



ASEAN DECLARATION ON PLASTIC CIRCULARITY

WE, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN Member States”) gathered at the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits in Vientiane on 9 October 2024;

NOTING the detrimental impacts of marine plastic debris and plastic pollution on the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development and the increased urgency to address the issue;

EMPHASISING that solving plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, requires full-life-cycle approach, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities, which includes curbing plastic waste generation at its sources on land and water bodies and preventing its leakage into the environment including through industries;

RECOGNISING the sustainable consumption and production of plastics, particularly reducing the use of single-use, avoidable, and problematic plastic products, as an integral approach to effectively address plastic pollution throughout the full-life-cycle of plastics and improve resource efficiency and circularity;

RECALLING the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as Sustainable Development Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and the duty to preserve and protect the marine environment under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

REAFFIRMING the determination of the ASEAN Member States in addressing plastic pollution in the ASEAN region as demonstrated, among others, in the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Circular Economy Framework, as well as the development and implementation of national action plans and related initiatives in ASEAN Member States;

TAKING NOTE of the recommendations from the ASEAN Conference on Combating Plastic Pollution held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 17 October 2023 where stakeholders convened to share experiences and lessons learned as well as discuss initiatives to support and create an enabling environment for addressing plastic pollution in the ASEAN region;

AIMING to launch a declaration to demonstrate the commitment of ASEAN Member States to continue efforts to address plastic pollution;

MINDFUL of the different national circumstances and capabilities among ASEAN Member States.

DO HEREBY DECLARE to:

CONTINUE to build upon ongoing efforts and strive for the full implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris, ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, and ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris;

ADVANCE plastic circularity based on a full-life-cycle approach for combating plastic pollution, namely to:

1. **ENHANCE** plastic product design based on circular economy principles as well as scientific knowledge and assessment towards promoting environmentally sound and sustainable plastics;
2. **ADVANCE** strategies for extending the useful life of plastic products, such as through reuse and refill, which can reduce plastic waste and increase its circularity;
3. **PROMOTE** research, innovation, development, and the use of non-plastic substitutes, such as eco-friendly products and bio-based materials, at scale by taking into consideration the best available science and knowledge of local communities through cooperation mechanisms;
4. **IMPROVE** environmentally sound plastic waste management systems, including generation, collection, transportation, recycling, safe disposal, and other diversion methods, taking into account the waste hierarchy which can tackle plastic waste at its source in a direct and effective way;
5. **PREVENT** the leakage and releases of plastic products from both land-based and sea-based sources into the environment;
6. **FOSTER** collaborations across public and private sectors as well as relevant stakeholders through initiatives, such as national awareness raising and clean-up campaigns, which can tackle existing plastic pollution and promote a sustainable plastic value chain;

7. **ENCOURAGE** actions to reduce plastic pollution to support global efforts for a circular economy in accordance with respective national circumstances and capabilities, relevant laws, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

SUPPORT the finalisation of a new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, taking into consideration Rio principles such as that of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, and their respective capacities and national circumstances, as appropriate;

SUPPORT continuous efforts between ASEAN and partners as well as related international organization to address plastic pollution to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and environmental sustainability in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities;

INVITE relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and international levels to contribute to fostering knowledge exchange and multistakeholder cooperation as well as providing financial and technical support to complement ASEAN Member States' efforts to implement this Declaration.

ADOPTED in **Vientiane, Lao PDR, in this Ninth Day of October** in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in a single original copy, in the English language.

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