

Plastic pollution in the coastal and marine environment is a challenge and thus poses threat to the sustainability of the ocean and resources. The solutions to reducing plastic pollution is complex and mostly require global and particularly transboundary efforts.

Liberia recognizes that there is a gap in international hard law particularly addressing land-based marine pollution resulting from plastics and related products. Although the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) specifically addresses the protection of the marine environment, it identifies six different sources of marine pollution, including land-based sources with not sufficient details about pollution types and rules-in-use. However, various legislation relevant to plastic litter have failed to identify, comprehensively, the main sources of plastic pollution and fall short of a broad set of enforcement standards to reduce potential impacts of marine litter and microplastics globally.

In addition to existing legal provisions, Liberia endeavors to work with Member States and development partners to use the best practical means to reduce marine pollution originating from plastic litter particularly from land-based sources. Liberia hosts the inaugural celebrations of the Africa Day of Seas and Oceans in October 2018. The conference will present the platform to discuss and develop an integrated approach to address marine litter and microplastics in the coastal and marine environment, among other themes.

Correspondingly, Liberia identifies that the London Dumping Convention, among other Conventions is designed to promote control over – and listing of substances that should not be dumped at sea, but; stresses that the Convention is not self-regulating and require Member States to implement national legislation for enforcement purposes.

In addition, Liberia aims to promote the prevention of plastic wastes at the national level through several kinds of actions ranging from learning and sharing experiences on plastic pollution and management strategies to passing legislation. The flow of plastics into the marine environment has reached a critical level, and the devastating impact is most evident in our oceans.

As part effort to develop Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PPAD), the government will work with relevant stakeholders on the national level to launch a campaign this year to reduce plastic pollution as part of its mission agenda. This effort is geared towards providing opportunities and to set the stage for policy makers and scientists to collaborate and work towards a campaign to develop plastic waste reduction programs.