

Philippines Intervention

Ocean Action Panel 4. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities

UNOC3

The Philippines reaffirms its strong commitment to the timely conclusion of an ambitious, legally binding, and implementable global agreement to end plastic pollution, including pollution in the marine environment, in line with the mandate under United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 5.14 on ending plastic pollution.

As an archipelagic state and a developing country, the Philippines is on the frontlines of the plastic pollution crisis. Our communities, marine biodiversity, and economies are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of land-based plastic waste that finds its way into the ocean. It is important to address plastic pollution throughout its entire/full life cycle.

In this context, we stress the importance of fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 14.1, which calls for the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution of all kinds, especially from land-based activities. Addressing this challenge requires global cooperation, robust regulatory frameworks, and strong national systems for waste management.

In 2022, the Philippines enacted the Extended Producer Responsibility Act which aims to engage businesses and the private sector in the recovery of plastic products or waste – moving away from the linear economic model of take-make-dispose, towards a circular model. In its first year of implementation, we are proud to report an initial success with over 326 out of 978 million kilograms of plastic waste diverted from landfills or recovered, or a 33% rate of recovery.

We are positive that in our improvement of plastic waste auditing and recovery systems, implementation of waste management programs, and engagements with the private sector and development partners, we will improve our recovery rate up to 45% in 2025, and that we will achieve our target of recovering or diverting up to 80% of plastic waste by 2028.

A legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution must recognize the specific needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and archipelagic states. These states face distinct implementation challenges, including limited waste infrastructure, high logistical costs, and increased exposure to transboundary marine plastic pollution. The Philippines further underscores the importance of ensuring that the future instrument is ambitious, inclusive, and responsive to the real-world challenges faced by countries. The treaty must promote sustainable design and support innovation in alternative materials and delivery systems. A systemic shift toward more sustainable production and consumption patterns is indispensable. The just transition of relevant sectors is also important.

Lastly, we underscore the importance of regional and international cooperation, grounded in equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Philippines is ready to work constructively with all delegations to ensure the treaty delivers a meaningful, science-based, and equitable framework to end plastic pollution on land and at sea for the benefit of present and future generations.

We look forward to the conclusion of the negotiations on the plastic treaty in the forthcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Geneva.

Thank you.