

First Working Group Meeting 2018  
Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter  
Nairobi, Kenya May 29-31, 2018

**ROPME Statement on Agenda [Item 7](#): Feasibility and effectiveness of different response options**

Thank you Chairman for giving me the floor. As you are aware, I am representing ROPME which is based in Kuwait but its membership includes 7 additional Member States. I have been enjoying the fruitful discussion during yesterday and today on possible response options for the problem of the marine litter and microplastics. I need to attract the attention of our distinguished delegates to 2 or 3 response options, I consider them are the most feasible and effective solution for this problem.

The first feasible option in my view is to apply a nominal charge for the use of plastic bags in shops and taking necessary actions to cut-off use of single-use plastic. Several countries have implemented such a charge and effectively reduced the consumption of plastics. The UK experienced an 85% reduction in the number of plastic bags used when a 5p charge was introduced in October 2015.

The second option which I consider very effective and feasible as well is to ban use of plastics. We have a success story from the hosting country (Kenya) which banned use of these plastics since last September and this have positively reflected on the waste management and the problem of the marine litter.

The third option is investing in recycling and reprocessing of plastic products would be very effective for reduction of marine plastics. According to a recent assessment study, only 8% of plastic wastes are currently being recycled regionally with the rest ending up either in landfill or the Sea. This percentage can be boosted through supporting recycling industry and encouraging regulators to standardize manufacturing of plastics and packing in order to ease their recycling.

These are the most three feasible and effective response options I think we should try to implement and follow in order to deal with the problem of marine litter.

Thank you.