Governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics

Kei Ohno Woodall
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Local problem? Global problem?

Local solution? Global solution?
✓ **Global policy** enables countries to work together to address vital environmental issues that are transboundary or global in nature.

✓ **National/regional action plan** enables countries to implement actions to address environmental issues at the national/regional levels.

---

**Marine plastics global policy timeline**

- **1972**: London Convention comes into force
- **1973**: CMS Convention enters into force
- **1974**: MARPOL 73/78 Convention enters into force
- **1982**: First reports of marine plastic debris on marine species were published
- **1983**: MARPOL Protocol adopted
- **1983**: UNEP Regional Seas Programme launched
- **1984**: First Honolulu conference
- **1986**: Third International Conference on Marine Debris (Honolulu) entered into force
- **1988**: Convention on Biological Diversity enters into force
- **1998**: GPA* established
- **1999**: Fourth International Conference on Marine Debris (Honolulu) entered into force
- **2000**: MARPOL Annex V entered into force
- **2000**: Stockholm Convention enters into force
- **2001**: London Protocol is adopted
- **2004**: UN General Assembly delves resolution on marine plastic pollution
- **2006**: UN International Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) enters into force
- **2010**: UN Global Partnership on Marine Debris declaration
- **2012**: Rio+20 commitment to reduce marine debris
- **2013**: Revised MARPOL Annex V
- **2015**: UNEA-1 resolution
- **2016**: G7 Action Plan
- **2017**: UNEA-2 resolution
- **2019**: Global Partnership on Marine Debris and UNEA-3
- **2020**: UN Ocean Conference
- **2021**:Commitment of a significant reduction in marine debris by 2025, as agreed under the Rio+20 Convention

Source: Grid-Arendal - [http://www.grida.no/resources/6916](http://www.grida.no/resources/6916)

---

- **Ad hoc expert group meetings**
  - **29-31 May and 3-7 Dec 2018**
  - **Basel OEWG-11, 3-6 Sep 2018**

- **UNEA-3, 4-6 Dec 2018**

- **UNEA-4, 11-15 March 2019**

- **SAICM OEWG, 1-5 April 2019**

- **2019 BRS COPs, 29 April-10 May 2019**
UNEA-4 resolution

Marine plastic litter and microplastics

- Invited Member States to address the problem of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics...
- Requested UNEP to strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter; elaborate guidelines on plastic use and production
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation by establishing a multi-stakeholder platform within UNEP to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination of discharges of litter and microplastics through a life-cycle approach
- Extended the mandate of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, invited EMG to engage in and contribute to the group

Addressing single-use plastics

- Encouraged Member States to develop and implement national or regional actions to address the environmental impacts of single-use plastic products
- Encouraged Member States and others to develop environmentally friendly alternatives, promote improved waste management, promote more resource-efficient production and use
Amendments to Annex II, XIII and IX to the Basel Convention proposed by the Government of Norway

Establishment of the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Wastes

Set of actions to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics under the Basel Convention

Technical assistance activities undertaken by the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centres