



JOINT ONLINE WORKSHOP
27 July 2023



**Proposed Action Plans to Combat
Marine Plastic Pollution**
in the areas of the
Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions

PRESENTATION OF DISCUSSION PAPER

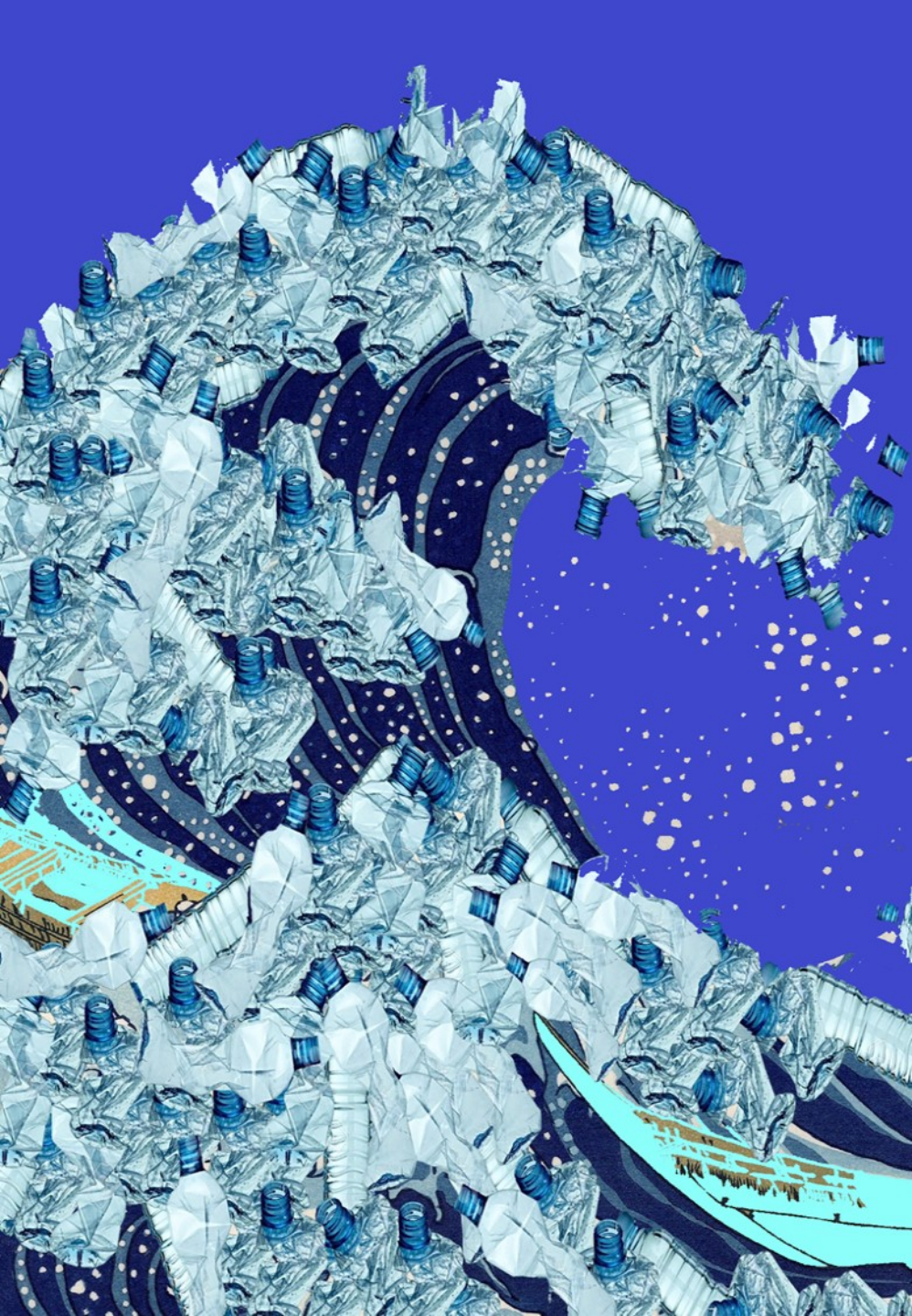
by

Kieran Kelleher

Consultant, Indian Ocean Commission



Abidjan Convention
Convention d'Abidjan

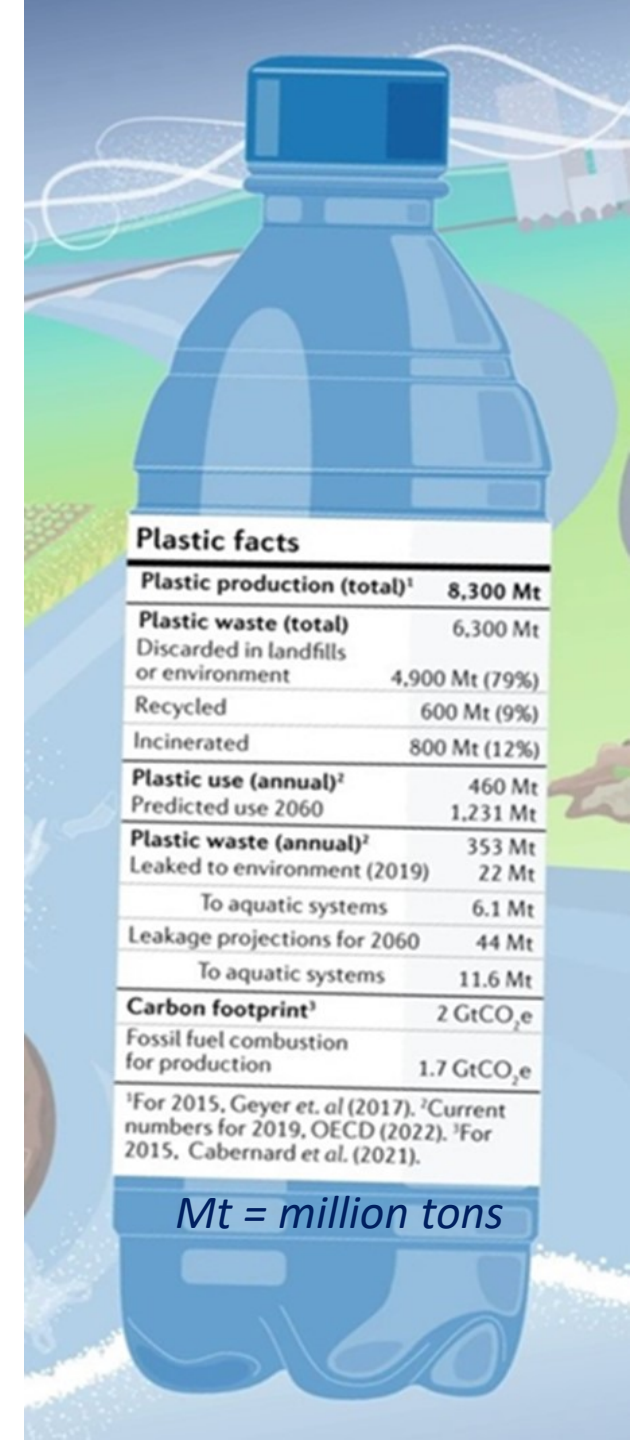


what is the regional dimension of marine plastic pollution (MPP)?

1. **what** is the ‘plastics problem’?
 - the changing plastics ‘ecosystem’
 - global and regional actions
2. **why** propose regional action plans?
3. **actions**: core elements of the proposed plans
4. **costs**: how can actions be financed?
5. **responsibilities**: what roles for regional actors?
6. **processes**: opportunities in regional processes?

