

## **Statement from Cameroon**

The Government of Cameroon wishes to thank the Government of Thailand and the UNEP secretariats for organising this event (3<sup>rd</sup> Ad-hoc Open Ended Expert Group for Marine Litter and Micro Plastics).

1) Impacts of Plastics cannot be underestimated, be it on

- Biodiversity – both marine and land based
- Litter and aesthetics
- Impact on tourism on beaches
- Human health – impact on plastics in fish consumed by local population
- Canal blockages and causing flooding in urban canals
- Chemical leakage from packaging into food - when hot food items are placed in plastic products.
- Agricultural sector impact – impacted by blocking root penetration into the soil and disturbing micro-organisms functioning.

2) Achievements:

- ✓ In 2014, there was a ban on plastics particularly the single use plastics or thickness less than 60 micron:
- ✓ Ministerial order of 2012, instituting the control of plastic packaging importation through the issuance of an environmental permit;
- ✓ Nationwide campaign on banned plastics;
- ✓ Creation of operational unit at the Regional, Divisional and sub Divisional levels to control the use of this banned plastics;
- ✓ Repressions measures to dissuade users of banned plastics;

- ✓ Promote producer extended responsibilities on plastics.

### 3) Challenges are enormous. Including;

- ✓ Repressive measures not sufficient
- ✓ Porous borders
- ✓ Insufficient funds to run the repressive and sensitization plans.

### 4) Expectations

1. Enforcement – capacity building
2. Sensitisation and Public awareness - target fisheries and fish smokers/general population, government agencies etc.
3. Beach cleaning - coastal councils are interested, developed as a system for ongoing collection and management (e.g. by paying fishermen to collect and return plastics, establishing collection points at the beaches). I.e. developing a beach clean system.
4. Prime Ministerial Order to Support and facilitate cooperation between Ministries especially Environment, Industries, Fisheries and Trade.
5. Data collection – need additional data collection to have proper statistics on production and consumption.

To conclude, Cameroon look up expectation on the outcome of the Expert meeting and willing to participates in all the proceedings.

Thanks you