



MALAYSIA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT

Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

1. Marine litter and plastic pollution is a serious issue in our region. It is timely now for us to enhance our collective effort to sow the seeds that would lead to a long-term cooperation to address this problem.
2. Marine litter is not only an environmental issue but also has a significant impact towards health and biodiversity. APEC has estimated USD13 billion impact of marine plastic pollution to the Asia Pacific region.
3. Malaysia is receiving huge amount of plastic wastes from other parts of the world which is falsely declared. 70% of our marine litter consists of plastic-mainly single use plastics. Hence, one country will not be able to address this issue effectively. We need a multi economies cooperation, with a holistic action plan to boost this process with fruitful deliberations. This is also in line with SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

4. Recognizing that marine litter is a transboundary issue, Malaysia realizes that the fight against plastic waste pollution can't be implemented independently by merely one Economy.
5. Malaysia also recognises that apart from reduce, recycle and reuse, we should also “**replace**”. This requires governments to explore new technologies for alternatives, share knowledges and build capacity.
6. Malaysia through Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) has taken serious domestic action on this issue. The momentum was further enhanced following the launch of a policy document ‘**Malaysia Roadmap Towards Zero Single Used Plastics, 2018- 2030**’ in October 2018.
7. At ASEAN level, Malaysia continues its active role as a member to the coordinating body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and ASEAN working Group on coastal and Marine Environment. Malaysia has also adopted the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and also signed the Bangkok Declaration On Combating Marine Debris In Asean Region during the ASEAN Summit in Bangkok this year. The framework and declaration is step towards **building the capacity of governments to manage their marine and coastal resources in an integrated fashion to deliver more and long-lasting benefits to countries and communities.**
8. Malaysia feels at the core of this issue is also in increasing awareness and education as well as building capacities and having adequate resources. In this regard we need to work with NGOs, private sectors and international partners as governments alone will not be able to address this issue completely. Regional and international cooperation should play an active and constructive role in these other processes.

9. Malaysia needs support for a healthy and productive oceans by tackling marine pollution, managing fisheries and fostering the sustainable growth of coastal economies.
10. While addressing the issue at developing countries, it is also important for developed countries to play an equal significant role in addressing the exporting of non-homogeneous plastic wastes. There has been clear evidence of such wastes being exported to developing countries in regions such as ASEAN.
11. Such illegal trades need to be addressed by enhancing existing legal instruments or by establishing new global treaties. Only through this approach, a harmonised code of importations can be managed at ports and the movements of such illegal movement of plastics can be controlled. This could be the first step of addressing the issue of plastic pollution into marine in its wide spectrum of value chain.