

## **Format of the Position Paper**

All relevant Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are invited to submit a concise position paper. The submissions may include the following elements:

### **1. Name of your organization**

Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

### **2. Your views on major barriers to combat marine litter, including microplastics**

- Inadequacy of budget for preparing and implementing programs, including raising awareness and education programs;
- Insufficiency of research regarding marine litter, including sources and impacts of litter, undertaken in PERSGA Region;
- Insufficient research to evaluate the effectiveness of approaches used to combat litter;
- Inadequate enforcement of legislation/laws to prevent and recycle marine litter;
- Currently, insufficient commitment from private companies (e.g. shopping centres) to phase out single-use plastic items;
- Lack of plastic recycling options;
- Inadequate understanding of commitments to regional and international laws/conventions (e.g. MARPOL) and how to fulfill such commitments;
- Lack of strategic or coordinated approach to combat marine litter by some countries;
- Possible lack of Government and public awareness of the environmental, social and health cost associated of marine litter, especially plastics.

### **3. Your views on potential national, regional and international response options and associated environmental, social and economic costs to combat marine litter and microplastics**

- Supporting developing countries to prepare and implement on-ground actions to combat marine litter;
- Enhancing capacity building;
- Developing regional projects aiming to protect the marine environment from litter, including micro-plastics;
- Initiating an international non-binding legal program on marine litter;
- Proposing an international legal instrument for protection of marine environment from litter;
- The need for National Action Plans illustrating how countries will comprehensively prevent and remove marine litter;

- Improve collaboration among adjacent countries to manage marine litter, including sharing of ideas and resources;
- There is a need for various response options to be experimentally evaluated to determine their effectiveness and cost. The most effective approaches can then be trialed and tested in other countries; and
- The need for:
  - better understanding of the training or capacity needs for some countries to effectively combat marine litter; and
  - simple and cost effective approaches to survey and monitor microplastics in the marine environment, including beach sediments.

#### **4. Your views on the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options to combat marine litter including microplastics**

- Regional on-ground projects, including development of awareness raising programs and national legislations, focusing on protecting the marine environment from litter at the national and regional levels could be contributing to mitigating the effects of litter on the marine environment but;
- There is also a need for an international legal instrument to be proposed for protection of the marine environment from litter.
- The effectiveness of many options have not been formally evaluated yet. There is a need for approaches (e. research) to evaluate or trial responses in the region and to determine if some approaches should be trialed elsewhere.

#### **5. Additional suggestions to combat marine litter**

- **Mobilizing international financial resources for projects** on marine litter to be implanted in a short time;
- Highlighting issues of marine litter in the next IGR of GPA and/or a special international conference/global meeting more thoughtfully to mobilizing financial resources and discussing actions needed for protecting the marine environment from litter; and
- Following up the progress on marine litter with regional programs/organizations on an annual base at a global meeting.