

Thank you madam chair and Congratulations for your election.  
Dear Distinguished Delegates Good afternoon.

Mauritius is a small Island Developing State and depends largely on its tourism sector. We have a vast maritime economic zone of 2.3 million square kilometres which offers huge potentials and the resources of the sea can be sustainably exploited. It is acknowledged that plastic pollution is causing tremendous harm to marine resources and our oceans are silently drowning in plastic and is as dangerous as climate change. Hence the need to be proactive and to work collectively for a sustainable ocean for the future generation.

Mauritius is working on the Regulations which will be promulgated to give legal force to Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) which was signed by Mauritius in 1995. The most important feature of this Annex is the complete ban on the disposal into the sea of all forms of plastic.

Mauritius joined the Action groups on Coral Reef restoration and Plastic Pollution with other Commonwealth Member States. One of the dependencies islands of Mauritius has already banned the use of plastic bags and single use plastic by natural materials . Several fiscal measures and Industrial Symbiosis programmes have been introduced for a circular economy but with limited success. Sorting at source is also being envisaged and we are also going towards banning of single use plastic by 2030.

In view of this immense potential of the ocean economy and to protect the species in the seas, Mauritius as a small island developing state, is pledging for a safer, cleaner and plastic free ocean. Thank you very much.