



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Marine Plastic Debris: Global Commitments and Actions for a Clean Ocean

Organized by: Secretariat of the National Coordination Team for Marine Debris Handling of Indonesia and Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The side event covered the unique threat posed by transboundary plastic debris to marine ecosystems and emphasized the importance of global, science-based solutions and lessons learned that address everything from preventative measures to mitigation of marine plastic debris. The side event featured H.E. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan (Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia), Nani Hendiarti (Deputy Minister for Environment and Forestry Management, Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia), Unni Kløvstad (Director for Ocean and Business Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Jacob Duer (President and CEO, Alliance to End Plastic Waste), Prof. Richard Thompson (Director of the Marine Institute, University of Plymouth), Valerie Hickey (Global Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy (ENB), World Bank), and Kristin Hughes (Director of Global Plastic Action Partnership). The presence of high-level representatives illustrated the dedication of organizations and their missions to the worldwide challenge of preventing and reducing transboundary plastic debris through a collective global commitment and actions.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Marine debris is transported through ocean current and is requiring regional and global collaboration to amongst countries to mitigate it.
- Marine plastic issue is often not discussed holistically in relation to other pressing issue such as climate change

- Academia can provide independent evidence of risk and interventions for marine plastic debris handling.
- Mobilising capital for waste management systems are traditionally under-funded due to the challenging economics of high capital and operational expenditures as well as weak revenue streams.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Efforts on marine debris handling should be synchronized among stakeholders as it would be more effective than individual, isolated movements.
- Its mitigation urgently requires creative funding models such as from philanthropy, plastic tax revenue, and commercial sector.
- Develop potential collaboration and funding with private sectors, universities, countries, and other stakeholders through various mutually beneficial cooperation schemes.
- Maintaining current partnership with private sectors and mandatory application of a circular economy to solve the plastic packaging issues.
- It is necessary to have projects that can be a blueprint for financially sustainable waste management systems in emerging markets, where investment in this space has traditionally been a significant hurdle.