

10-14 April 2022

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) NMUN Simulation\*



## Conference B

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# United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

## Committee Staff

Director  
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## Agenda

- I. Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics
- II. Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
UNEA/1/1	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/2	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/3	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/4	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/5	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/6	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/7	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/8	Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics	57-5-11

## Summary Report

The United Nations Environment Assembly held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastics
- II. Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The session was attended by representatives of 73 Member States and 0 Observers. On Sunday, the Committee began to debate the agenda order and ultimately through a tightly close vote set the agenda in the order of Topic 1 and then Topic 2. Once the agenda was set, the Committee began to discuss their ideas, and bring to the forefront methods to prevent and reduce maritime pollutants including plastics.

On Monday, after several suspensions for the purpose of debate, the delegates submitted 14 different proposals covering a wide range of ideas from addressing fisheries and fishing equipment, chemical waste pollutants, and plastic waste disposal. On Tuesday, the Committee embodied the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, finding spaces of common ground and combining their ideas to reduce the number of draft resolutions to 8.

On Wednesday after having discussed the draft resolutions the Committee presented its ideas. With draft resolutions accepted, the Committee submitted various amendments, all friendly and adopted 7 draft resolutions by consensus and voted to adopt draft resolution 1/8 by a vote of 57-5-11. The Committee then moved to discuss topic 2 and develop papers of discussion discussing new innovative economic models for developing circular economies in developing and developed countries. Overall, the work of the body was substantively strong and focused on achieving consensus.



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**Code:** UNEA/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Dramatically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastic

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*Fully alarmed* by the ocean pollution of the environment encompassing more than 70% of earth's surface and extends to depths beyond ten kilometers (National Center for Biotechnology Information),

*Informed* by the UNEP Policy Brief 001 from 2007 addressing the concern that in 2007, 13% of National Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) were protected, 45% of Marine key biodiversity areas were protected, as well as to environmental harm to over 600 species, 15% of which are endangered,

*Acknowledging* article 2 of the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matters (London Convention of 1972), which promotes individual and collective responsibility to preserve the marine environment and take effective measures in harmony through scientific, technical and economic activity,

*Recognizing* the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-Boundary Context (Espoo Convention), which defines "any impact, not exclusively of a global nature, within an area under the jurisdiction of a party caused by a proposed activity the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another party," to recognize domestic actions with trans-boundary impacts,

*Acknowledging* the Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Sea Area which states the need to protect the Baltic Sea from pollution of all kinds; and encourages the signatories of the convention to protect habitats for the sustainable use of maritime life,

*Recognizes* the Escazú Agreement, negotiated among nations as the recognition of the relationship between environmental protection and human rights, including but not limited to, "(i) access to environmental information; (ii) public participation in environmental decision-making processes; (iii) access to justice in environmental measures; and (iv) the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters,"

*Ensures* accountability by creating transparency through a secure, education, accessible database for information and Ecological Solutions (Sea Dies),

1. *Establishes* the development of an open-source database for voluntary information and solution sharing to better support all nations in information sharing on the protection of marine environments and prevention of pollution in the oceans, including, but not limited to:
  - a. *Suggests* member states to share information regarding State level production, pollution, percentages of recycling, microplastics, wastewater quality state of maritime health and any additional information regarding the state of the environment within their boundaries;
  - b. Technological advancements within private and public sectors;
  - c. Epistemic community research, including consequences, situation, and solutions;
  - d. Best practices produced by member states, including plastic bans, repurposed materials,
2. *Endorses calls for help* from developing nations through forums in which states, indigenous people, and private corporations, including MNCs, NGOs, thought leaders, and public entrepreneurs, can respond and connect:
  - a. Database protections will ensure informational credit to provider and requester, with specific restrictions on free information sharing by the receiver state without the approval of the provider nation;

- b. Calls upon the *United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology* to develop cyber security protections against cyber attacks and data breaches of the technologies and user information;
  3. *Suggests* community forum for individual global citizens to confirm their rights as well as learn more about early warning systems concerning the risks to human health from the current condition of maritime pollution of maritime pollutants and daily actions to prevent irreversible health effects:
    - a. Shares medical advice from epistemic communities and Doctors Without Borders to encourage private citizens within each nation to take precautionary and preventive action;
    - b. Supports citizens in their engagement with the process of overcoming health risks by giving them informative tools to protect themselves, including but not limited to infographics, preventative information, etc.;
    - c. Provides that governments also have opportunities to produce public information campaigns to achieve this goal, or partner with the UNEP to inform all public on health and reporting opportunities available to them, supporting member states by sharing technology through access to an online database, through the addition of accessibility members to provide support to states, including the *Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries*;
    - d. Recommends the allowance of United Nations technologies through the UN Missions to allow global citizens of developing nations without the privilege of internet access to use publicly designated computers to research the previously published reports through the United Nations digital library, as well as use the report forum through the website to raise concerns of problems of pollution in their home communities;
  4. *Calls upon* public-private partnerships to engage with the solution creators on the topics regarding the ocean and surrounding environments, with greater stakes and influence to developing designs and information sharing to their own benefit with data sharing and awareness by:
    - a. Including technological advancements of individual Member States, the database helps facilitate sensitive information sharing through a protected database;
    - b. Encourages multinational corporation investment through opportunities working to reduce trade barriers, such as lack of technological resources, distance, lack of expertise, language barriers, finances, and lags of information access;
    - c. Develops an international page for corporations to market and discuss ideas as platform for information sharing;
  5. *Implements* a dispute settlement and advisory board to protect and ensure the responsibilities of of information sharing under the UNEA, with support to the already existing operations of OECD, and successive organizations, intending to advise and protect against misinformation spreading and to provide a public forum for countries to request fact review of information shared:
    - a. Attempt to work with NGOs such as Oceana, the Project AWARE Foundation, the Ocean Conservancy, etc., for monitoring, reporting and data collection;
    - b. Collaborates with the United Nations Committee on Information to support education and research fact-checking through a verification process which develops checks through which nations are able to view verified information by the UN Environmental Agency.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/2

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the sovereignty of all Member States as stated in Article 2.1 of the *United Nations Charter*,

*Emphasizing* the Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) of the *Basel Convention (1989)* which provides guidance for the minimization and elimination of plastic waste and pollution in the oceans,

*Bearing in mind* the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) 6 Clean Water and Sanitation and its target, 6.3, which pushes for the improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally by 2030,

*Fully believing* SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production and its target 12 as it supports developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production,

*Affirming* SDG 13 Climate Action and its target 13.b in its promotion of mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States,

*Viewing with appreciation* SDG 14 Life below water Target 14.5 - By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information,

*Committing* to achieving the vision of the UNEA-resolutions, the Oil Spill Prevention, Administration and Response (OSPAR) Convention aims to halt all forms of emissions to seas and lakes,

*Recalling* UNEA resolutions 3/7 (2018) and 4/6 (2019) which encouraged Member States to develop and invest in waste management practices and practices to reduce marine litter, especially plastic,

*Acknowledging* the non-profit organization RusPRO for its work in uniting some of the largest Fast-Moving Consumer Goods companies in order to reduce waste, develop collection and promote packaging recycling, and appreciating the launch of the waste segregation project EcoOtvét in 2020,

*Expressing appreciation* for already-developed technologies and scientists researching and working towards innovative solutions that aim to reduce maritime pollution,

*Noting* the need for additional education for specialists and citizens on the subject of maritime pollution,

*Expecting* that each country is best positioned to understand its own national circumstances and specific geographical features related to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Congratulates* Member States to ban or severely limit plastics in non-essential areas of human lives to minimize the plastic that could end up in the environment and pollute the oceans, including the following: single use bottles, plates, cutlery items, food packaging, and plastic bags, as efforts to do so through recent legislation in California, United States of America, has reduced plastic bag consumption by 71.5%,

*Keeping in mind* that the world's oceans are an additional source of mineral, biological, and other resources required for the social and economic development of nations,

*Alarmed* by the disparities between North and South countries in the effects of pollutants as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Snapshot of the World's Water Quality reports the greatest increase in exposure to pollutants are expected to occur in low and lower-middle income countries,

*Deeply concerned* about insanitary drinking water, lack of pipe water machines for the community, poisonous seafood due to contamination and breathing problems due to toxins coming from the pollution of the water,

*Further acknowledging* the threat maritime pollution poses to the entire global community as pollution leads to the deaths of about 100 million marine animals annually as per the Sea Turtle Conservancy, Information About Sea Turtles: Threats from Marine Debris, poses a risk to human health, and pollution can reduce Member State's economic productions, specifically in fishing exports,

1. *Suggests* special tribute to policies that address the irrational use of the world's oceans and maritime resources;
2. *Encourages* strengthening of pre-existing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) which are coordinating ocean plastic clean-up drives and stimulating waste separation culture in the society by advertising and promoting these organizations to the public;
3. *Requests* the promotion of scientific research for new technologies and alternatives such as the Cat-HTR (Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor) which is an advanced recycling process that has the ability to turn plastic into liquid oil or fuel, technologies that focus on the sustainable harvesting of resources on coastal zones and researchers who could study how artificial intelligence or already using biometric equipment could be transformed in a way that could reduce plastic waste from oceans;
4. *Suggests* for the improvement of wastewater treatment facilities in regions with facilities with limited or obsolete functioning through:
  - a. Collaboration between the UNEP and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and their Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions;
  - b. Encouraging Member States who receive World Bank funding to invest in testing treated wastewater alongside updates on wastewater treatment facilities;
  - c. Expressing support for United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) appeal for increased funding for clean water deposits to promote the health of children;
5. *Welcomes* all Member States to engage in multilateral action, especially those who share maritime borders;
6. *Recommends* Member States to shape waste management and pollution solutions to address possible side effects to smaller developing countries in their management of pollution such as:
  - a. Providing economic support for developing countries most affected by one countries' waste management;
  - b. Reducing the amount of waste dumped in the coastal borders of other nations;
  - c. Sharing technological and data-sharing advancements with other Member States;
7. *Encourages* the implementation of the Glacial Restoration, Education, and Employment Network (GREEN) branch of the two arm GREEN UNITED Framework through the UNEP, focusing on education and awareness for the purpose of preventing further maritime pollution by:
  - a. Inviting Member States to fund the following initiatives through voluntary contributions;

