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I'm Sheryl Mboya, an innovator, environmentalist and the Managing Director at GreenX Telemechanics; an innovation and technology developer in Nairobi. This speech is made in cooperation with Kenya Airways, all our Partner Organizations and those constantly fighting for the health of our planet and oceans but couldn't make it here today.

For the three minutes I'm here, over 3,000,000 plastic bottles will be consumed and recklessly discarded, three quarters of mammal species will have ingested them not mentioning the amount of microplastics that are exposed to mankind consequently causing damage to human cells. Science predicts that within the next 8 years, 467,200,000 plastics will be added to the oceans alone. This is just a minute reflection of the harmful environment we have created for ourselves and the entire ecosystem.

I come from a country that is rich in land and marine life. Every year, tourists visit Kenya to witness the big five. But did you know, we also have the marine big five in our oceans? Dolphins, whales, sea turtles, sharks and rays, all of which are just a mere percentage of marine life threatened to go extinct.

Every single minute, we experience the dire effects of climate change; failing rains, reduced agricultural yields, rising sea levels and our ocean is warming up. This is not only happening in Kenya. For the past few weeks, we've witnessed tripled frequency of droughts in Sub Saharan Africa, sinking of Kiribati and Tuvalu and the deadly floods in India and Bangladesh.

I never thought that one day in the future, my children will breath in toxic gases, eat contaminated fish or fail to experience the beauty this planet could offer them as the sixth extinction approaches. This is just a snapshot of what the next generation will

face.

It's the little things citizens do that will make the difference. The late Wangari Maathai's little thing was planting trees. Mine is innovating edible tableware which offers a sustainable alternative to plastics and is safe for consumption by the entire ecosystem.

The oceans play a critical role in our planet. If it dies, mankind will also be at risk. It's time we stop the relentless consumption of plastics that end up in waterbodies and landfills. It's time the world wakes up and acts! It's time we stop deforestation! It's time innovators provide solutions mankind and the environment urgently needs! It's time! World wake up!

Ms. Sheryl Mboya

Managing Director and Chief Innovation Officer

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