

**Annex to the
Leaders' Declaration
G7 Summit
7-8 June 2015**



G7 GERMANY
2015 | Schloss Elmau

Think Ahead. Act Together.
An morgen denken. Gemeinsam handeln.

G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter

Overarching Principles

The G7 countries

- Commit to the improvement of countries' systems as a key goal of the action plan, to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter, including the below listed priority actions.
- Recognize that support through international development assistance and investments are important to combat marine litter and encourage both.
- Support development and implementation of national or regional action plans to reduce waste entering inland and coastal waters and ultimately becoming marine litter, as well as to remove existing waste.
- Share best practices, especially with developing countries, and encourage a similar call to action in other international fora.
- Recognize that, where available, the use of existing platforms and tools for cooperation will reduce duplication and take advantage of progress made (e.g. the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans) and therefore support their use.
- Promote individual and corporate behaviour change through public awareness and education to address marine litter.
- Recognize that prevention is key to long-term success in addressing and combating marine litter and that industries and consumers have an important role to play in reducing waste.
- Recognize that the need for removal actions is important, due to the vast amounts of litter already in the marine environment.
- Support the use of a broad range of policy toolkits and available instruments, including economic incentives, market-based instruments, and public private partnerships to support implementation of actions to effectively combat marine litter.

Priority Actions to Address Land-Based Sources

- Improving countries' systems for waste management, reducing waste generation, and encouraging reuse and recycling;
- Incorporating waste management activities into international development assistance and investments and supporting the implementation of pilot projects where appropriate;
- Investigating sustainable and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste, including micro plastics entering the marine environment;
- Promoting relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of disposable single-use and other items, which impact the marine environment;
- Encouraging industry to develop sustainable packaging and remove ingredients from products to gain environmental benefits, such as by a voluntary phase-out of microbeads;
- Promoting best practices along the whole plastics manufacturing, and value chain from production to transport, e.g. aiming for zero pellet loss;

Priority Removal Actions

- Identifying accumulation areas of marine litter and establishing an exchange platform on experiences in marine litter removal on beaches, riverbanks, seafloor, the water column and sea surface areas, ports and inland waterways;
- Supporting the removal of litter where it poses a threat to sensitive marine ecosystems, in an environmentally sound way, taking into account the socioeconomic aspects including cost effectiveness, thereby using best available techniques (BAT) and best Environmental practice (BEP) and engaging partners where possible;
- Assessing and analyzing removal data to support and target outreach efforts, potential policy options, and other means of preventing litter;

Priority Actions to Address Sea-based Sources

- Working to maximize the amount of waste delivered to port reception facilities and disposed of properly in accordance with Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).
- Identifying the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture which could contribute to marine litter, and implement pilot projects where appropriate (including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and end-of-life recovery) and take into account the expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ;

Priority Action on Education, Research and Outreach

- Promoting outreach and education activities leading to individual behavior change that can reduce the amount of litter entering the environment, internal waters and the seas;
- Supporting the initiation of a harmonized global marine litter monitoring effort and the standardization of methods, data and evaluation;
- Supporting the effort of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations to help understand the sources, pathways and impacts of marine litter; and
- Supporting and calling for additional research initiatives to address marine litter.