

Statement by Fundación Centro de Gestión Tecnológica e Informática Industrial CEGESTI to 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference. June 30th, 2022.

CEGESTI, a non-for-profit organization working in Central America and the Caribbean's, would like to thank United Nations and the Governments of Kenya and Portugal for the successful organization of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.

CEGESTI expresses its support to continue building solutions to prevent marine litter based on science, data analysis, monitoring systems and innovation. Scaling up actions, urgently requires alliances to transfer knowledge and technology. In this regard south-south cooperation is key.

Recently, the Government of Costa Rica through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Energy launched a Methodological Guide for Solid Waste Sampling on Beaches. <https://www.cegesti.org/manuales/GuiaMuestreoPlaya.pdf> The methodology facilitates the identification of the different types of waste that are present at beaches in order to build solutions based on data collection. The methodology was made available through a successful South-South cooperation between CEGESTI and Abrelpe under the frame of the project: *Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) – Promoting Circular Economy Solutions in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia*. The project receives financial support from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany and it is led by adelphi. Other partners implementers are Socya in Colombia, and Parley in Dominican Republic.

Results of the application of the methodology in the Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica indicates a **pattern between communities'** activities, the quality of the infrastructure for integral solid waste management and the type and quantity of waste found from terrestrial sources.

Data collected is a key element for education, behavioral change and building solutions by local actors directly affected by the impact of marine litter. Data is also fundamental for public policy development and the implementation of larger circular economy solutions.

It is important to recognize that infrastructure for integral solid waste management (separation, recollection systems, trucks, final disposal) is indispensable for preventing marine litter. A large majority of developing countries fail to have an appropriate infrastructure and therefore it is necessary to allocate resources to improve this situation.

Since marine litter is a global problem, it is necessary to accelerate actions at national, regional and international level. We need a systematic approach to unite efforts from private sector, public authorities, research institutions, NGOs and the international cooperation aiming to achieve a sustainable use of the oceans as set by the SDG 14, which definitely requires paying attention to waste management from terrestrial sources.

Sincerely,



Daira Gómez Mora

Executive Director, CEGESTI