

# Rationale on fighting Plastics

- In the last few years, warnings on the effects of uncontrolled and mindless use of single use plastic have grown increasingly;
  - According to UNEP, Plastic packaging accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste globally and much of it is thrown away within just a few minutes of its first use.
  - Global plastic production is estimated at 300 million tons/yr (UNEP)
  - Only 9% of the plastic waste ever generated has been recycled and only 14% is collected for recycling now (UNEP);
    - 3-8 millions tons/year are dumped into the sea.
- By 2050, the oceans could have more plastic than fishes (Report from Ellen MacArthur Foundation in partnership with the World Economic Forum)
  - In Oct 2018, scientists found micro-plastic-beads in all tested human bodies.
  - Indicabeads from cosmetics or from the broken waste plastics and synthetic plastic fiber will cause more and more pollution.
  - We only have seen the beginning of a much bigger problem when the ~150 million tons of waste plastics in the sea start to break down into micro-beads.

#### Where is the Right to the welfare of these animals?

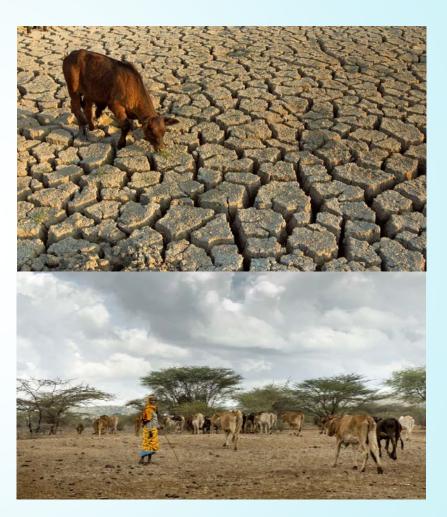


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Plastic pollution of the oceans is a major concern but the effect of plastic on climate change has not so far been in the spotlight

virgin and aged polyethylene, used in shopping bags, which are at the core of the single use plastic problem, are prolific emitters of these gases

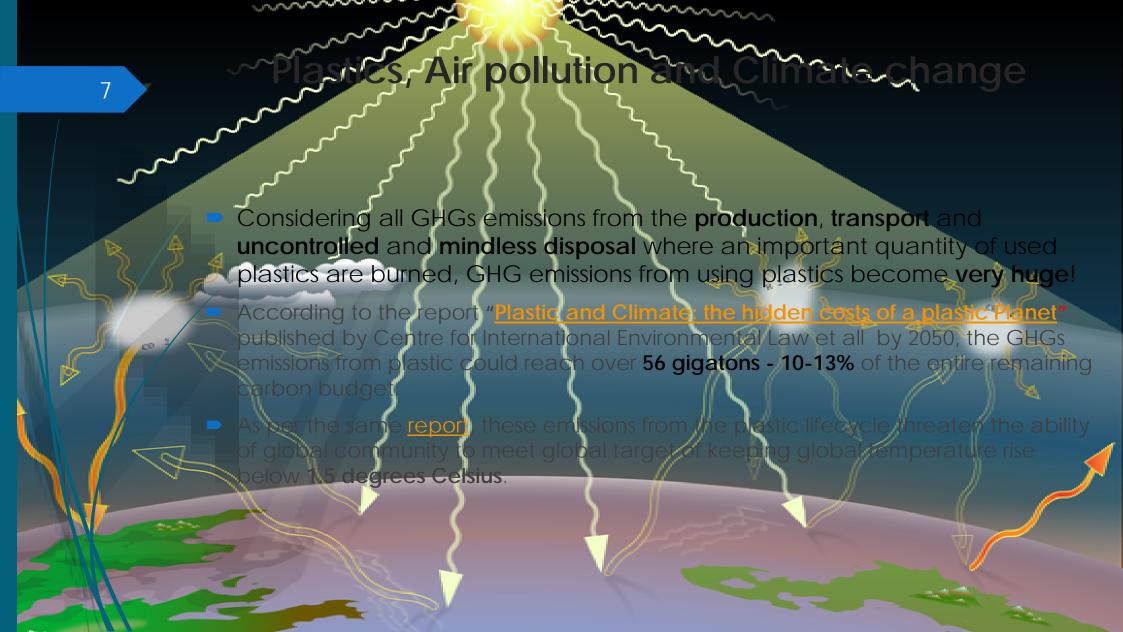


### Plastics, Air pollution and Climate change

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- Incineration of plastic waste in open fields is a major source of air pollution. About 12% of most municipal solid waste is made up of plastic. 40% of the world's garbage is burned. (<u>Toxic Pollutants</u> from Plastic Waste - A Review
- The burning of plastics releases toxic gases like dioxins, furans, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (better known as PCBs) into the atmosphere, and poses a threat to vegetation, and human and animal health.
  - Burning plastic also releases black carbon (soot), which contributes to climate change and air pollution.





It requires to change our mindset and to start with what is seen as small actions

Reduce: Reduce your own plastic waste

**Reuse:** Bring your own reusable shopping and produce bags to markets, and avoid using single-use plastic bags.

**Refuse: E.g.** Refuse straws: It's as simple as adding, "No straw, please" when requesting beverages at restaurants or cafes.

- Recycle: E.g. Collect plastics then turn into other usable products
- Replace: E.g. Bio-based Materials or Plastics From plants instead of petroleum-based



## What else to do?





- 2003 Winkly in charge of Environment assessed the problem of plastic Rwanda Adming negative impacts of plastic wastes in Rwanda (or sure plastic wastes) are general cleanliness, human health, agriculture productivity, water gradity, etc.)
- 2004: Government decided to ban plastic shopping bags,
- August 2004: Ministerial Instructions on the use and manufacturing of plast bags in Rwanda. Banned shopping bags of <60 microns.
- **2008:** Law N°57/2008 of 10/09/2008 reguling to the prohibition of manufacturing importation, use and sale of polymers bags in Rwanda. Extended to a packaging plastics bags, with penalty visions.
- 2019: Review of the Law to include sincle use plastics (Plastic bottles cups, plates, cutlery, etc.).

#### Where we are

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- The challenge Rwanda faces today is not plastic bags, but extends to all plastics especially "single use plastics".
- Single use plastics ban law already approved by cabinet and parliament waiting for HE's signature to be gazetted
- Investing in reusable alternative, like water dispensers, jugs and glasses is not only good for the environment, but also cost effective.
- Promoting innovation in alternative to plastics; recycling and re-use into other materials



Let's all Say No to plastics;

Sing No to plastics

Preach No to plastics

Lets raise our voice for the voiceless