Marine plastic pollution is part of a bigger challenge - **the 'plastics problem'**

- ❑ society is 'addicted' to plastics
 - production of plastic and plastic waste is **projected to increase** significantly
- ❑ plastic production and unmanaged plastic waste have **environmental, economic and social costs**
 - the cost of waste plastic is not included in the market price of plastic
 - the numerous plastics have a **complex global life cycles**
- ❑ the problems are
 - **how** to manage the plastic life cycle & mismanaged waste?
 - who takes **responsibility** along the value chain?
 - who pays the **costs**?



the plastic ‘ecosystem’

- ❑ **multipolar**: many types of ‘raw’ plastic, many products and uses, multiple decision points, decision makers and waste streams
- ❑ **SDGs**: plastic is important for many SDGs
- ❑ production uses about 8% of global oil & gas
 - annually generates at least 3.8% of global GHG emissions
- ❑ UNEA **plastics treaty** plans to address the **entire plastics life cycle** and the root causes of plastic pollution, not just the result – the waste plastic
 1. *UPSTREAM*: reduce plastic production and use
 2. *MIDSTREAM*: design ‘improved’ plastics, reduce microplastic generation, eliminate toxic additives, ...
 3. *DOWNSTREAM*: manage the waste, including microplastics



why propose regional action plans?

- ❑ the group of **African Indian Ocean Developing Island States** (AIODIS) requested the support of the Indian Ocean Commission to prepare regional action plans to combat marine plastic pollution (MPP)
- ❑ a number of **national plans**, policies, laws or initiatives already exist in Sub-Saharan countries, including baseline studies for all the AIODIS
- ❑ Africa's position in the UNEA 'plastics treaty' negotiations is to ensure the management of the **entire plastics life cycle**.
- ❑ the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions are already preparing (or have prepared) **regional action plans on marine litter** as a result of COP decisions
 - the 'life cycle approach' may stretch the mandates of the Regional Seas Conventions and
 - require effective engagement with other regional actors in the life cycle



what is the role of a regional action plan?

- ❑ a **platform** to engage RECs, the Regional Seas Conventions, the sources of finance and technical support, industry representatives and other key stakeholders at scale
- ❑ a **mechanism** to access and deliver investment and resources
- ❑ a means to **harmonise regional measures** on trade, fisheries, monitoring of pollution and shipping and
- ❑ a means to support **science**, technology and **circular economy** innovation and investment
- ❑ a way to transmit consensus actions to ‘higher’ **policy** levels, such as the AMCEN



pillars of the proposed regional action plans

- I. support for **national action plans** as core building blocks
- II. enhance shared regional **knowledge and capacity**
- III. develop regional **alignment** on:
 - a) **trade** measures and national regulations
 - b) responsibilities of **industry** (e.g. regional ‘polluters’ /waste mangers)
 - c) **regional consensus positions** in the plastic treaty, WTO Committee on Environment and other fora
- IV. access **affordable finance** to implement national action plans, including developing a circular plastics economy, raising awareness and other actions planned at national and regional levels



and establish **implementing arrangements** for regional coordination

I. support national action plans



regional support to facilitate development and implementation of national action plans, e.g.,

- municipal waste management financing models
- legislation on plastics
- consumer awareness
- EPR dialogues with industry
- other activities specified in the plan
- monitoring MPP & microplastics



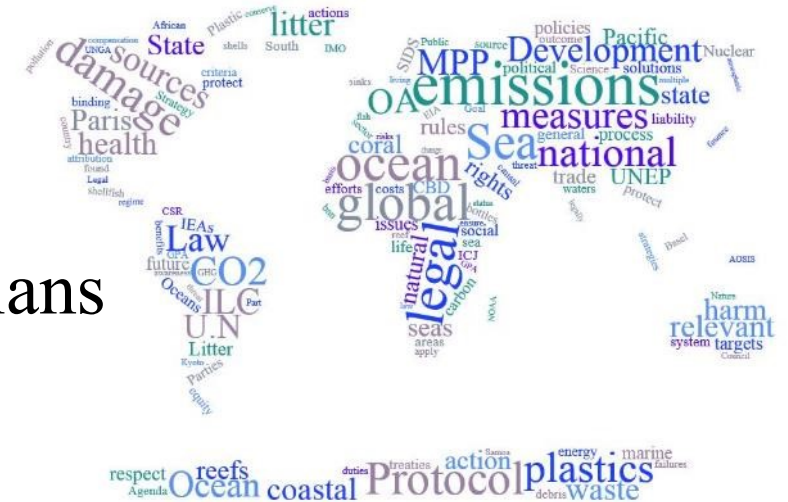
II. Shared knowledge and capacity building