- b. Providing information that emphasizes the hazards of polluted water sources in regard to source to mouth in order to protect human health, particularly relating to the preservation of glacial habitats;
  - c. Implementing educational programmes for students to explain the right use of plastic and the consequences of maritime pollution;
  - d. Impose programmes for farmers and industrial companies about water pollution caused by litter and eutrophication into bodies of water such as lakes, oceans, rivers, and streams;
  - e. Set in motion clean up actions under the guidance of the United Nations and NGOs;
  - f. The integration of education about agricultural, renewable energies and waste recycling circular economy methods in school curriculum as a bottom-up approach, developed and taught in close cooperation with local initiatives by setting one day a month for circular economy topics, to create awareness about the issue and encourage the youth to proliferate their knowledge with their parents or guardians,
8. *Invites* Member States to create monetary incentives, in forms of which are chosen by the Member State, for start-ups and organizations who adopt sustainable plastic products within their borders, such as loans, tax breaks, grants etc.;
9. *Urges* UNEP in coordination with Members States, to collaborate with Multinational Corporations and support the least developed countries for implementation of technology in hardware sensors to directly detect a tentative oil leak, plastic and chemical waste, such as:
- a. Acoustic emission detectors which are used to identify defects in materials along with the detection of propagation and plastic deformation;
  - b. Fiber optic sensors which are used to measure strain, temperature, & pressure, and requires less energy and less release of greenhouse gasses compared to other machines;
  - c. SpringWell's WS1/WS4 that are cost-effective machines certificated by National Sanitation Foundation against common contaminated waters, including filtrating river waters, such as iron, manganese, and sulfur deposits;
  - d. Ultrasonic technologies that detect potential oil leaking during normal operational equipment supported by the astronomer and creator of ultrasonic technologies William Herschel;
  - e. Infrared thermography which detects radiation in the waters and Carbon Fiber-reinforced polymers installations that may not be visible;
10. *Encourages* all Member States to utilize more sustainable alternative products in order to implement the ban of the following pollutants:
- a. Single use plastic bags; which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture per year, thus contributing significantly to climate change, and are easily mistaken as food by marine animals, resulting in the death of 100,000 marine animals annually;
  - b. Plastic food packaging and plates; which often absorb chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), making its way through the food chain to human consumption, and when disposed of in landfills, release air pollutants such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide;



- c. Single-use plastic water bottles; which take 1000 years per bottle to decompose, and meanwhile leak chemicals into the environment that when consumed by human beings cause reproductive problems and cancer;
  - d. Plastic cutlery; which due to its small size, are difficult to be recycled, and thus easily break into microplastics, which pose health risks to humans and animals such as organ failure, intestinal blockages, infertility, hormone imbalances, and cancer;
  - e. Chemical fertilizers; which increases risk for a variety of human health problems such as methemoglobinemia, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes mellitus to those exposed, as well as create “dead zones” in the oceans uninhabitable to life;
  - f. Pesticides; which can lead to the development of health problems such as Parkinson’s disease, lung scarring, kidney failure, heart damage to those exposed, as well as contaminate human water sources and kill marine life;
11. *Calls upon* the UNEP to spearhead the creation of a conference that forges a formal event to begin or strengthen the bilateral or multilateral talks between Member States with technology and intelligence that may affect waste management or pollution and Member States who lack those areas modeled after the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's International Debt Management Conference;
12. *Further invites* local, regional and international research into the plant – based plastics (bio-based plastics), like lignin-based products with the cooperation of UN bodies such as the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to make sustainable plastic solutions for areas that cannot immediately give up plastic usage to be used as a transitory product.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, Including Plastic

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Aware of* the lack of substantial progress towards the achievement of SDG 6, developing effective waste and water management strategies is imperative to the health of the international community,

*Viewing with appreciation* past efforts made to coordinate regional and global maritime preservation,

*Highlighting* the Honolulu Strategy, which provided the basis for global collaborative efforts to reduce the harmful impacts of marine debris to ecosystems, economies, and human health worldwide,

*Recalling* UNEP/EA.1, /Res.6 (2014) which seeks to address the importance of Member States action when it comes to maritime pollution and its effect on the environment,

*Being aware of* the importance of international dialogue and profound collaborations to further implement UNEP/EA.2/Res.11 (2016) on marine plastic litter and microplastics and UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 (2018) on marine litter and microplastics,

*Encouraged by* United Nations Institute for Technology and Research's (UNITAR) efforts to educate youth and the global community on SDGs and prominent environmental issues,

*Calling attention* to the importance of knowledge and idea sharing to promote the unification of environmental efforts,

*Underlining* the significance of raising awareness on maritime issues to promote a green culture among the public,

*Stressing* the importance and incorporation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge regarding the environment within the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007),

*Acknowledging* that a substantial amount of waste is due to inadequate monitoring and management,

*Considering* the negative impact of the abandonment of vessels as seen by the 2019 statistics from the International Maritime Organization, (IMO), recorded that 474 seafarers on 40 ships were abandoned and the number keeps increasing every year,

*Recollecting* the resolutions UNEP/EA.4/Res.9 which discusses the limiting of single use plastics,

*Declaring* the relevance of protecting regional water bodies holds to the health of populations through the example of The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River,

*Having considered* Veolia, a Nongovernmental Organization, (NGO), that provides Waste management technical assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in order to accelerate action regarding the improvement of waste collection and management,

*Recognizing* the implementation of the 1998 Albanian Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center for the Mediterranean Sea, a task force with the goal of cleaning, reducing, and preventing chemical spills and waste in the ocean,

*Affirming* the importance of multilateral cooperation in efforts to reduce pollution in ocean gateway water sources,

1. *Invites* Member States to participate in regional networks that will come together in bi-annual conferences for informational exchange and sectorial problem-solving within their region regarding maritime pollution by:
  - a. Proposing possible segmentation of regions to be Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Oceania, the Middle East, Asia, and North America;
  - b. Noting that a main point of discussion can be chosen by each region for their conference regarding their own region's interest concerning, issues such as agricultural runoff, plastic pollution, maritime oil spill cleanup, etc.;
  - c. Inviting Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), NGOs, Industry Members and other relevant parties to participate;
  - d. Providing a platform to address recent issues regarding maritime pollution, exchange research and resources and identify emerging issues;
  - e. Promoting collaborations regarding coordinating efforts and plans to reduce existing pollution should be enhanced;
  - f. Recommending the establishment of regional Advisory Councils to collectively gather best practices and provide guidance for interested Member States;
2. *Recommends* the creation of biennial global conferences building upon the success of the regional conferences to share ideas regarding maritime efforts by:
  - a. Encouraging Member States to voluntarily share updates on policies, research, and resources, regarding agriculture, endangered maritime species, and human health in affiliation with maritime pollution to advance new policies and foster information exchange;
  - b. Providing Member States with a platform to share issues limiting them from achieving proposed solutions to enable participation based on previously successful policies;
  - c. Inviting Member States and NGOs to participate in these conferences to voluntarily collaborate and clarify progress made on maritime protection and preservation efforts;
  - d. Sharing information with the public, condensing and simplifying solutions/resolutions retained from the conferences by the state in which they are living by encouraging them to get involved, targeting especially academics studying in fields related to environment, sharing these steps via social networks and advertisements;
3. *Suggests* organizations within the UN, such as UNEP and UNDP, to voluntarily fund and aid member states in need of assistance to achieve proposed solutions mentioned during the global and regional conferences;
4. *Suggests* the creation of a mentorship program partnered with UNITAR that focuses on youth and marginalized group engagement and education regarding maritime efforts by:
  - a. Focusing on connecting youth and marginalized groups with NGOs to provide numerous opportunities to obtain first-hand experience in environmental policy, research, and leadership in order to further the development of career pathways;
  - b. Inviting youth and marginalized groups to discuss the 2030 sustainable development goals in relation to maritime pollution;

- c. Providing these groups with opportunities to organize, participate, and volunteer in community outreach events to further engage the public through which participants of these events could become involved in community service and creative exhibitions to increase awareness of maritime issues and promote a green culture;
5. *Endorses* the creation of Smart Ocean Choices (SOC), an educational programme which would:
  - a. Educate individuals of sustainable and ecologically-minded behaviors such as elimination of single-use plastics whenever possible;
  - b. Encouraging the implementation of a grading system for products based on percentage of recycled content in plastic products to advise the consumer of the sustainability of the product;
  - c. Educating agricultural sectors on best practices, such as ways to prevent fertilizer runoff, ocean eutrophication, and eliminating improper dumping of hazardous wastes;
  - d. Encouraging the establishment of public-private partnerships;
6. *Suggests* the creation of maritime pollution initiatives, including the population in the recycling of plastic waste in the ocean, in order to raise awareness at the same time of reducing maritime pollution by:
  - a. Inviting private companies to build partnerships with the evolved Member State and the UNEA, aiming to improve their eco-friendly reputation;
  - b. Endorsing the formation of a educational program centered around lowering the use of Single Use Plastic Ware globally by means of advocating for plastic alternatives such as bioplastic and compostable material and enhancing sustainable environmental behavior within the population;
  - c. Using the recycled plastic in the making of school products for children coming from underserved communities;
7. *Encourages* Member States to incorporate Indigenous Peoples and their expertise regarding the mitigation of maritime pollution by:
  - a. Promoting indigenous political representation, through the creation of hands on workshops putting forward the cruciality of Indigenous communities knowledge regarding the environment, at the regional, national, and international stage;
  - b. Conducting collaborative partnerships within Indigenous Peoples communities, given their permission to do so, in order to give training to non-Indigenous political representatives who are responsible for the national environmental plan;
8. *Advises* a program under the UNEA composed of environmental experts volunteering in indigenous communities to engage in routine checks on the environment in their areas with support for highly threatened and damaged indigenous territories;
9. *Encouraging* countries' corresponding NGOs to abide by standard business practices by implementing sufficient monitoring and maintenance of equipment that is submerged or near large bodies of water as suggested in the resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.9;
10. *Urges* Member States to follow the rules and regulations of the sea following the MARPOL 73/78 Protocol and avoid the abandonment of vessels;

