

# **General Statement for the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics**

Republic of Korea

Thank you, Madam. Chair. It is my honor and pleasure to deliver general statement on behalf of Republic of Korea for the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

I would like to express my gratitude to the government of Thailand for hosting this meeting. I am also grateful to the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing this meeting.

Distinguished delegates and colleagues, approximately eight million tons of waste is dumped into our oceans and seas worldwide every year, and 80 percent of marine waste around the world consists of plastic.

The destruction of the marine environment; reduction of marine resources due to ghost fishing, occurrence of navigation accidents related to large ships; and the creation of microplastics are all serious problems that require immediate resolution.

Republic of Korea has made efforts to manage marine litter and microplastics through a life cycle management.

According to the Marine Environment Management Act, the National Marine Debris Management Plan is renewed every 5 years. This year, Korea has established the 3rd national marine debris management plan from 2019 to 2023.

In October, Act on Management of Marine Debris and Marine Pollution Compositing Material has been approved at the National Assembly in October to reinforce the legal basis for managing marine debris.

Also, we have established National Marine Plastic Reduction Plan this June. It aims to reduce 50% of current marine plastic waste by 2030.

Given that all the seas in the world are connected and that marine litter is a serious global issue on the same level as climate change, a global response is needed to address marine litter.

In this regard, we look forward to our continued conversation at this meeting.

Thank you.