- ❑ a transparent **reporting** framework on plastics
- ❑ **scientific advice**, possibly in a similar arrangement to that provided by the IPCC on climate change
- ❑ **technology** development, with measures to enable rapid and cost-effective sharing or transfer of technologies
- ❑ **capacity** building along the entire plastics value chain
- ❑ raised **awareness** – consumers, retailers, others



III. regional alignment - policies & approaches

- ❑ policy and **regulatory** frameworks
- ❑ **trade** in plastics and in plastic waste
- ❑ **financing** for national and regional action plans
- ❑ positions in **global fora**
- ❑ collaboration with **transnational industries**
- ❑ **circular economy** innovation and initiatives including recognition and development of informal waste management actors, intellectual property & technology transfer



III. regional alignment – example of trade

- ❑ create a ‘**regional market**’ for plastics and plastic waste management
- ❑ ensure **equivalence** in customs codes and tariff regimes, plastic standards product definitions, additives, labelling, extended producer responsibility
- ❑ establish a common position in the **WTO** Committee on the Environment and Basel Convention (rules on trade in plastic waste)
- ❑ *Example ...* extended producer responsibility:
 - **Fishing nets** – recovery - manufacturer/ importer responsibility (e.g. Seychelles purse seine nets / tuna boat owners associations)
 - **GRP (plastic) boats** – buyer/ manufacturer/ importer responsibility (France)

VI. Access affordable finance

- ❑ plastic waste management **investment** can include:
 - **solid waste management** investment - municipalities, private sector services, rural collection*
 - support for **circular economy** innovation & development
 - other activities in national action plans
- ❑ ideally, part of broader **blue finance architecture** that
 - aggregates demand for finance into a **regional blue portfolio** to provide the scale required to access major funding (e.g. climate funds), leverage different sources of finance, create synergies and reduce transaction costs
 - builds a **blue taxonomy** to link the investments to SDGs and to net zero targets
 - and to construct a common set of indicators across investment categories

* less than 50% of all waste is collected in the region; 60-70% is 'mismanaged'

implementation – who is responsible?

- ❑ everyone that uses plastic?
 - virgin plastic producers?
 - fishing gear importers?
 - packaging companies?
 - ?
- ❑ organisations
 - governments?
 - regions?
 - UN organisations?
 - industry organisations?
 - ?



what are the roles and responsibilities of regional actors?

RESOURCES



POLICY



ENVIRONMENT



FISHERIES/SHIPPING



roles of possible implementers

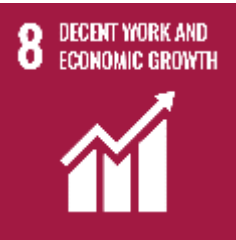
- ❑ **executors** the national and municipal authorities responsible for solid waste management, RECs on alignment of measures between countries and RECs,
- ❑ **private sector** – generators of plastic waste (e.g., manufacturer associations, users of plastic packaging) and the enterprises and organisations engaged in waste management (e.g., landfill operators, waste picker associations, recyclers)
- ❑ **financial partners.** commercial banks, international financial institutions (WB, AfDB), environmental funds (e.g., the GEF, FFEM, climate funds), development partners, impact investors , philanthropic foundations and others
- ❑ **facilitators** - institutions that can support or manage the design and coordination of the regional-scale financing arrangements., for example:
 - Regional: Economic Commission for Africa, the AU/AMCEN secretariat, AfCFTA Secretariat, Regional Seas Conventions
 - Global: World Bank (PROBLUE/ IFC), World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and many the others.



a way forward?

- ❑ the Regional Seas Conventions could continue & extend regional dialogues to advance the action plans along the entire plastics life cycle and value chain, including as part of their LBSA protocols?
- ❑ the RECs could ensure active participation in regional dialogues and foster alignment within and between the RECs?
- ❑ the IOC and others actors could explore means of supporting ongoing regional dialogues, cooperation and capacity building?





This presentation, links the discussion papers and background report on the AODIS will be made available on the IOC website

thank you, merci, obrigado

Kieran KELLEHER
IOC Consultant
kkelleherwb@gmail.com