11. *Suggests* the need to reduce single use plastic in various fields and recommend Member States to:
  - a. Recognize the significance of risks arising from the inadequate management and disposal of plastic and the need to take action;
  - b. Implement alternative biodegradable plastic by gradually replacing plastic in major cities and food chains;
12. *Further invites* all Member States to improve waste management systems, including plastic, through:
  - a. NGOs and IGOs such as Oceana, WasteAid, ProjectWet, or PlasticSoup;
  - b. Encouraging recognition of the work of waste pickers in a way that their employment would serve as a stepping stone for the collection of waste before they reach the maritime environment;
  - c. Making waste management sites more accessible by incorporating or redirecting the International Fund for Waste Management (IFWM) in order to help with the collection and transportation of waste;
13. *Welcomes* the use of pollution monitoring methods in order to track levels of micro pollutants and chemical levels over time through:
  - a. The Establishment of NGOs focused on the testing of local water resources on a regular basis;
  - b. Member State's Voluntary provision of data placed within a regional database;
14. *Suggests* the benefit of the expansion of these methods to create a network of willing stakeholders, equipped to respond to ocean chemical pollution in effort to collect a diverse multilateral task force;
15. *Calls upon* Member States to improve chemical waste management systems through:
  - a. The report of regional advisory councils;
  - b. Encouraging the categorization of chemical waste;
  - c. Emphasizing the of hazardous waste and advising for specific policies;
  - d. Encouraging the use of water filters, near runoff of mining and agricultural activity, coming from a biological origin such as biochar and agricultural byproducts, in order to absorb toxic contaminants in rivers.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/4

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the great threat for the maritime environment, which is imposed by wars,

*Alarmed* by the notion of the Future Agenda that if the current rate of plastic pollution entering the world's oceans remains unchanged, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050,

*Expressing its concerns* about the fact that illegal hazardous waste trade is still a very lucrative criminal activity that affects mostly developing countries, stressing the ineffectiveness of the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* (1989), the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (1998), and the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001), which all aim to control, supervise or ban the trade of said waste,

*Concerned* that the world's production of plastic has risen exponentially in the last decades so half of this plastic was produced since 2004 and currently more than 19 million tonnes of plastic leaks into aquatic ecosystems annually,

*Deeply concerned* that 80% of pollution in the ocean comes from land-based sources according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO),

Believing the use of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environment Fund to incorporate research, educational, and incentivizing measures and take note of developing nations' difficulties to contribute financially and nevertheless recognizes their need for support,

*Suggesting* an organization or framework that would assist all Member States lacking access to the resource/technology needed to distribute and dispose of waste, such as Greenpeace, Earth Institute Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (EICERC), and Earth Island Institute (EII),

*Observing* that inefficient subsidies by Member States for fossil fuel companies increase the incentives to use plastic instead of sustainable alternatives and thereby increasing pollution of our seas,

*Emphasizing* the importance of providing economic incentives to influence society to utilize sustainable alternatives,

*Noting* that under current UN agreements, only 3.4% of oceans, and only 1% of the high seas are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs),

*Further Recognizing* the impact and the growth of the United Nations Clean Seas Initiative and the Ocean Clean-Up Project, leading to the development of new international plastic-recycling regulations, for example, leading 8 Member States to ban microplastics or to the creation of the *Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)* and the *Global Commitment to the New Plastics Economies (GCNPE)*,

*Further Emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 71/312, *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action* which urges Member States to minimize or eliminate the development of single-use plastics and microplastic beads to reduce damage to marine environments,

*Applauding* the effectiveness of efforts to reduce plastic pollution by the European Union (EU) and many other Member States such as recycling reclaimed ocean plastic,

*Affirming* the fact that according to Just One Ocean, that about every piece of plastic that has ever been produced in this world is still out there,

*Taking into consideration* the Glasgow Climate Pact as the outcome of the COP26 in 2021 and the agreement contained therein to accelerate efforts to phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies,

1. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to prioritize the exploration or creation of sustainable alternatives to plastics;
2. *Encourages* the implementation of the Glacial Restoration, Education, and Employment Network for Uniting Nations to Impede Terror and Extend Democracy (GREEN UNITED) Framework which is a multilateral and inclusive initiative, through the UNEP, that focuses on prevention of pollution:
  - a. *Recommends* Member States provide information for consumers on ways to reduce waste through more sustainable practices;
  - b. *Fulfilling* an educational curriculum that acknowledges the dangers of chemical-contaminated watersheds that affect human health;
  - c. *Guided by* a study project investigating uranium run-off and treatment processes in order to keep natural water sources sanitary;
3. *Instructs* the Executive Director of UNEP, in close cooperation with other relevant bodies and organizations such as the International Maritime Organization and the International Programme on Chemical Safety, to produce an assessment report of the *Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions* to identify possible gaps as well as options for addressing them, based on the lack of specific requirements for distinguishing different types of waste, such as second-hand materials, used e-waste and other hazardous wastes, causing definitional loopholes regarding the difference between waste and non-waste, as well as the difference between hazardous and non-hazardous waste;
4. *Urges* Member States to implement legislation as appropriate that would call for clarity on production practices within the business sector;
5. *Strongly urges* Member States to enact legislation that would establish policy on environmental protection as well as the responsible use of natural resources and conservation by:
  - a. Identifying areas of priority and concern within the world's seas and oceans through the authorization of hotspot analysis in regions most affected by high levels of maritime pollution;
  - b. Emphasizing the need for the respective governments of Member States to take legislative action to form a path forward for a potential plastic-neutral future;
6. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue developing circular economic systems to phase out single-use plastics and to promote sustainable alternatives, in order to establish the infrastructure needed to support a comprehensive solution to the issue of excessive maritime plastic pollution;
7. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will implement biodegradable products in fishing vessels by implementing biodegradable products to replace the likes of fishing line and fishing nets on these vessels to ensure the safety of marine life;
8. *Endorses* Member States to consider the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) by implementing:
  - a. Article 194 that states all necessary measures that must be taken by adopting laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment from any sources;

- b. Article 213 that calls upon Member State to not only enforce their laws and regulations but also to implement applicable international rules and standards to reduce maritime pollution;
9. *Stresses* the importance of proper disposal of chemical and toxic waste and calls Member States to create strict guidelines in order to create cohesive international standards that:
  - a. Emphasize the SDGs, in particular, SDG 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water), are the most immediately impacted by marine pollution, but 12 (responsible production and consumption) and 3 (good health and wellbeing) are also influenced;
  - b. The SDGs that apply and are in the best interest of all Member States;
  - c. Urge Member States to create strict guidelines regarding chemical and toxic waste;
10. *Strongly encourages* the development of a multi-faceted framework which would support Member States unable to fully engage in sustainability due to political pressure, lack of resources and difficulty disposing of waste sustainably, by providing volunteer aid to Member States unable to domestically manage pollution through case by case assistance by technology and procedures by:
  - a. Developing continual trade routes for Small Island Developing Member States (SIDS), through which waste can be distributed to countries that frequently recycle, or provide volunteer aid to assist in recycling plastic waste into practical products with support from Greenpeace;
  - b. Suggesting with Member States high concentrations of closed bodies of water and rivers, accepting assistance from Greenpeace in using technology from organizations such as The Ocean Cleanup in netting and removing plastics from the waters;
  - c. Focusing on initiatives in collecting plastics and recycling them into artificial elements that protect and promote healthy ecosystems (i.e. man-made coral beds, oyster beds, sandbars or artificial banks), for coastal Member States;
11. *Recommends to continue* efforts to phase-out strategically and financially inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by:
  - a. Creating a monitoring program that observes who subsidizes what and in what way:
    - i. Clearly communicates otherwise hard to understand subsidies and putting more eyes on the issue;
    - ii. Accepting funding from the Green Climate Fund and executed by an international neutral team of 15 experts on the field from UNEA;
    - iii. Including a study about whether denying a tax deduction for removal costs and damages relating to oil spills and terminating certain provisions relating to enhanced oil recovery, producing oil and natural gas from marginal wells, and limitations on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas wells and increasing Value Added Tax on single-use-plastics towards 15% directed by the UNEP and with the option that individual countries that suffer from economic hardship can be temporarily excluded depending on an individual evaluation of the ECOSOC, would be an effective approach to decrease incentives to use fossil fuel based products;
  - b. Designing a step-by-step guide for Member States on how to implement efforts to phase-out strategically and financially inefficient fossil fuel subsidies;



12. *Encourages* cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a global maritime pollutant monitoring program that promotes the protection of oceans by:
  - a. Recording the current maritime pollution levels of participating Member States;
  - b. Monitoring the amount of maritime pollutants being produced by participating Member States;
  - c. Monitoring the oceanic cleanup efforts of participating Member States;
  - d. Making OECD data and records of maritime pollutants easily accessible to local governmental cleanup operations and NGOs to assist in their cleanup efforts;
  
13. *Suggests* the implementation of new direct policies and directives managed by the UNEP focused on repurposing plastic from the oceans as well as discussing plastic removal in order to be:
  - a. Leading every Member States to tackle their specific issues to commonly move forward, by taking account every Member State's main considerations concerning the impact of maritime litter;
  - b. Establishing a platform for NGOs, Startups and private entities to connect and share perspective, knowledge, funding and raising awareness about the issue;
  - c. Creating new global and regional conventions on the use of recycled plastics to make it more accessible to all Member States, focusing on the sharing of technologies and educational purposes;
  - d. Monitoring plastic in the aquatic ecosystem by using more AI;
  
14. *Underlines* the importance of the distribution of research, information, and knowledge across Member States in order to further develop the work on maritime pollution by:
  - a. Calling to discuss the disposal of financial resources contributed by Member States to the Environment Fund to be discussed at the next UNEA Summit in Nairobi, Kenya;
  - b. Proposing that the allocation of the financial resources within the UNEP body is distributed upon region-specific data collected in the UN technology bank, specifically data on pollution management;
  - c. Emphasizing the establishment of an international authority consisting of representatives of all Member States to overlook financial resources and their use;
  - d. Recommending developing the work of international organizations such as the UNEP Global Partnership for Waste Management to include maritime pollution issues in the waste management cycle;
  - e. Urging that the data, research, information, and knowledge collected to be democratized and digitalized for educational and innovative purposes in local, regional, and international scales;
  
15. *Welcomes* the international community to work multi-laterally with Member States and organizations like the Better World Campaign which can be essential in cleaning up plastic throughout the world by:
  - a. Implementing a volunteer-based program where Member States and civilians can volunteer their time to clean up plastics around the world;

