

African Foundation Position Paper on Combating Marine Litter and Mircoplastics

1. Name of the organisation

African Foundation

2. Views on major barriers to combatting marine litter and microplastics

- Low level of awareness in the population about the negative effects and impacts of marine litter and microplastics on the environment, the economy and the humans.
- Little awareness in industries operators about the negative effects and impacts of the marine litter and microplastics on the environment, the economy and the humans, as well as on the sustainability of their industries and businesses. Where the industries operators are sufficiently aware, the operators are not willing to support or facilitate to combat marine litter and microplastics or in some cases the operators lack the enablers to engage in or for shifting to sound alternatives.
- Lack of laws and regulations on cambating marine litter and microplastics. Where laws and regulations exist, lack of or poor enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- Lack of or weak integrated and inclusive approaches and frameworks in combating marine litter and microplastics particularly at some national and regional levels.
- Lack of sufficient resources to combating marine litter and microplastics. Lack of access to finance for projects/enterprises for combating marine litter and microplastics.
- The falling of some fundamental values of the modern society such as democracy, rule of law, justice, human rights, and peaceful coexistence is also a serious barrier to combating marine litter and microplastics.

3. Views on potential national, regional and international response options and associated environmental, social and economic costs

- Development and implementation of wide and deep awareness-raising programme of activities on the effects and impacts of marine litter and microplastics at local, national and regional levels.
- Cyclical review or assessment of the effectiveness of relevant regional and national strategies and approaches to combating marine litter and microplastics.
- Adoption and establishment of effective and efficient regulatory systems to combating marine litter at national and regional levels.
- Facilitation and strengthening of inclusive participation and engagement of all relevant actors and stakeholders, including industries operators to combat marine litter and microplastics at local, national, regional and international levels.
- Development and implementation by members states of measures which discourage and ban unnecessary utilization of microplastics and nanoplastics.
- Promotion of green entrepreneurship and green industries development at regional, national and local/rural levels. Actors and stakeholders should promote and engage to support the emergency and development of green enterprises which contribute to combating marine litter and microplastics, and to facilitate and assist also industries to transit towards green industries. Including facilitate green entrepreneurs and green enterprises to access capital/finance.
- Resources should be mobilized at all levels, including at international, regional, national and local levels. And access to available existing resources should be facilitated by all actors, including donors, investors, fund managers and advisors.
- Members states and all actors should support the establishment and strengthening of fundamental values of modern society, including democracy, rule of law, justice, respect for human rights, peace ...etc.

4. Views on the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options

The African Foundation is willing to further develop and strategized the feasibility and effectiveness of these response options in conjunction with actors.

5. Any other inputs

Our views focus mostly in the African region and in particular that of the Congo River basin, although these views reflect mostly also the situation in other regions of the world.

