Pre-submission on behalf of

INDIA YOUTH FOR SOCIETY

an observer organization from Visakhapatnam, India, works on plastic pollution (prevention and recycling) controlling marine littering

**Women and Marine Littering:**

Women being resilient in their households, communities, and professional front disproportionately affects India’s pristine eastern coasts. Women are known for their resilience, but little do they get equal opportunity to administer when addressing Global Issues.

An issue that looks as simple as waste segregation at the source can be a complex problem while collecting from households through public health workers. The mixed waste is segregated at later stages through local vendors, buying and selling them off for a meagre margin, and ultimately the chain, which results in the dumping of the plastics through the drains leading to the oceans. Though it is quoted as a gender-neutral role, a significant proportion of it is done by women, women of all castes, religions and many beliefs rooted deep in the Indian Traditional system. The Superstition of bidding a God or Goddess farewell in the ocean is considered sacred. Ultimately, the ocean spits tons of waste with a shower in the region.

The non-efficacy of monitoring the belief systems and superstitions has caused a major hard stop in a country like India, as women and families don’t take ownership or feel accountable as the general belief revolves around, “What difference can I make” and shun the outside world for being too responsible.

A mere strengthening of the policies would not be sufficient. Instead, the effectiveness has to be taken at scale by focusing on Governance and encouraging the communities by not blaming them for being the victim.