- b. Investing in the necessary tools and technology to clean up our oceans ridding it of plastics, chemicals and other pollutants within the world including:
    - i. Partnering with NGOs like the Ocean Clean Up that works well with cleaning up oceans;
    - ii. Providing boats and clean up tools for volunteers;
  - c. Potentially implementing through the UNESCO;
  - d. Funding the Task Force through the Oak Foundation;
16. *Further invites* Member States to start campaigns explaining why higher costs for consumers of plastic and other fossil fuel-based products is legitimate by:
- a. Creating a global team of campaigners and researchers that is funded by the Green Climate Fund:
    - i. Studies the costs of pollution that arise for example by cleaning up the waste that already exists, reducing tourism that affects the economy of countries that heavily rely on the income of tourism, the more complex treatment of wastewater to generate clean water and fewer fish in the ocean and the resulting less productive fishing grounds;
    - ii. Studies the costs that would arise for consumers due to the higher costs of fossil fuel-based products to clearly communicate the impact on the end consumers;
  - b. Helps to create two reports with UNEP about the true costs of pollution by fossil fuel-based products with the first one being for Member States and what they can do and the second one being for citizens of Member States and what they can do;
17. *Strongly urges* Member States to effectively visualize the reports in an easy-to-understand manner and make it accessible to Member States' representatives and consumers by displaying the visualizations at the best locations:
- a. Through researching the supply chain to find out where most plastic leaks into the environment and focusing the campaign on these places;
  - b. And creating marketing campaigns to reach as most people as possible.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/5

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Taking into consideration* that chemical and plastics are some of the main concerns on the issue of maritime pollution and that the improper disposal of chemical and hazardous waste into water sources is contributing to clean water scarcity,

*Recalling* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 3/5 (2017), 3/10 (2017), 4/8 (2019) and 4/10 (2019), all working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems through sound management of waste in all its forms,

*Alarmed and concerned* with the fact that according to the 2022 *Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, only 21% of freshwater and 8% of oceans are protected areas, thus emphasizing the damage done to water bodies such as ocean warming, acidification, plastic and chemical pollution as well as other human waste,

*Recalling* the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* (1992), the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (1998) and the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001), which offer guidelines and restrictions on waste management, as well as the fact that illegal hazardous waste trade is still a multi-billion criminal industry according to the Basel Institute on Governance,

*Further guided* by the *Stockholm Declaration* (1972) and Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 (2021), which states that the right to a healthy environment is a basic human right, that 150 states have already recognized as well as enjoying constitutional protection in more than 100 states,

*Alarmed* by the fact that uranium pollution jeopardizes the health of a vast population, marine life, and the biodiversity of oceanic ecosystems,

*Guided* by the *United Nations Framework Classification for Resources* (2019) which outlines a legislation framework for sustainable use of uranium mines and environment protection,

*Noting* that due to the ineffective disposal of electronic waste (e-waste), hazardous substances including mercury, lead, and cadmium are harming ecosystems and biodiversity therefore causing avoidable damage to marine habitats,

*Considering* that UNEA's *Global Chemical Outlook II* (2019) reports adverse impacts from chemical and toxic waste have not been minimized by 2020 and the UNEP's *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment* (2020),

*Concerned* with the fact that, according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's *A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future* Report (2017), the textile industry accounts for 20% of the world's water pollution and clothing sales are expected to triple by 2050, as well as the need for an immediate transition towards circularity in the fashion industry,

*Acknowledging* the need for proper indemnification from larger organizations and from the private sector for the damage done to the environment following the Polluter Pays Principle and environmental taxation, following the path of successful European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive (2000) and other EU environmental taxation, amounting to 2.2% of EU GDP,

*Underlining* the importance of internalizing the cost of environmental damage through new environmental taxation strategies, based on already existing policies such as carbon pricing, which is a fundamental approach to reaching the *Paris Agreement* (2015) goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and on UNEP's *Study on the Effects of Taxes and Subsidies on Pesticides and Fertilizers* (2020), which gives insight on the effectiveness and design of said taxes,

*Noting with concern* that, according to the One Planet Network, 80% of all tourism takes place in coastal areas and that in-land and urban tourism contribute as well to a great portion of plastic pollution ending up in rivers and the oceans,

*Recognizing* that “eco-aware” customers travel more frequently than average customers, making sustainable hospitality practices more attractive and economically beneficial,

1. *Encourages* Member States to assess chemical pollution at sea by:
  - a. Supporting regional cooperation for assessing the use of chemicals for industrial processes considering their leakage to the environment and high risk of lack of clean up processes in developing countries;
  - b. Supporting cooperation for reducing harmful chemicals used by private companies within daily life products such as but not limited to cleaning products, paintings and clothing;
2. *Encourages* Member States to implement strategies on the most common ocean polluting chemicals by:
  - a. Focusing on substances of very high concern such as cancerogenic, mutagenic, bio accumulative, toxic substances and endocrine disruptors, having hazardous effects on human health linked with developmental, reproductive, brain, immune, and other problems;
  - b. Following implemented strategies that promote the use and transition to sustainable chemicals like the EU's *Chemical Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment* (2020), which is calling for a ban of most hazardous chemicals in consumer products by 2030 by including priorities such as accelerating identification and control of said chemicals;
  - c. Acknowledging the importance of campaigns of prevention education to bring focus on the use of chemicals in the industrial sector so as to stop this problem at the source rather than having to repeatedly clean up said waste;
3. *Calling for* the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to evaluate the impact risk assessment of chemical concentration exposure in water by:
  - a. Expanding the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment* (2020) for evaluating the cancer risk probability due to contaminated water and the concentration of hazardous chemicals in consumed products that can bioaccumulate in animals;
  - b. Considering to add the health risk for dioxins and furans, which are chemicals with the ability to bioaccumulate in the marine biota, evidenced to be cancerogenic;
  - c. Offering recommendations such as exposure limitations and food and water consumption caps to policy-makers and stakeholders;
  - d. Supporting potential further research focused on the impact risk assessment of the concentration of chemicals in the water and potential solutions to protect human health and safety;

4. *Encourages* the implementation of a Glacial Restoration, Education, and Employment Network for Uniting Nations to Impede Terror and Extend Democracy (GREEN UNITED) Framework, through the UNEP, which under the GREEN branch of the two-arm initiative would invite fellow Member States to assist and guide less developed states in chemical and uranium clean up by:
  - a. Leading research initiative into uranium run-off and clean up procedures to maintain sanitary natural water sources;
  - b. Assisting in education that will allow for the containment of chemical and uranium pollution to protect the health of all humans;
5. *Encourages* Member States to pass extended producer responsibility regulations that:
  - a. Mandate producers to finance the collection, recycling, and potential disposal of the waste associated with their products in order to manufacture, sell, or house their product within a Member State;
  - b. Allow Member States to focus on other aspects of reducing maritime pollution, such as awareness campaigns or educating the youth, by freeing up funds, legislation, and time previously earmarked for recycling or waste clean up;
6. *Suggests* the establishment of strategies, more specifically encouraging cooperation between third parties and public private partnerships, to contain hazardous substances derived from e-waste by:
  - a. Utilizing recycling firms which specialize in e-waste generated globally such as Enviroserve, which recycles 1,000 tons of e-waste within its region annually helping to prevent the pollution of groundwater by hazardous chemicals;
  - b. Investing in research that will focus on the separation or containment of hazardous substances from e-waste;
7. *Encourages* Member States to implement national taxation strategies on textile industries aiming to reduce microplastics and toxic chemicals releases in the oceans and other water bodies, specifically private sector companies promoting a “fast-fashion” consumption model and participating in a linear economy model as well as profiting from environmental damage, such as:
  - a. Recognizing and implementing the Polluter Pays Principle in water usage following methods such as but not limited to water-pricing policies and regular water analysis to ensure quality of wastewater;
  - b. Imposing a fix tax rate, which would be yearly revised, to companies whose production does not respect a certain percentage of sustainable materials such as fabrics and dyes, as well as sustainable production processes;
  - c. Implementing wastewater pollution trading systems guided by the carbon pricing emissions trading systems already in function in some 40 states;
8. *Suggests* Member States to implement strategies to reduce pollution from the textile industry by:
  - a. Prioritizing the use of eco-friendly fibers such as but not limited to hemp, linen, organic cotton and other cellulosic fibers and decreasing dependance on synthetic fabrics like nylon and polyester;
  - b. Focusing on fibers life-cycles, especially synthetic fibers and their release in the environment;

- c. Supporting the incorporation of affordable secondhand clothes markets;
  - d. Reinforcing infrastructures for wastewater management;
9. *Encourages* Member States to incentivize the reduction of plastic waste produced by the tourism industry, especially within the hospitality and cruise sector which is needlessly dumping vast amounts of harmful waste into the ocean by:
- a. Promoting participation in sustainable practices by implementing responsible management of trash and waste onboard cruise ships and disposing of waste only in regions that have the recycling capacity of this waste;
  - b. Implementing national incentives such as increased international publicity that will draw in eco-conscious tourists supporting the tourist industry monetarily, who want to reduce their waste and carbon footprint while traveling;
10. *Endorses* collaboration between Member States in regard to the creation of innovations and new technologies to mitigate maritime pollution as well as supporting multinational NGOs and corporations by:
- a. Encouraging developed Member States to redefine their relations with less developed Member States by progressively reducing their dependance on the international waste trade, more precisely plastic and other hazardous wastes banned by the *Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions*;
  - b. Encouraging Member States with enough means to put in place innovative technologies through sharing patents and knowledge while supporting less developed nations encouraging the prevention and reduction of litter in the oceans, rivers or lakes by using processes such as plastic degrading enzymes.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/6

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Acknowledging* the importance of the UNEA Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities Resolution, which aims at moving towards a pollution free planet,

*Guided by* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) upon the protection and restoration of the oceans for the future within a sustainable manner,

*Cognizant* of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which highlights the global need for all Member States, especially those considered developed, to provide financial assistance as it relates to international issues such as marine litter,

*Acknowledging* the success of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Environment Fund in helping Member States to receive funding for improvements in their environmental policy and fostering sustainable and fair growth,

*Recognizing* the success of the Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML), especially its Mediterranean Node, and of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in facilitating coordinated efforts for regional marine clean-up,

