

Myanmar Delegate Statement

To be delivered by Mr. Hla Maung Thein, Director General, Environmental Conservation Department at the Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (Third meeting)

(Bangkok, 18–22 November 2019)

Madam Chair

Distinguish delegates

Good afternoon

1. It is, indeed, a great honor and pleasure for me to take the advantage of participating in this important meeting and let me congratulate Madam Chair, elected chair of Bureau.
2. While accommodating dense population in the coastal areas, settlement and intensive farming and aquaculture, rapid urbanization and industrialization, greater shipping traffic and fishing effort, as well as rapid deforestation and development along the coast in Myanmar, potentially pose a huge risk and challenges to the marine environment with the increase of the marine plastic debris and associated marine pollution.
3. Under the guidance of 2030 Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan to mainstream environment into the national policy and development, National Environmental Policy and Master Plan, Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan, Green Economy Policy Framework and National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan have been completed in consultation and collaboration with multi-stakeholders.
4. Since the key sources of marine debris including plastics to the aquatic environment is land-based for 80% and sea-based for 20%, we have recognized an integrated land-to-sea approach to reduce marine debris.

5. To address the land-based marine debris, Myanmar is implementing waste management through “2030 National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan” with the vision of “zero waste”.
6. Due to the limited information and capacity, we believe that adequate scientific research and assessment on marine debris and its pollution are immediately needed to be conducted nationally and regionally.
7. Myanmar believes that more collaboration, attention and resources are needed to combat global marine debris issue. In that context, Myanmar is willing to explore cooperation with more international partners and to eagerly contribute to more robust global efforts
8. Myanmar is participating in the regional cooperation and developing national plastic management action plan under the Bangkok Declaration on combating marine debris and ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and its implementation.
9. At the same time, we are initiating to cooperate with development partners, such as World Bank, ADB and Japan for cooperation of Marine debris and pollution.
10. Myanmar is participating regional project of “Ocean Plastic Turned into an Opportunity in Circular Economy (OPTOCE) Project” in cooperation with Norwegian Environment Agency with aims to collect plastic wastes from polluted hot-spots, major rivers basins and beach front areas and to energy-recover the wastes in local energy intensive industries.
11. I firmly believe that strengthening coordination and cooperation at the regional and international level is one of the key success factors for marine plastic

debris and marine ecosystem protection in the region. We would be able to have fruitful outcomes and great success of this meeting.

Thank you!