

BLUE CHARTER ACTION GROUP

COMMONWEALTH CLEAN OCEAN ALLIANCE

COMMITMENT ON TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEAN

To create change on the global stage, the UK and Vanuatu have brought together a group of member states to form the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA).

The CCOA is the Commonwealth Blue Charter “action group” to tackle plastic pollution in the ocean and great lakes.

The CCOA will operate within the Blue Charter framework, which sets the mandate, the clear level of ambition and the political will to drive the marine environmental agenda.

The CCOA notes the Blue Charter concern of “increasing pressures on the global ocean, inter alia [...] marine pollution, inclusive of plastic debris and micro-plastics”.

The CCOA members, have committed their intention to reduce plastic waste in the ocean, through one or more of the following:

- i. Take steps to eliminate all avoidable single-use plastic waste;
- ii. Significantly reduce single-use plastic carrier bags by 2021;
- iii. Ban the sale and manufacture of microbeads in rinse-off cosmetic and personal care products by 2021.

The CCOA members are encouraged to support and implement relevant global initiatives, such as the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, the UN Clean Seas Initiative, and the London Convention on dumping waste at sea to reduce the amount of plastic waste entering and staying in the ocean.

Resources, technologies and capacity building will be made available wherever possible to support those that need most help in tackling plastic pollution.

The CCOA is a pioneer initiative for tackling plastic pollution in the ocean and will share expertise and knowledge amongst its members and with others to drive global change.