Second Ad-Hoc Open Ended Expert Meeting on
Marine Litters and Micro-Plastics**

**2nd to 07th of December 2018
Geneva, Switzerland**

Your Excellency, Chairperson

Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Excellencies Heads of Delegations,

Honourable Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Plastics have been considered as a vital asset for humanity, often with arguments providing functionality that cannot be easily or economically replaced by other materials.

Your Excellencies,

Despite their benefit plastic materials are also liability becoming the major environmental challenge, at urban, rural and various ecosystem setup since the majority of plastic materials are becoming discarded and

end up everywhere. Plastic is a relatively new phenomenon in Ethiopia. yet, the amount of plastic products has increased rapidly. Several plastic manufacturing factories have started to produce various plastic products such as water bottles, various household items, and single use plastic bags which are provided freely to customers to carry their groceries.

Yet like other developing countries absence of proper waste management and inadequate infrastructure for collection and management of plastics has aggravated the problem. Likewise, more than half of the plastic product produced is used for a single use packaging. On the top of this, lack of technologies and public awareness for appropriate sorting and management are aggravating the problems. As a matter of fact, the

practice shows that plastic wastes are currently being disposed along with Municipals solid waste which is challenging in the collection, segregation, reusing & proper management.

Your Excellencies,

We have industries that require intensive use of plastic bottles so far we have not obliged those industries to create a scheme for the collection of those wastes. Infrastructures such as roads and flood ditches are becoming out of use as a result of plastic pollution. Smallholder farmers are facing a huge challenge as result of thin shopping bag on their farmland.

Thus, we intend to propose banning single plastics in the coming year. As a matter of fact, Rapi Waste to Energy which is among the fruitful action by the government of Ethiopia to solve the problems in the solid waste management is great example. The government is also concerned to manage the water bottling and other companies to share the burden of Municipalities through Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) . There have also been many small-scale national and regional initiatives which were undertaken by the government of Ethiopia since the ratification of the solid waste management proclamation 513/2007 to minimize the amount of single use plastic. Fundamentally, the initiatives are mainly focused on awareness raising and collecting of discarded plastics from the environment.

But these all are not enough to tackle the problems, we need a strong and stringent legal framework and capable institutional arrangement to address the issue of plastic pollution and plastic related pollutants.

Consequently, Ethiopia will remain deeply committed to the sustainable protection and preservation of environment on this regards. The 2030

Agenda is also an example of how we can work effectively multilaterally to achieve common goals – sustainable environment goals.

We will continue to work in collaboration with other states, other levels of government in Ethiopia, civil society, the private sector, international

organizations and others, to realize a prosperous and sustainable future
for all.

Thank you very much!!!!

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