*Noting with appreciation* the UN Food & Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (2019), which encourages Member States to utilize gear marking as one method to reduce and recover maritime pollution, particularly plastic in the form of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG),

*Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 4.7 that calls for all learners to gain knowledge of sustainable development, such as drastically reducing marine litter,

*Affirming* SDG target 9.5 in its support of scientific research, as well as SDG target 14.A in its efforts to increase the capabilities of marine technology, preparing Member States to reduce the pollution caused by their economies and ease their transitions to sustainability,

*Expressing its concern* about the rate of plastic and chemical pollution worldwide, particularly the Fukushima nuclear incident, and remaining committed to SDG target 14.1: preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of SDG target 14.2 protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and avoiding significant reverse impacts by helping Member States take action in its clean-up and restoration,

*Recognizing* the crucial role social media plays in public awareness about maritime pollution, especially in reaching youth, in accordance with SDG 17 which highlights the importance of youth participation,

*Appreciating* the success of the course hosted by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in conjunction with Generation Amazing and the State of Qatar in utilizing sports as an outreach tool for increasing youth participation in promoting the SDGs and sustainable consumption patterns to reduce all waste including plastics,

*Acknowledging* the structure that formal education systems can provide for cultivating knowledge and building awareness about the environment, especially maritime pollution, on an individual basis beginning at a young

age, for example, the requirement of compulsory Environmental Education for all levels of formal education for adolescents in the Republic of India,

*Aware* of the rapidly growing world population resulting in increasing pollution rates worldwide, as well as Member States' limited resources, in the pursuit of reducing maritime pollution,

*Further acknowledging* the importance of gender equality in developing policies that address maritime pollution, and honoring vulnerable stakeholders such as women and children who experience disproportionate exposure to pollution and resulting health risks, as well as their roles in waste picking for clean-up efforts,

*Concerned* with the disproportionate burden that maritime pollution presents to developing Member States, as a result of the production primarily from developed Member States,

*Noting with deep concern* the oil spills contributing to maritime pollution and destroying the lifespan of oceanic species,

*Fully alarmed* of the imminent explosion of the oil tanker SAFER off the coast of Yemen and the similarities it holds with the vessel Trinity Spirit which recently caused environmental degradation off the coast of Nigeria,

*Firmly convinced* that creating a UN Treaty on plastic pollution will urge Member States to collaborate on a holistic level, will help meet the SDGs and will address this growing issue,

1. *Underlines* the importance for members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to commit to reaching the Official Development Assistance target to achieve progress on global issues that reduce marine litter, including plastic;
2. *Establishes* an international award honoring particularly significant research in regards to reducing maritime pollution and reducing plastic debris in the oceans, to create further incentive for developing countries to strive toward conducting high quality research and increasing the quota of researchers per one million people:
  - a. The award shall be given to a Member State by a panel of experts for exemplifying its commitment to global goals and progress on addressing key issues relating to maritime pollution;
  - b. Encourages UNEP to facilitate an exhibition showcasing the work done by such Member State, within the award recipient Member State;
3. *Encourages* the expansion of the UNEP Environment Fund to include the specific goal of facilitating research to replace single-use plastics with viable alternatives, reduce already existing maritime pollution to an absolute minimum and find viable solutions to remove plastics from the environment entirely, and which encourages voluntary contributions from private and public actors, as well as willing and able Member States;
4. *Insists* all willing and able Member States prioritize the internationalization of environmental programs, such as the "Source-to-Sea" program, which seeks to reduce the amount of debris that reaches the ocean through the installation of floating barriers to stem the flow of debris from rivers to oceans, by:
  - a. Motivating Member States to create community-led systems where the barriers are installed that will responsibly dispose of the collection of the debris accumulated in them, such as the mechanisms used by the Ocean Clean Up solution;



- b. Further encouraging the full implementation of said programs and collection systems by the year 2032;
  - c. Suggesting the UNEP Environment Fund provide donations to enhance Member States' involvement in this program, especially developing Member States, ensuring its proper allocation with annual monitoring of the development of the program;
5. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with private sector organizations in order to reduce worldwide ocean pollution by:
  - a. Emphasizing the need for increased cooperation between Member States, especially between developed and developing Member States, to promote capacity building and facilitate knowledge-sharing and technological transfer, with the goal of reducing marine litter;
  - b. Highlighting the importance of the private sector organization to implement sustainable consumption and production practices in order to prevent marine pollution;
6. *Suggests* Member States work in conjunction with the World Bank Joint Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL) Technical Assistance Programme in the pursuit to diversify their energy sources with the goal of relieving the reliance on off-coast oil mining sources as a way to reduce marine litter;
7. *Urges* all Member States to put aside political disagreements in the case of life-threatening environmental concerns, such as unmaintained vessels threatening to generate significant maritime pollution, with the potential to destroy biodiversity across Member States;
8. *Endorses* the creation and implementation of international guiding frameworks which will provide a vision for public and private corporations to reduce and recover marine litter, and recommends the inclusion of solutions such as:
  - a. The international standardization of gear marking for fishing equipment under the guidance of the FAO's gear marking frameworks set forth in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (2019);
  - b. A ban on all bottom-trawling equipment to be implemented and complemented by the mandatory cleanup of all previously disposed gear from private groups;
9. *Recommends* that regional organizations provide a platform for regulatory agencies in each Member State to participate in coordinated clean-up efforts and develop plans for waste management and the reduced use of plastics, and that are cognizant of the specific needs and capabilities of each region;
10. *Calls for* UNEP to establish an ad-hoc committee to focus on stronger planning of population growth and/or managing the growth of its population in accordance to the available natural resources, considering carbon emissions originating from human activity cause ocean warming, acidification and oxygen loss of maritime wildlife:
  - a. Offering the freedom for the committee to negotiate with each Member State a schedule for its meetings, though at least one meeting should take place every six months;
  - b. Invites Member States to send a report of each meeting with the Committee to the Executive Director of the UNEP;

- c. Further encourages Member States, on their first meeting, to establish goals in accordance to each Member State's Gross Domestic Product per capita in agreement to the overarching goal of the further development of the United Nations Circular Economy Action Plan;
11. *Encourages* developed countries to take accountability to reduce their cross-boundary impacts on maritime pollution by:
  - a. Investing in innovative plastic alternatives and waste processing to avoid plastic from entering the waste stream in accordance with the goals of SDG 12, Sustainable Consumption and Production;
  - b. Internalizing production waste to remain within Member States' boundaries of those responsible for the waste;
12. *Further encourages* Member States to introduce legislation to reform waste dumping practices by:
  - a. Encouraging Member States prohibit the use of single-use plastics and other non-biodegradable materials, while further promoting sustainability;
  - b. Promoting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the education and public awareness upon municipal waste and the harmful effects upon oceanic biodiversity;
  - c. Stressing the UNEA resolution 1/16 on "Marine Plastics Debris and Microplastics," specifically paragraph 14 upon waste management practices;
13. *Recommends* all Member States implement compulsory Environmental Education into all levels of formal education to develop in every citizen the fundamental duty to protect and actively better the environment;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to assist the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in furthering the expansion and implementation of the Recycling Schools Program to bolster Member States' national education curricula, which will focus on providing adequate education material regarding the need to drastically reduce marine litter, including plastic;
15. *Urges* Member States to utilize their Marine Preservation Areas (MPAs) as educational settings for regionally-divided school programs by:
  - a. Offering field trips in MPAs adapted to each age group of student to promote youth education;
  - b. Making access to MPAs easier through accessible pricing, transportation and promotion of sustainable ecotourism near MPAs;
16. *Invites* Member States to create mentorship programs, in collaboration with UN bodies such as UNITAR, which focus on connecting youth with NGOs and other civil society organizations with the goal of providing youth with firsthand experience working with experts in maritime pollution and involved in efforts for the clean-up;
17. *Further encourages* all initiatives addressing maritime pollution do so in a way that prioritizes equitable outcomes and gender equality, by providing stakeholder input and accessible job transition, particularly for vulnerable stakeholder groups such as women and children who experience disproportionate exposure to pollution and resulting health risks in their roles in waste picking for clean-up efforts within Member States;

18. *Further* reminds Member States to delegate resources toward the advancement and protection of indigenous people and vulnerable societies in their lands by ensuring outreach of technology and education regarding environmental awareness;
19. *Encourages* Member States, especially those that are considered developing to utilize and implement the CounterMEASURE programme which will aid in the reduction of marine litter, explicitly plastic within bodies of water such as rivers and lakes which drain to our oceans;
20. *Appeals to* the UNEP Executive Director to create and promote social media initiatives, such as the global campaign *Team Seas* created by social media influencers and endorsed by Ocean Conservancy, which raised USD\$30M to remove 30M pounds of plastic and trash from water bodies all around the world;
21. *Further urges* all Member States to create a UN treaty on plastic pollution which will harmonize goals between Member States and set a universal action plan:
  - a. Member States will set a global marine litter data reporting system that will help unite the world's marine pollution data;
  - b. Provide additional support to implement waste management facilities with primary focus on top polluting countries;
22. *Supports* SDG target 14.C, in accordance with UNEP, dedicated to cleaner water through proper sanitation methods for sustainable use of the ocean's resources:
  - a. Calls for a ban of single use plastics in favor of using biodegradable substitutes in all UN Member States;
  - b. Endorses a wide scale use of *pestalotiopsis microspora*, an edible fungus that degrades plastics without the need of oxygen or sunlight, in landfills to prevent plastic run off into the ocean;
  - c. Urgently requests coastal member states to remove radioactive residue dumped by various sources through the installation of reverse osmosis filtration systems on all new and pre-existing vessels;
23. *Encourages* UNEP to work together with willing and able Member States and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) to create national agriculture strategies that ensure food safety, sustainable growth, prevents fertilizers from spilling into rivers that flow into the ocean, and halts the emergence of further dead zones due to massive blooms of microscopic algae;
24. *Calls for* the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to assist all willing and able Member States to create national frameworks for the 2030 Agenda, which should among others include:
  - a. A structured multi-sectoral approach highlighting collaboration in the public sector through provisions of human and logistic resources with private sector partnerships geared toward sustainable business practice strategies;
  - b. Civil society through specialized partnerships for sustainable action towards plastic reduction facilitated by local governments within Member States.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/7

