



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

### *Marine pollution: tackling land-based sources through multi-stakeholder action UN Ocean Virtual Side Event*

Jun 28, 2022 1:30 PM, GMT +1 (Lisbon), Zoom

Organized by: University of Georgia, UNEP, GRID-Arendal

#### **Background on the event**

UNEA 5.2, which took place in February/March 2022, marked an important milestone in global efforts to combat marine pollution, with governments agreeing on two key resolutions on this issue: Resolution 5/14: “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument” and the Resolution 5/2: "Sustainable Nitrogen Management". These decisions enhance action at various levels, from local to global, that further contribute to the implementation of SDG Goal 14, in particular Target 14.1, which aims to, “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”. This event will highlight several issues that are being addressed through various collaborative efforts, including the three international, multi-stakeholder platforms on land-based sources of marine pollution: Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW<sup>2</sup>I). The event had over 100 attendees.

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- Governance and Coordination
- Risks to human health
- Risks to the environment
- Financial risks and opportunities

- Unnecessary, avoidable and problematic plastic products and polymers
- Trade and plastics
- The role of the private sector and other actors in the reduction of unnecessary, avoidable and problematic plastic products and polymers and safe circularity.

### **Key recommendations for action**

- Unnecessary, avoidable, and problematic plastics - **Dr Jenna Jambeck** (University of Georgia)
- Agricultural plastics - **Richard H. Thompson/Giulia Carcasci** (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- Environmental and human health - **Dr Sarah Dunlop** (Minderoo Foundation)
- Governance/Policy coordination - **Dr Karen Raubenheimer** (University of Wollongong)
- Regional opportunities - **Chris Corbin** (UNEP/Caribbean Environment Programme)
- Private sector - **Fernanda Romero** (International Solid Waste Association)

### **Voluntary Commitments**

The theme of the UN Ocean Conference is “*Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions*” . Collaborative, science-based efforts that bring together relevant stakeholders from various sectors of society are crucial to the implementation of Goal 14. The three global partnerships highlighted in this event, namely the GPML, GPNM and GW<sup>2</sup>I, provide a platform for a multitude of sectors, including governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, to collaborate, coordinate and innovate on the actions needed to reduce and prevent marine pollution.