

Our Ref:

Tel: 0302 - 666 049

Fax: 0302 - 688 913/ 688 663

E-mail: info@mesti.gov.gh

Website: www.mesti.gov.gh



Post Office Box M232 Ministries,
Accra
Ghana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GHANA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE LITTER AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

Ghana, in collaboration with Germany, Ecuador will host a dedicated International Ministerial Conference on marine litter and plastic pollution in September this year.

Plastic pollution is a global problem that requires global action – the status quo is not an option. Several UNEA Resolutions (3/7 and 4/6), as well as the UNEA Report on Global Environmental and Climate Risks, clearly show the extent to which marine and ocean plastic pollution has now reached. In the next 30 years we are said to produce four times more plastic waste than we did since the invention of plastic compounds. Today already 8 million tons of mismanaged plastic are entering the ocean every year, but our efforts so far have not kept pace with the upscaling of the pressure.

The three countries believe that with global value chains we need to have a common vision, establish a level playing field and focus on the whole life cycle of plastics to tackle environmental pollution.

In 2019, Ghana was selected as the first regional partner in Africa for the Global Plastics Action Partnership (GPAP) based on the bold initiatives that the country has taken to tackle the menace of marine litter and plastics pollution. Ghana's National Plastics Management Policy has signalled a clear demonstration of Government's commitment to deploy plastics management strategies that will clean and protect the environment, create jobs, and grow the economy.

The Partnership has created Ghana's National Plastics Action Partnership (NPAP) to support the development of a Circular Economy framework as the primary vehicle for reducing plastic waste and plastics pollution. These initiatives have projected Ghana as a regional leader and an ideal global partner in the fight against marine litter and plastics pollution.

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Ghana, Ecuador, and Germany are therefore teaming up to keep the momentum and the topics of marine litter and plastic pollution high on the political agenda towards reconvening of UNEA 5.2 in early 2022.

To this end the three countries have announced a panel discussion soon that will provide a closer look at these issues and the work during the intersessional period of UNEA 5. The 3 countries also plan to use the next one year to do regional outreach and work towards a broad acceptance and convergence on these topics.

Pollution of especially the marine environment is a global and transboundary problem affecting all regions of the world and is aggravating ever since. The United Nations Environment Assembly has, ever since its first meeting, dedicated significant attention to addressing the origins and possible solutions of this challenge. When environmental and social developments do not keep pace with economic growth in an interconnected multilateral world the need for common approaches arises with great urgency.

Germany had already put this topic on the agenda of G7 in 2015 and G20 in 2017 for the first time, developing actions plans to combat marine pollution by plastic. Living up to the expectations they have launched a global funding scheme to support concrete action on the ground in different regions of the world by measures at source starting at the very beginning of the life cycle of plastics.

Signed,

NASIR AHMAD YARTEY
HEAD, PUBLIC RELATIONS
Mobile No. 0244501808
Email: nasir.vartey@mesti.gov.gh