**Committee:** United Nations Environmental Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Aware that about 150 million metric tons of plastic are in the ocean and seas, and 8 million more tons are added every year along with countless other waste items,*

*Fully believing that the decrease, and eventual elimination, of single-use plastics and microplastics will prevent further damage to our oceans and seas,*

*Having considered that every Member State is different, economically and geographically,*

*Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 14, promoting the protection of oceans and seas,*

*Acknowledging UNEA's first session, in which it called on Member States to develop national and regional action plans to reduce marine litter,*

*Affirming UNEA resolution 1/6 (2014), which encourages governments to take comprehensive action to address the marine plastic debris and microplastic issue through legislation, enforcement of international agreements, education, and public awareness programs,*

*Recognizing UNEA resolution 3/7 (2018) which encouraged Member States to develop and invest in waste management strategies to reduce marine litter,*

*Recalling UNEA Resolution 4/6 (2019) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Clean Seas Campaign that discusses the severe impact of plastic marine litter and the urgent need to reduce marine litter, and also aims to make citizens aware, engaged and active in fighting improper waste management,*

*Fully aware of the Honolulu Strategy (2011) which provides a common framework, for planning and monitoring tools for maritime issues,*

*Acknowledging the extent of marine pollution, how it affects human health, and the avenues in which pollution enters regional bodies of water differs amongst Member States; therefore, action plans may vary by region,*

*Remembering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Target 3.9 which seeks to lower deaths from water contamination,*

*Considering the general assembly resolution UNEP.EA.4/RES.11 which focuses on protecting marine life from land-based activities while achieving SDGs 13, 14, and 15,*

*Recalling the 2016 Paris Agreement which is an international legally binding treaty between 196 Member States on climate change,*

*Calling attention towards the 2018 G7 Summit Ocean Plastics Charter and the direction of waste management,*

*Reemphasizing the need for Marine Protected Areas that was acknowledged at the Grenelle de la Mer Ocean Summit in 2009,*

*Keeping in mind* the need for Member States to communicate with their industries to track and address areas of high ocean pollution,

*Expressing concern* about the global matter of clean water scarcity affecting 2.7 billion people annually as a result of water overuse due to the barrier between sound policy and accessible data under SDG 6,

*Emphasizing* the importance of scientific research in the pursuit of protecting oceanic waters,

*Recognizing* the UN article *Reducing Single-Use Plastic Pollution: A Unified Approach* that talks about the efficient reuse of plastics for Member States,

*Recognizing* that 10% of marine litter consists of discarded nets which entangle marine life and lead to the further collapse of our aquatic ecosystems,

*Noting* the hopes of achieving SDG 9 and 11 regarding sustainable infrastructure and sustainable cities,

1. *Appreciates* Member States who further fund environmental protection projects and initiatives based on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions relying on the earmarked and environmental funds allotted to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) by the year 2050;
2. *Advises* Member States to partake in the production/manufacturing of biomass-based plastics where possible (made with materials such as hemp or flax) offering an alternative to petroleum-based plastics to include:
  - a. A reallocation of funds to support the transition to the production of bioplastics, throughout the manufacturing process;
  - b. Education programs on alternatives to petroleum-based plastics, especially in areas lacking clean water accessibility and/or otherwise requiring single-use plastics;
  - c. Encouragement for innovative startups and local companies with government help, to facilitate the circularity of plastic use of already existing plastics and avoid the production of new ones;
3. *Further recommends* all Member States create a summit consisting of open forums and discussions with fellow Member States pertaining to the implementation of plastic incentives to motivate citizens and corporations to choose a more degradable choice and provide a clear economic solution for recycling by:
  - a. Creating an individualized tax plan for willing and able Member States that will apply to plastic packaging components imported and single-use plastic products used in stores and restaurants, and in the case of some developing countries, suggest a tax for the importer; UNEA believes that using a portion of profits made from the tax on single-use plastics and taxes placed on imports and exports that are not reusable and/or compostable go toward maritime solutions for plastics pollutions;
  - b. Encouraging consumers to buy sustainable products made with recycled materials by increasing taxes on products made with over 25% non-recyclable materials, henceforth, reintroducing the 3Rs (reduce, re-use, and recycle) with Member State's citizens;
  - c. Implementing deposit incentives for the recycling of disposable bottles by the creation of community-based programs within Member States countries;

- d. Recommending the creation of plastic banks or plastic exchange stores that collect single-use plastic bottles and exchange funds in return, located in urban centers through Member States and NGOs;
    - e. Decreasing direct subsidies on fossil fuels in order to increase the price of plastic production to incentivize production of plastic alternatives;
  4. *Suggests* that the UNEP's Global Partnership for Waste Management work with the United Nations Technology Bank with the goal of digitizing, collecting data, and spreading awareness on innovative measures being taken by Member States to prevent further maritime pollution;
  5. *Urges* the UNEP to ask for cooperation of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and UN-Oceans to partner and establish a fund for the creation of a databank that focuses on:
    - a. The collection of information about region-specific marine pollution in hopes to highlight the regions in need of the highest levels of collaborative support;
    - b. The building of professional expertise in regional and local prevention measures;
    - c. Supporting the local educational entities, e.g., primary schools, colleges and universities, to spread awareness and facts to younger populations;
    - d. Research and development purposes in further prevention and clean-up action against marine pollution;
    - e. Ensuring equal opportunity for all identities to access information, education, and professional usage;
    - f. The distribution of earmarked and environmental funds in local and regional areas based on the data collected;
    - g. Providing an annual report to highlight the data collected on those benefits specific to their regions and actions that could possibly be taken;
  6. *Encourages* the UNEP to request the IOC-UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) to partner with the World Health Organization (WHO) to expand their research by:
    - a. Establishing a research forum for regional blocks to share effective methods for combating pollution as well as data concerning human health based on regional characteristics and risks shared amongst these regional blocks, to better aid in overcoming region-specific issues pertaining to maritime pollutants;
    - b. Focusing on the consequences to human health as a result of microplastics entering the food system in order to better understand how to combat existing threats to health created by plastic maritime pollution;
  7. *Fully* supports Member States in developing partnerships between the private sector, local communities, and other stakeholders to identify and implement innovative solutions to support SDG 14 especially:
    - a. SDG 14.1, preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution;
    - b. SDG 14.7, increasing the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;

8. *Establish* an intergovernmental negotiating committee to produce a global legally binding agreement to address marine plastic pollution with the goal of concluding negotiations by 2024;
9. *Encourages* Member States in developing institutions such as:
  - a. The Pacific Community Center for Ocean Science, which supports access to and the development of science, including traditional knowledge, research capacity, and marine technology as the ability to access and interpret data is crucial to advance science-based and innovative action;
  - b. Educational programs for Pre-K to primary school in order to educate the youth about the dangers of maritime pollution and integrate them into a green culture;
10. *Recommends* the creation and expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by Member States to encourage the management and monitoring of oceans and the preservation of fisheries by:
  - a. Encouraging Member States to build a network of reserves in developing countries to increase the amount of fully protected areas throughout the world;
  - b. Suggesting increasing education on sustainable fishing and boating practice;
  - c. Furthering efforts of preservation and restoration of biodiversity in marine ecosystems by limiting human activity in these waters;
  - d. Recommending the implementation of protective measures such as PVC pipes at coastline beaches as repositories where monofilament fishing lines, nets, and anchor ropes can be disposed of to decrease the number of maritime debris;
  - e. Promoting the protection of marine species through the creation of artificial reefs that create a living habitat for fish and other marine species that have been pushed out of their original habitat;
  - f. Calling upon the UNEP for the creation of a report of potential MPAs throughout the world and specifically in Member States with biodiverse and endangered marine life in order to add to existing locations;
  - g. Advising the designation of areas to be used as research facilities for data collection or green technology development;
  - h. Encouraging Member States to evaluate areas within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) to add MPAs to target and support industries that are contributors to the EEZs;
  - i. Suggesting all willing and able Member States to allocate funding and resources to projects that preserve and protect affected marine areas and protected marine areas;
11. *Recommends* Member States work with NGOS to enable the participation in advertisement production through the use of television commercials, banners, billboards, and social media, ensuring clear communication with citizens and improving visibility in maritime pollution;
12. *Advises* Member States to educate fishing communities through the Fisheries Training Program under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the damages caused by the discarding of nets into oceans which could still be reused or recycled, providing them with knowledge regarding the problems presently affecting the ocean ecosystem, which their industry relies on;

13. *Supports* Member States' recoveries of abandoned industrial and commercial fishing gear dumped in seas which form garbage patches that pose a threat to endangered marine species by:
  - a. Educating and raising awareness of the role commercial and industrial fishing gear play in maritime pollutants;
  - b. Contemplating the use of plastic catchers in the areas most affected by plastics to reduce them drastically;
  - c. Partnering with UN organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and as well as the UNEP to decrease implications of overfishing and the addition it has to fisheries waste in oceans;
  - d. Working with Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) to reduce and eliminate commercial and industrial fishing gear that is already present in those garbage patches;
14. *Suggests* Member States incorporate research and develop technology to combat plastic pollution in the oceans to further 2030 SDGs 13, 14, and 15 by:
  - a. Partnering with UN bodies such as UNEP and UNIDO to aid Member States in eliminating plastic waste from oceans through technological and scientific measures like plastic eating enzymes;
  - b. Supporting NASA's satellite technology that researchers have found to be able to measure the concentration of ocean plastic, which could aid in eliminating marine pollution;
  - c. Replacing common plastic products like plastic bags and bottles with newly found alternatives to plastic such as stainless steel, glass or lignin-based products;
  - d. Having these measures be available and distributed to all coastal areas by 2050;
  - e. Supporting the continuation and additional involvement from Member States in promoting and conducting sustainable alternatives including researching biodegradable alternatives to plastic that have similar strengths and properties to ease the transition away from plastic products by providing resources that act similarly while also being sustainable;
15. *Encourages* Member States to take steps in accordance with the UNEP Life Cycle Initiative such as:
  - a. Implementing smart trash collection containers that can detect how many plastics are recycled by a single person based on a personal identification such as an ID or a code;
  - b. Implementing container deposit laws, which involve the collection of a deposit fee with the purchase of disposable containers such as plastic bottles and metal cans, that would be returned should the container be returned to be recycled, with the creation of a program through the UNEP to allow developing Member States access to the resources required to implement such laws;
16. *Encourages* UNEP to hold a summit for Member States to discuss the Ocean Plastics Charter in relation to bringing forth more awareness towards developing countries with their needs to adopt G7 solutions in their civil society such as:
  - a. To combat the large amounts of waste production, to improve sustainable lifestyles, educate Member States, and create further coastal and shoreline action;
  - b. Enhance the G7 countries partnership with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the already annual IUCN and UNEP meetings, is suggested



from the UNEA to allow partnering countries to bring forward various reports in relation to progress on ocean clean-up;

