

Format of the Position Paper

All accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders are invited to submit a concise position paper. The submissions may include the following elements:

1. Name of your organization: ASSOCIATION WELFARE
2. Your views on major barriers to combatting marine litter and microplastics
 - a. Historical fear of water bodies
 - b. Historical perception of water bodies as dumping place for all waste
 - c. Inability to see under water hence failure to appreciate or comprehend the problem
 - d. Lack of technology and expertise to carry out marine studies
 - e. Inability or lack of power (legal, technological as well as military) needed to address deliberate dumping on high seas
 - f. Poor waste disposal facilities at municipal levels
 - g. Low public awareness
 - h. Lack of legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms
3. Your views on potential national, regional and international response options and associated environmental, social and economic costs

I do not understand this question can it be elaborated please?

4. Your views on the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options

Potential response options, their feasibility and effectiveness:

- a. An international legally binding treaty – effective at the global level if properly financed and appropriate monitoring mechanisms are put into place. For example a panel similar to the one under UNFCCC (IPCC) could guarantee effectiveness.
- b. Ban on the production, importation and use of plastics at national levels. This can be effective at the national level if supported by legislation and effective enforcement mechanisms. Participation of all stakeholders is crucial to ensure effectiveness.
- c. Promotion of alternatives to plastics: this is feasible if SMEs are facilitated and if the plastic industry is convinced or co-opted. It can be effective at national level.

5. Any other inputs

Public education, capacity building, technology transfer and development, monitoring and provision of adequate financing are key to the success of any program aimed at addressing the challenge. Involving stakeholders who depend on marine products and environment for a living is crucial. These include local fishermen, communities living near water bodies, transporters, hoteliers, military, etc. Our organization is working with local fishermen and university students to assess marine litter and plastics along the coast of Lome. We are using a combination of an underwater drone, the local fishermen and students to assess the amount and type of marine litter. This has worked well since fishermen are concerned about dwindling fish stocks and students aspire to pursue studies on marine ecology.