

## **Intervention**

**Attributed to:** Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri  
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

**Event:** Interactive Dialogue 'Addressing Marine Pollution' at UN Ocean Conference (UNOC)

**Venue:** Altice Arena, Lisbon, Portugal

**Date:** Monday, June 27, 2022

**Time:** 3-6pm

**Duration:** 3 minutes

**Brief:** Co-hosted by the governments of Kenya and Portugal, UNOC seeks to drive the development of much-needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action to support the implementation of SDG 14: Life Below Water. The conference will take place under the theme 'Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions'.

The sessions will address the threats to health, ecology, economy, and governance of the oceans – acidification, marine litter and pollution, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and the loss of habitats and biodiversity.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Pollution from land- and sea-based sources has a serious negative impact on the world's marine ecosystems. Preventing marine pollution is the first step towards the protection and sustainable management of our precious marine ecosystems that sustain life on Earth and hold intrinsic value.
- In the United Arab Emirates, we have developed several laws, regulations, policies, strategies, and plans to support this priority.
- The Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 on the Protection and Development of the Environment seeks to reduce all forms of air, land, and water pollution.
- The Federal Law No. 12 of 2018 on Integrated Waste Management regulates our approach to managing waste, including marine waste, and unifies the mechanisms of safe waste disposal.
- Meanwhile, the UAE Circular Economy Policy promotes responsible consumption and production patterns and tackles the issue of packaging waste pollution by improving waste collection and recycling.

- We have also implemented policies to cut down on the amount of single-use plastics and mitigate their negative impacts.
- In addition, we have adopted various measures to address marine litter.
- We are conducting ongoing monitoring of marine water quality to assess the success of our efforts.
- To support this activity, we have launched the Guiding Standards for Marine Water Properties in the UAE that set the acceptable levels for a range of basic marine water properties, such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and acidity. The document serves as an important tool for detecting changes in marine water quality and enabling the concerned authorities to address them immediately.
- And to engage all segments of society in preventing and tackling marine pollution, we run various programs aimed at raising awareness among the public and the marine environment stakeholders.
- Activities such as clean-up drives at beaches, ports, and creeks are very popular and see a lot of youth engagement.

- We are keen to bring everyone on board to help us fight marine pollution and preserve vital marine ecosystem services.

Thank you.