

# Phnom Penh Joint Statement on Prevention of Plastic Pollution in the Greater Mekong Subregion

We, the Ministers of Environment from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries - Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam - have convened to address the escalating crisis of plastic pollution impacting our communities, economies, and ecosystems. We focus on understanding the effects of plastic pollution and reaffirm our commitment to leading efforts on environmental protection, natural resources management, sustainable development and ensuring a healthy future for all citizens in the GMS.

**Recognizing** the vital economic, social, and environmental importance of the GMS countries and the impacts of plastic pollution on regional biodiversity, climate change, public health and livelihoods, we pledge to address this issue through coordinated comprehensive actions on plastic pollution.

**Acknowledging** the challenges experienced by current global plastic management efforts, we commit to build on national and regional successes, exemplified by Cambodia's "Today I Do Not Use Plastic Bag" campaign and similar campaigns in other GMS countries and built on the principles of circular economy and sustainability across the GMS.

**Appreciating** the free and open exchange and implementation of best practices and sharing of expertise within the GMS countries is a key avenue to promoting solutions to our regional challenges.

We declare our collective efforts to work towards the following actions in the GMS:

1. Strengthening policies to promote sustainable plastics management and enhancing exchanges on legislative frameworks and labeling standards across the GMS.
2. Upgrading infrastructure for plastic waste management through regional collaboration.
3. Promoting research and innovation to develop sustainable alternatives to plastics and improve waste management and recycling capacity.
4. Encouraging experience sharing on monitoring and assessing plastic pollution (including micro-plastics).
5. Adopting community-based approaches to engage and empower populations in combating plastic pollution.
6. Strengthening GMS-wide cooperation with regional and global initiatives and leverage support by engaging local and international organizations and participating in discussions.
7. Enhancing public and private sector awareness and engagement to foster a culture of sustainability through campaigns, and environmental education in curricula.

We call upon all stakeholders to join us in this vital endeavor and we are committing to enhancing cooperation in promoting the adoption of the global treaty on plastic pollution. This statement serves as our joint commitment to address the plastic pollution comprehensively and collaboratively for clean, green, and environmental sustainability.

