



# Environment and Social Development Organization

## ESDO Statement on Marine Pollution

Thank you, Mr. President,

On behalf of the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, I am submitting this statement to the United Nations Ocean Conference 2022.

Honorable President, as we know that keeping our oceans safe from pollution is very challenging and we sincerely need comprehensive and collative initiatives. To secure our ocean and its ecosystem we must address plastic pollution in the ocean first. Wastes from plastic are major sources of marine pollution and have been endangering the lives of thousands of marine organisms worldwide. In recent studies, there are reports on finding microplastic in bodies of fish and other marine animals. In this perspective, we have to establish the proper linkage between plastic production, manufacturing, shipping, and distribution in terms of their exposure to the marine environment & pollution.

A guideline on proper management way of plastic waste also needs to be established to secure our oceans. Due to improper management and lack of reasonable consideration of people, plastics go down the drain, and eventually, it goes into our oceans which is the reason for the transboundary movement of plastic wastes via waterways. Plastics from things like wet wipes, microbeads in cosmetic products and all manner of tiny plastic fragments escape to the ocean this way. This can impose a serious threat to our ocean resources. According to the estimation from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), more than two-thirds of the animal protein that will be needed to feed the future global population can come from the ocean if it is managed sustainably. So, this is really high time we need to take all the necessary steps to secure our ocean resources, particularly from the pollutants like microplastic.

The management of current stockpiles of plastics must not release toxic chemicals, plastic litter, or contribute to climate change. Non-circular plastics (those containing toxic additives) should be identified, segregated, and safely disposed of. The export of plastic waste for disposal purposes should be prohibited and effective national collection and recycling systems should be funded. Burning plastic waste or associated derived fuels for energy in cement kilns, incinerators, or other combustion technologies is not circular, renewable, or sustainable and should be prohibited.

The resolution recognizes that plastic pollution needs to be tackled through a full lifecycle approach and the operative part of the resolution specifically requires that the legally binding instrument to be developed should have a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. This means that the use and release of harmful substances will be addressed at all phases of the lifecycle of plastics. As a minimum the toxic impacts of plastics during production, design, consumption, and waste management will be addressed in the treaty negotiations.

Along with minimizing plastic pollution from the ocean, deep understanding of the value of mainstreaming human rights is also required. We hope, ways of mainstreaming the human rights of indigenous peoples and small-scale fishers, including women and children will be explored and a plan of action for implementation will be developed in this conference.

The blue economy embraces economic opportunities. We need to facilitate their coexistence and look for synergies in the maritime space, without damaging the environment. For this, collaboration between countries to exchange successful strategies, information, knowledge and best practices is suggested both for a sustainable blue economy and mitigating climate change.

Member of .....





# Environment and Social Development Organization

Mr. President, a new legally binding global treaty must hold polluters legally and financially accountable, provide remedies to affected communities, and mitigate the toxic impacts plastics and their toxic additives have on the enjoyment of human rights throughout their life cycle, particularly in communities that are the least responsible for plastic production. The projected increased production of chemicals and plastics hamper the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Honorable President, we strongly believe that together with our effort will lead to scaling up ocean actions based on science and innovation at this time of climate change in an effective manner.

I thank you.

Shahriar Hossain

ESDO/IPEN

28, June 2022

shahriar@esdo.org / shahriar25@gmail.com

<https://esdo.org/>

Member of .....

