

## **2022 UN Ocean Conference**

*Theme: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”*

### **Statement of ROMANIA, Interactive Dialogue:**

#### *Addressing Marine Pollution*

**Monday, 27 June,  
-from 3 to 6 p.m.-**

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Romania as a sovereign maritime state, EU Member State, UN member and the founder of important regional agreements, such as the Bucharest Convention and BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation) has a strong interest in the sustainable management of its coastal and marine waters in order to achieve and maintain a good environmental status of the Black Sea.
- In this regard, our country is contributing to the sustainable development of the Black Sea marine region and we believe that a challenge for us in achieving this objective, is to solve the marine pollution issue.
- The effects of marine pollution, including plastic and microplastic, have led to the loss of marine diversity, to changes regarding the biodiversity composition and habitats, also to the decrease of the sea productivity with severe impact on jobs and human life. We are aware of the fact that this picture is familiar for all seas and oceans, due to the transboundary characteristics of the pollutants.
- For this reason, Romania considers that it is time to act together to restore and protect the marine ecosystems to assure resilient and healthy waters. Without these jointed efforts, we will not be able to reach a sustainable development of marine regions.
- In our opinion, the only way to solve this global marine pollution issue, including plastic and microplastic, is to involve all actors, such as governments, producers, science, consumers and civil society in finding the appropriate solution to stop the pollution of the environment.
- From our perspective this means innovation, implementation of the concept of “three Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle), changing the consumer behaviour, improving of waste management and appropriate measures to protect and preserve marine ecosystems.
- Being aware of the need to urgently solve this problem, Romania aligns its actions together with all the responsible countries at national, regional, EU level and international level. Therefore, during the Romanian EU Presidency, in may 2019

our country organized the Informal Environmental Ministers meeting in Bucharest. An important subject on the list during the debate has been the control of water pollution with plastic and microplastic from rivers to seas. The ministers of environment of EU Members States engaged to strengthen the cooperation at regional and EU level for reducing plastic and microplastic taking joint and common protection measures and develop a common monitoring in seas. In this regard, Romania supports the implementation of EU Plastic Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- At international level, as UNEP member state, Romania is also part of the Scientific Advisory Committee on UNEP regarding marine litter and plastic.
- In addition, our approach is based on the involvement in the River Basin Convention on the protection of the marine environment, and also I would like to underline the strong actions of the International River Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea and the connection between the objective of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Taking into account the impact of the Danube River on the Black Sea environment, the Danube River Management Plan includes many actions which are targeting the reduction of the pollutants input into Black Sea, as well as measures regarding the protection of the biodiversity, for example sturgeon protection.
- At national level, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests is responsible for the implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Black Sea marine region and the Single Use Plastic Directive.
- In this context, Romania established a set of protection measures and environmental targets for reducing the marine litter and its impact on marine biodiversity.
- At regional level, under the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (the *Bucharest Convention*), our country contributed to the development of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Black Sea and now is undertaking actions for its implementation. On the other hand, we introduced as a priority the item “marine and plastic litter”, under the Common

Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea. The aim of this item is to engage all Black Sea countries in projects that will help to reduce and eliminate the impact of plastic and microplastic on marine biodiversity.

Honourable audience,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

- Romania is deeply committed to the implementation of all measures for marine pollution reduction, in order to reach good environmental status according with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. On the other hand, Romania will continue to contribute to the global efforts to achieve the objectives of clean, healthy and productive seas and oceans, that can support sustainable development of the marine regions.