17. *Encourages* Member States to work with the OECD's (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Committee on Consumer Policy (CCP) to create and promote laws pertaining to litter by:
  - a. Protecting rivers that flow into seas, beaches, pollutants emitted by ships, reduce marine litter, and ban ocean dumping;
  - b. Creating and exploring proper sewage treatments and eco-friendly wastewater treatments to ensure the reduction of metallic waste in the water;
18. *Supports* the creation of a UNEP programme, the Oceanic Protection and Environmental Research Action (OPERA) initiative which would:
  - a. Fund scientific research for the development and production of sustainable, accessible, and affordable plastic alternatives;
  - b. Share its peer-reviewed scientific findings for the use of climate protection and education with participating Member States;
  - c. Study the effects of microplastic pollution on aquatic ecosystems, such as ocean acidification, plastic chemical leaching, or marine animal health;
  - d. Be funded through public and private partnerships;
19. *Encourages* the UNEP-UN-Habitat Sustainable Cities Programme and the Global Partnership on Waste Management to form a partnership with the goal of creating an initiative that helps developing countries and growing cities to institute better city planning practices with an emphasis on efficient waste management.



**National Model United Nations • NY**

**Code:** UNEA/1/8

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastics

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*United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Noting* the importance of implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 climate action, and SDG 6 clean water and sanitation,

*Highlighting the specific importance* SDG 14: Life Below Water, and the importance of the marine ecosystem for global sustainability and developing a Blue Economy,

*Fully aware* that developing Member States are predominantly rural, natural-resource dependent, and decentralized Member States,

*Recognizing* the role of rivers, seas, and estuaries in contributing to marine pollution,

*Acknowledging* the importance of regional organizations, initiatives and institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGO) in managing pollution,

*Alarmed* that maritime pollution, from sources such as fishing, shipping, and other maritime industries, has increased levels of toxins and microplastics in the global water supply affecting over 3 billion people,

*Deeply cautious* of the struggle of developing Member States in eco-friendly transition due to economies that have yet to be fully established and governments that are striving towards establishing respect and authority among their citizens and the importance of technology in achieving this,

*Recognizing* that an ocean plastic credit (PC) is defined as an environmental commodity that represents the collection or recycling of one ton of ocean-bound plastic material, which can be transferred between organizations and Member States,

*Drawing attention to* the importance attached to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of Member States to cooperate to this end,

*Expressing* concern towards maritime pollution and the threat it poses to biodiversity, the climate and human health, and that the cleaning up of the oceans can only be achieved through coordinated global action,

*Recognizing* that a zero-waste community is attainable through inter and intrastate efforts in order to notably reduce waste and pollution, preserve value of materials, and minimize individual carbon footprints,

*Appreciating* the efforts made by developed Member States in implementing circularity in which citizens have successfully begun the transition to non-plastic alternatives and by indigenous populations whose close connection with nature facilitates sustainable living,

*Declaring* the importance of private sector inclusivity to minimize waste with importance in granting incentives to promote product longevity,

*Firmly believing* in comprehensive maritime security by monitoring discharge which will ensure free, open, and safe seas while engaging in bilateral agreements with Member States to ensure environmental protection with states sharing maritime borders,

*Acknowledging* that approximately 1% of the global GDP is invested into harmful subsidies that cause polluters to pass on some of the costs their production to the state and are having a massive impact on the fresh water supplies, oceans, and the environment,

*Recognizing* the European Union's (EU) Directive on Single-use Plastic as well as other Member States initiatives to ban those, helping to reduce the amount of easily preventable waste oftentimes ending up in the ocean,

*Taking into account* that driftnets tend to use plastic materials, leading to higher levels of plastic pollution in the ocean when fishers dispose of these nets,

*Concerned* that despite numerous UN resolutions condemning and abolishing large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing practices, illegal fishing practices continue to make up 25% of the global fishing catch, due to the challenges of enforcing regulations on the high seas,

*Noting with deep concern* the correlation with a decline fertility in many ocean species and through consumption is directly causing a decline in human fertility due to plastic chemicals such as Bisphenol A (BPAs),

*Recognizing* the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear aiming to reduce marine pollution from maritime industries,

*Taking note that the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter* (the London Convention) restricted the dumping of wastes in seas,

*Taking into consideration* article 215 of the *United Member States Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), which emphasizes the respect for pollution from activities in the area,

*Believing* in the work of the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* that acknowledges the importer-exporter relationship between developing and developed Member States regarding plastic waste, including the 2019 entry y48 in annex II that covers plastic waste,

*Reaffirming* the importance of General Assembly resolution 66/288 which emphasizes the importance of protecting biodiversity and the marine environment is crucial to fighting climate change as well as fishing in international waters,

*Having considered* the General Assembly resolution 71/312, "Our Ocean Our Future: Call Of Action" discussing the significance of accelerated action regarding the improvement of waste collection and management,

*Acknowledging* the framework proposed under the Honolulu Strategy, specifically goal B3 which emphasizes the strengthened implementation of industry best management practices (BMP) designed to minimize pollution from abandoned vessels, and loss of cargo,

1. *Recommends* for the allocation of resources to Member States' from their national budget to offer incentives to businesses to promote product longevity through:
  - a. Designating schools on engineering to encourage sustainable and innovative product design and research for alternative resource use;
  - b. Encouraging limitations in businesses for purchase on new origin single use products;

2. *Further invites* Member States to address the threat of maritime pollution by transitioning to an internationally recognized waste-picking sector by expanding the Regional Seas Programmes (RSP) through the:
  - a. Supervision of the Community of Ocean Action cooperating with initiatives like the Ocean Cleanup Project, financed by the Clean Seas Platform tasked with advocating, fundraising, encouraging, and aiding in the collaboration between the initiatives;
  - b. Incentivization the collection and retrieval of ocean plastic through facilitated pathways for the purchase of recycling plastic by developing Member States' industries;
  - c. Attention devoted to regional plans to collect lost and discarded fishing gear at sea, including plastic buoys, fishing nets, and traps in accordance with the SDGs;
3. *Encourages* Member States to incentivize fisheries to bring waste captured in the fishing process to shore for proper disposal or recycling by implementing:
  - a. Programs that price ocean waste with tax incentives above the opportunity cost of dumping caught trash back into the sea;
  - b. Port-based disposal sites to enable this waste to be recycled or properly disposed;
4. *Recommends* the establishment of an intergovernmental committee to support the collection of information on the abandonment of large-scale commercial fishing materials, as well as the locations of lost containers throughout regional seas by:
  - a. Marking the fishing materials in compliance with FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and further replicating this process for shipping containers;
  - b. Working towards more effectively recovering materials of containers and fishing gear debris, such as calling upon coast guards, oceanic NGOs such as Center for Oceans, Marine Fish Conservation Network and Fisheries Innovation Scotland, as well as positive impact efforts by corporations;
  - c. Encouraging Member States to set penalties or incentives to prevent the abandonment of these materials, as well as the voluntary sharing of geographic information to the fellow Member States;
  - d. Notifying Member States when abandonments occur so they may take proper recourse against the corporations responsible, leveraging international pressures to ensure their cooperation with retrieval of lost material;
  - e. Pursuing partnerships with the Plastic Free Foundation, Plastic Pollution Coalition, other NGOs, and the national Coast Guards to retrieve lost containers, or call for support in their retrieval in the case that a nation is unable to recover the containers themselves;
5. *Strongly urges* the response from regional groups to promote safe shipping conservation efforts in seas and oceans surrounded by Member States of their regional groups, including but not limited to African Group, Indo-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean Group, Western Europe and Others Group, and the Eastern European Group through:
  - a. Supporting the Member States' influence, such as through Coast Guard and other protections, within coastal states with jurisdiction over 12 miles off of their coastlines and 200 miles reserved for utilization of oceanic materials (living and nonliving) within their zone per *UNCLOS*;
  - b. Encouraging to Member States to use advanced technologies to promote oceanic plastic cleanup through collaborative efforts within regional groups, through collaborative multilateralism;

- c. Encouraging of public-private and business to business partnerships with multinational corporations, as well as NGOs such as The Ocean Cleanup, that promote ocean and river projects to finance such cleanup efforts;
6. *Recommends* the World Trade Organization (WTO) reopen negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade and Services to expand its goals to include a limit on the use of single-use plastic aboard vessels and encourage shipping fleets to develop sustainable practices by:
  - a. Expanding Article XI from The Negotiation of Specific Commitments, to include the requirement to have Member States decrease the number of single-use plastics and other maritime pollutants;
  - b. Strongly urging Member States to ban the use of single-use plastic on all shipping vessels that enter their ports;
  - c. Implementing “green corridors” in high traffic international shipping routes, particularly high-use canals, which add an additional cost to high-carbon emission and high-pollutant vessels;
  - d. Incentivizing Member States to implement solar power, hydrogen fuels, or other carbon-neutral propulsion, into their shipping fleets to reduce carbon emissions and chemical pollutants from vessels transporting goods;
  - e. Encouraging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide loans to developing Member States to invest in more sustainable fleets;
  - f. Supporting trade between developing and developed Member States to facilitate trade through lowering trade barriers and incentivization of investment in sustainable ships;
7. *Encourages* the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopt language that supports ports of constant traffic, such as the Panama Canal and Mediterranean marine entrances, to monitor and protect against entrances of illegal shipments through their ocean ways with the use of quality checks that establishes:
  - a. An international framework including the reporting of informal movement of toxic substances to the (United Nations Environment Programme) UNEP to be added to previously existing quality checks completed by port authorities;
  - b. Additional monitoring checks completed by the UNEP to monitor best practices are being carried out and provide support;
8. *Strongly encourages* Member States to strengthen their legal frameworks regarding illegal import and export of plastic shipments to prevent shipments of waste by:
  - a. Supporting new localized bans on illegal import of waste including plastic;
  - b. Encouraging collaboration between overlapping enforcement of national and international legislation and policy, in cooperation with domestic enforcement such as Coast Guard operatives with regard to the jurisdictions of the laws of the sea, including territorial sea up to 12 miles, and 24 miles off sovereign coasts defining international waters (according to the *Convention on Territorial Seas and Contiguous Zones*);
  - c. Promoting the local, state monitoring and transnational control of plastic waste shipments before and during the time that they are within the waters of a specific regional group or Member State;
  - d. Communicating any breaches of international law to the Member States for their awareness and encouragement to cease all activities wherever possible;
  - e. Calls upon the exporting Member States to support responsibility for illicit and detrimental effects of their systems, without concern for retribution as these systems are transnational;

