

STATEMENT OF SOMALIA AT THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first of all register our appreciation to UNEP for the excellent arrangement in organizing and preparing for this important meeting. We also extend our gratitude to the government and people of Thailand for the warm hospitality.

Like many other nations in the world, Somalia is currently facing pressing environmental challenges related to Marine pollution. As it occupies much of the 'Horn of Africa', so it has the longest coast in Africa situated both the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. The country has a poor record of managing waste. With little industry, a weak economy and marginal consumerism, Somalia does not have the problem of excessive waste collection, treatment and disposal that some other countries in the region face.

Madam chair, the capital city Mogadishu hosts more than 2 million inhabitants that produces an estimated 2,500 metric tons of garbage per day. And yet until very recently, it had not had a single designated trash disposal site, sanitary landfill or a recycling plant. Instead, people dumped, and mostly continue to dump their trash in the streets, on the beaches or into the ocean itself. Plastic debris in oceans is a potential threat to Somalia's food security, economic development, marine ecosystem healthy and safety and establishment of a vibrant blue economy. Issue of marine littering, Somalia is among the less contributors of plastic marine.

Madam chair, let me assure you that despite the fact that; the Somali government has taken various actions through policy formulations, institutional building and programme development to establish a durable solution to tackle the waste problems in country. In this regard, We planning to develop the National Action Plans to ban plastic bags in Somalia, although there's some regions in Somalia that already banned the plastic bags.

To conclude, we continue to be at the receiving end of the many issues which we are discussing here that impacts on the ocean for example marine litter and plastic pollution, therefore more action needs to be taken at a global level by the main producers of marine litter towards more effective waste management.

I thank you!