



## **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event**

*[Collective Effort in South-East Asia to End Plastic Pollution]*

[29 June 2022 at 2:00-4:00pm (GMT +7) as a Virtual Event]

Organized by: [SEA circular project, United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the World Economic Forum Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)]

**TWO PAGE MAXIMUM**

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

Recognizing the devastating and irreversible impact of plastic pollution on ecosystems, the climate and livelihoods, a long-term inclusive solution to address plastic pollution require strengthening international coordination, cooperation, and governance. This has been clearly outlined in the 5th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution's outcome to forge an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. In South-East Asian region, the momentum to end plastic pollution has picked-up despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. 175 nations voted unanimously for a legally binding instrument by 2024 to end plastic pollution during the UNEA 5.2 in March 2022. Nevertheless, a lot more must be done through collective initiatives in addition to the government efforts. This includes stepping up on activities, and adopt voluntary measures to combat plastic pollution, shifting to sustainable consumption and production, circular economy approaches, develop and implement national action plans, and improve statistical information on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. In this virtual side event, there was a dialogue – a panel discussion, focusing on the theme – Addressing marine pollution, among the member states, intergovernmental organizations, regional platforms, think tanks, and private sector representatives on their continued collective efforts to tackle marine litter pollution, as well as to share the knowledge and findings of the survey.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- How to bring together stakeholders from the government, the private sector, and consumers representative to collectively address plastic pollution in the South-East Asia region and encourage collaborative partnerships to end plastic pollution in the region
- The way forward towards the Global Plastic Agreement and preparation for the intergovernmental negotiations
- How to share knowledge of existing initiatives through strategic partnerships on addressing marine plastic pollution in the South-East Asian region
- The importance and impact of adopting an inclusive approach towards the informal sector in the plastic value chain
- How to share results of the plastic perception survey commissioned by UNEP's SEA circular project, to gain insights into perception of consumers and businesses towards plastics, its usage, and efforts to achieve circularity

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Stakeholders, government, business, private sector, consumer, youths, etc., should be better informed on key initiatives and regional efforts to address plastic pollution, especially, in the South-East Asian region
- Stakeholders must be more aware about plastic concerns of different stakeholders to enable informed planning and policy making in South-East Asia
- Ensure alignment of actions with national commitments and global goals, promoting the shift from linear to circular economy
- Promote collective actions of different networks' regional frameworks to have an interconnected approach to addressing plastic pollution in South-East Asia
- Share good examples of efforts by the private sector, to encourage growth of momentum in private sector led efforts

### **Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)**

Malaysian government is looking forward to actively participating in the International Negotiating Committee (INC) process, and already started discussions with national stakeholders, which include different ministries, business associations, Petro-Chemical producers, plastic manufacturers, retailers, resellers, and NGOs. Viet Nam developed a strategy for sustainable development of the marine economy in parallel with the protection of the marine environment and eco-system. Philippines has adopted 10 action strategies to reduce and manage marine litter pollution. Indonesia has ambitious regulations calling for reduction of waste by 30 percent and handling of waste by 70 percent by 2025. It has launched NPAP Indonesia Action Roadmap and a Financing Roadmap to finance system change to radically reduce plastic pollution in Indonesia.