

Joint Regional Statement to INC-5.2 on behalf of COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML)

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) expresses appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for hosting INC-5.2. We also thank you, Mr. Chair, the INC Secretariat, and all Members for your contributed efforts in advancing the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environments.
2. Building on the foundation laid by the historic resolution to end plastic pollution at the resumed session of the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in 2022, we urge INC-5.2 to deliver an ambitious, practical, and inclusive agreement with concrete, implementable outcomes. With momentum built through previous negotiation rounds, we are at a pivotal moment where progress must translate into decisive commitments.
3. COBSEA recognizes the severity of plastic pollution and the array of available solutions. This transition must be driven by all Members and supported by robust, just, and science-based actions leading the process.
4. We reaffirm that multilateralism is essential to successfully tackle plastic pollution. COBSEA is committed to supporting implementation of the future instrument through strengthened regional cooperation and our regional frameworks that bring tangible benefits and ensure an inclusive transition.
5. COBSEA remains committed to multilateral cooperation as the only viable pathway forward. The future instrument must support an inclusive transition – one that uplifts all sectors, including the informal waste sector, and is sensitive to national capacities and regional needs.
6. The transition to a circular economy needs to be inclusive and cannot leave anyone behind. We urge a robust and accessible financial mechanism, alongside provisions for technology cooperation and sustained capacity-building, so that all countries can take part in the implementation process equitably.
7. COBSEA's [Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter \(RAP MALI\)](#) demonstrates how regional coordination can support national action and contribute to global goals. RAP MALI addresses both land- and sea-based plastic pollution, including abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while promoting science-based marine litter monitoring, also enabling conditions for success, including adequate cross-sector and regional and international cooperation.
8. Guided by the [COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027](#) and RAP MALI, COBSEA stands ready to enhance regional implementation of the future instrument through technical cooperation, coordinated regional actions in the East Asian Seas. Our work aligns with national efforts and reinforces global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda.

9. COBSEA will continue to catalyze actions that support regional and national delivery of the COBSEA RAP MALI and provide the regional mechanism for supporting planning, tracking and reporting on the COBSEA RAP MALI including its contribution to the future instrument and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

10. As we enter this final negotiation stage, we call on all Members to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. Let us move forward with resolve and solidarity to culminate an ambitious, practical and implementable instrument that protects our ocean, our people, and future generations.

Thank you.