

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution
1-2 September 2021
Agenda Item 5: High Level Dialogue

Intervention by Singapore

- Singapore would like to convey our appreciation to Germany, Ecuador, Ghana, and Vietnam, for their initiative in co-convening this conference.
- From the interventions that we have heard, it is clear that there are overwhelming calls for urgent and concerted action to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution. Singapore joins others in making this call.
- Singapore takes the issue of marine litter and plastic pollution seriously. As a small city-island, Singapore's survival and wellbeing depends on healthy oceans and seas. We address marine litter as part of our holistic approach to tackling pollution and waste, placing emphasis on source control through effective and comprehensive waste management policies and regulations, stringent enforcement, and good infrastructural systems.
- At the international level, concerted action on marine litter and plastic pollution can be galvanised through a global framework or agreement. However, to ensure that a global agreement will make a real difference on the ground, it is critical that we pin-point accurately the fundamental drivers of the pollution problem.
- Marine litter and plastic pollution are primarily caused by inadequate and environmentally unsound management of waste from land-based sources. In this context, strengthening waste management systems is critical in our efforts to tackle the issue.
- It is also important to take a science-based approach, to ensure that actions are both robust and effective. To approach the problem holistically, we should consider a wide range of solutions and approaches, that are the most practical and feasible, and which recognise that plastics continue to play a functional role in modern society across many sectors.
- To ensure that the global agreement is truly universal and leads to real action on the ground, it should be guiding and facilitative. We should be open to a bottom-up approach that enables parties to contribute their best efforts. We must match ambition with pragmatism and flexibility.

- As we look ahead to UNEA-5.2, it is important for the global community to continue transparent and inclusive discussions on this issue. Singapore will continue working with all governments, partners and stakeholders in this regard.

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