

General Statement - Ethiopia

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to join the previous speakers in expressing Ethiopia's recognition of Plastic waste Pollution as one of the recent and serious Environmental challenges.

In response to this and contribution to the global effort, it introduced restriction on the use of plastic bags 12 years ago. It has, especially, banned the use of single-use plastics: mostly plastic bags or plastic bottles.

The Solid Waste proclamation prohibits the manufacturing, importation and usage of plastic bags with thickness of 0.03 millimeter or less and with necessary requirements of manufacturing biodegradable plastics.

Awareness raising on the use and manufacturing of single-use plastics has been undertaken by different actors, targeting the general public and other relevant groups as well.

Researches have also been carried out with an intention to properly manage plastic waste and identify its impacts on the ecosystem, including the Marine ecosystem, human and animal health.

Recently, a monitoring mission was undertaken and pursuant to the outcomes of the monitoring and inspections, now the government is considering the introduction of a total ban on manufactured or imported single-use plastics and a new law is about to be ratified by the Nation's Law making body.

Efforts in management of plastic waste are not without challenges. Challenges especially, remain in the areas of capacity and technology to enforce the laws and regulations and properly manage micro plastics.

Thank you very much.