9. *Endorses* collaboration between all Member States regarding the development of innovations and technologies that will establish an industry in developing Member States of retrieving ocean bound plastics with the focus on diverse ways of repurposing through:
  - a. Encouraging the sharing of technology between developed and developing Member States in order for local stakeholders and NGO's to efficiently extricate ocean bound plastic;
  - b. Establishing a certification and grading system led by the UNEP to set a common standard for authenticating reclaimed plastics;
  - c. Inviting Member States to develop their economies through the collection of ocean-bound plastics, where recyclable can be sold to the private sector to be reused to create eco-friendly products and orphan plastics are processed via emerging technologies to be utilized later in new applications;
  - d. Advocating for education as well as increased aid and resources for developing Member States for the advancement of responsible industry practices including waste management;
  - e. Urging Member States to provide economic incentives to private companies that collect ocean plastic to be sold for recycling industries in developing Member States;
10. *Calls for* the creation of the 'PC for the Economy Initiative,' a circular system of ocean PC trading utilizing the UNEP's four step Circularity Programme and processes outlined in UNEA Resolution 4/1, in which Member States and their private sectors will be incentivized to 'buy back' credit extending the life cycle of plastic while reducing their global plastic footprint by implementing:
  - a. A process in which ocean-bound plastic can be treated as and sold similarly to raw materials to recycling and repurposing industries in developing Member States;
  - b. Partnerships between Member States and private sector entities to facilitate cooperation in collecting and transporting maritime and ocean-bound plastic to diversify the economies of all Member States;
  - c. Plastic banks and other similar projects in developing Member States designed to turn plastic waste into raw material and rewarding the public;
  - d. A technology transfer of built and intellectual capital from developed Member States to industries of developing Member States by providing resources to implement eco-friendly and efficient modern recycling and repurposing facilities;
  - e. A system in which the private sector of developing Member States involved with repurposing ocean plastic will provide credit for retrieved ocean plastic that follows an international standard agreed upon and verified by UNEP;
  - f. National initiatives worldwide to educate the public on plastic's potential to be considered as a renewable resource if it is repurposed for industry instead of left unutilized in the environment;
11. *Imploring* UNEP to add the topics of the plastic credit system and developing Member States' recycling industries to the UN Oceans Conference held in Kenya that will expand knowledge on the 'PC for the Economy Initiative' by:
  - a. Inviting all Member States to participate in a discussion related to the certification process of plastic credits and the establishment of plastic repurposing as a central industry in developing Member States;
  - b. Inviting Member States, NGOs, companies and individuals to present their projects concerning the collection and retrieval of marine and ocean-bound plastics;

- c. Providing a forum for both developed and developing Member States to discuss best practices for private companies to ship retrieved ocean plastics to repurposing industries;
  - d. Helping the implementation of these projects through requesting access to the Green Climate Fund, as this expansion of the UN Oceans Conference falls within the classification of a new climate project;
12. *Strongly advises* all Member States to continue adhering to internationally recognized standards in their respective maritime sectors such as those outlined in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through:
- a. Encouraging the responsible expansion of fishing and shipping industries in developing Member States through the use of shipping materials from sustainable sources, the prevention of overfishing, and elimination of pollution causing practices such as ghost fishing;
  - b. Pursuing cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), Clean Shipping Coalition (CSC), Global Maritime Education and Training Association (GlobalMET), and other NGOs to bring awareness to irresponsible maritime industry practices;
13. *Calls upon* all Member States to support the global implementation of restoration and conservation plans with a focus on waste and wastewater treatment through the establishment of an international treaty discussed in a future UNEP Oceans Conference, to be scheduled in their upcoming agenda, that will:
- a. Share best practices and create voluntary development aid partnerships;
  - b. Set an average international wastewater treatment goal of 20% among developing Member States and 90% among developed Member States by 2030 to minimize the spread of ocean pollution;
  - c. Cultivate exporter-importer relationships through developing waste management infrastructure in developing Member States, thus preventing excess waste from accumulating to the point where improper disposal into waterways becomes unavoidable;
  - d. Foster cooperation with NGOs committed to providing substantial discretion to subnational, community-level, and customary authorities;
  - e. Support innovative projects such as artificially constructed wetlands to treat sewage, industrial wastewaters and stormwater runoff, aimed at prevention and reduction of litter in the oceans, rivers or lakes, for example, enzymes that degrade plastics collecting maritime litter; recycling litter in the oceans;
14. *Proposes* the creation of the Recycling Technology Transfer Oversight Committee (RTTOC) as a subsidiary body under UNEP that will monitor the operations and investments of developed Member States in the recycling industries of developing Member States, with the consent of both parties, to ensure bilateral benefit and track the universal plastic credit system that:
- a. Comprises of a team of experts on plastic credits approved by the UNEP to work on in investigative oversight task force who, once the RTTOC is established, will develop the terms of reference of the committee and determine its specific aims of operations in overseeing the plastic credit industry;
  - b. Publishes reports to UNEP, detailing the effectiveness of the plastic credit system undergoing ocean-bound plastic trade and identify potential imbalances in plastic credit accumulation between developed and developing Member States;
  - c. Intends to fall under the funding of the UNEP's regular UN budget and finance its operations through potential collaboration with aligning NGOs;

15. *Suggests* Member States increase resources and regulations dedicated to the enforcement of plastic management to prevent mismanagement and unequal management relationships between Member States by:
  - a. Taking a national level survey into the plastic waste management system, common in fractures and illegal practices, and analyzing that data to more effectively allocate resources;
  - b. Increasing personnel on port authority and plastic waste transportation agencies;
  - c. Increasing penalties for mismanaged plastic waste from both national and international businesses and organizations;
16. *Appeals* Member States to administer community-based programs in predominantly developing Member States where individuals can trade kilograms of waste, incentivized with necessary or monetary needs, in order to encourage clean ups, recycling, and minimizing waste within communities;
17. *Calls upon* Member States to support and aid in the creation of regional organizations, initiatives, and institutions such as the VeryNile Initiative and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative to research and remove waste from rivers, and inland bodies of water by:
  - a. Working with the UNEP contributing financially to regional institutions, initiatives and organizations focused on removing plastic waste from rivers, seas, and estuaries;
  - b. Promoting the deposition of waste from rivers, seas, lakes and estuaries into the ocean;
  - c. Promoting remote research on pollution in neglected non-oceanic waterways;
18. *Encourages* developed Member States to support building the capacity for effective monitoring and tracking of pollution in smaller Member States as well as in their own private business sectors by:
  - a. Urging developed Member States to provide incentives to their subsequent private sectors to begin comprehensively tracking and monitoring their plastic pollution;
  - b. Suggesting that the UNEP conducts reports that will encompass the effectiveness of Member States' efforts against maritime pollution, including data collection from major polluting Member States;
  - c. Ensuring companies substantiate claims they make regarding the plastic footprint of the products and services by using standard methods for quantifying them;
  - d. Imploring investors and consumers to pursue greener business practices while also reducing misleading impressions of environmental impact of services to ensure the validity and transparency of the UNEP reports;
  - e. Establishing Marine Protected Areas for the monitoring of oceans and preservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems;
19. *Encourages* education on maritime pollution by:
  - a. Inviting Member States to put forth monitoring and education campaigns to raise awareness of bioaccumulation of microplastics and their hazardous chemicals;
  - b. Calling upon NGOs such as Greenpeace to empower individuals to learn about health risk associated with interacting with polluted water within recreational water activities, such as the fishing industry;
  - c. Reminding Member States to ensure equal access to information and education independently of gender, ethnicity or social and financial status to ensure the objective of inclusion and to let talent prosper;



20. *Advocates for* all Member States to reduce the ongoing use of harmful subsidies that destroy the environment and pollute the oceans by:
  - a. Evaluating economic incentive structures through government audits;
  - b. Identifying areas for help and facilitating partnerships with UN organizations;
21. *Strongly encourages* Member States to abolish the manufacturing of all driftnets as well as other unsustainable plastic fishing nets or materials;
22. *Urges* Member States to reduce and replace unsustainable plastic fishing nets by:
  - a. Implementing biodegradable alternatives;
  - b. Increasing education and the accessibility of knowledge of sustainable fishing practices;
  - c. Developing deposit programs to incentivize the reuse and proper disposal of unsustainable fishing equipment;
23. *Suggests* Member States to phase out the production of all single-use plastics (SUPs) by the UN's goal of 2030 while:
  - a. Respecting the individual Member States' ability to restructure their production sector depending on the level of development and economic diversification;
  - b. Excluding SUPs that are currently irreplaceable such as those used in areas of medical practice or research;
  - c. Implementing efficient technologies for recycling single use plastics recovered from oceans and landfills for reducing polymer raw material for new purposes;
  - d. Considering the use of biodegradable materials for the production of bioplastics;
  - e. Urging Member States to ban the use of single-use plastic on all shipping vessels that enter ports;
  - f. Incorporating legislation Member States' for consumer responsibility in the private sector that penalizes inevitable damage imposed by their products;
24. *Encourages* Member States to foster the transition to a Blue Economy by engaging in stronger cooperation with:
  - a. The United Member States Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank's PROBLUE program to provide further funding and capacity building to implement international conventions, such as the 1972 *Convention for the Protection of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter*, subsequent regional conventions and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML);
  - b. Potential collaboration with the James Michel Foundation, Blue Prosperity Coalition, and similar NGOs to facilitate the exchange of best sustainable maritime industry practices.