

4. THE EAS MANILA PLAN OF ACTION, 2018 LEADER'S STATEMENT ON COMBATING MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS AND 2019 CHAIRMAN STATEMENT OF THE 14TH EAS

Following the 2017 EAS Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative (2018–2022), the EAS Leaders' Statement on Combating Marine Plastic Debris was adopted in November 2018 in Singapore (see [Part 1, Section 4.2.1.2](#)).

This Leaders' Statement is structured like a legal instrument with a preamble and operative provisions. Importantly, the preamble emphasizes implementation of international law including UNCLOS as well as the SDGs. Operative provisions include the same three components as the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative, with more specific content:

(i) improvement of management of plastic waste; (ii) promotion of awareness, research and education; and (iii) strengthening of regional and international cooperation. It also adds reference to incentivization of the private sector, an element which is common to all action plans in ASEAN+3.

In November 2019, the Chairman Statement of the 14th EAS noted that a draft EAS Regional Plan of Action on Combating Marine Plastic Debris (RPoA) is currently being developed as a follow-up to the EAS Leaders' Statement on Combating Marine Plastic Debris. The RPoA is framed as complementing the ASEAN-led initiatives and aiming to:

- Improve communication and collaboration among countries and multi-stakeholder entities at the regional and international scale; and
- Facilitate the transition to a more systems-based approach to marine plastic debris management.

See: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535021.pdf>

It also emphasises ongoing work to enhance cooperation in preventing illegal transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes, working towards the goals set in the G20's 'Osaka Blue Ocean Vision', as well as the establishment of the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas in Bali, Indonesia.