



**Code:** UNEA/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Fully alarmed* that cars are the leading cause of three extensive ocean pollutants, responsible for 28% of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, 50% of oil leakages in the ocean through road run-off, and 78% of microplastics caused by tire debris and brake systems, therefore, the reduction of cars and forced car dependency is the reduction of ocean pollution,

*Affirming* the root of the problem in terms of three major ocean pollutants being cars and suggesting a fund aimed at reducing car infrastructure by means of promoting sustainable public transportation,

*Acknowledging* that the primary cause of ocean acidification is the absorption of carbon dioxide emission, which cars are the main contributor of, ocean acidification has threatened the fundamental change of chemicals in all ocean waters, thus threatening marine ecosystems with extinction as well as potentially causing irreversible effects that will impact all species,

*Supporting fully* Member States and their commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically its commitment to implement and enforce strong policies to mitigate climate change and reduce pollution,

*Reaffirming* the importance of Developing Nations taking a leading role in reaching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and achieving Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14,

*Underscoring* the international need to invest in sustainable public infrastructure such as high speed rail and streetcars for the interconnectedness of people,

*Observing* the inequality of expectations regarding growth, as Developed Nations have grown at the cost of unmitigated pollution and expect Developing Nations to grow sustainably without this opportunity in implementing sustainable development goals,

*Reaffirming* the danger of unmitigated pollution caused by the fossil fuel industry, as well as poorly designed transit and housing infrastructure,

*Encouraging* accessible solutions to sustainable growth by multinational funding for research and development of robust public transportation infrastructure,

1. *Supports* the development of rail-based public transportation globally, with an emphasis on Developing Nations, making the implementation of public transportation more accessible, thus making access to clean water sources globally secured:
  - a. Encourages the creation of a sub committee calling for and maintaining voluntary monetary contributions from Member States to be allocated only towards the construction of Rail-based public transportation infrastructure like high speed trains and streetcars;

- b. Contributing to the education of Member States which receive funds towards rail-based transportation and implementation to prevent Ocean pollution;
2. *Encourages* the development of rail-based public transportation infrastructure as a means of reducing carbon emissions, tire pollutants, as global reliance on cars as public transportation is the only way to reduce car usage, through:
  - a. The implementation of safe and viable walkable and cyclable areas in local communities strengthened by public transportation such as trains and trams;
  - b. The maintenance of UNEA-5.2 Resolution 9 which outlines promoting resilient living conditions including water sanitation, public transportation, and reliable housing that strengthen community by calling to fund the creation of more resilient communities that have access to robust clean public transportation;
  - c. The creation of a science-policy panel undertaking a “horizon scanning” to identify issues regarding chemical waste management and pollution prevention, this was identified in the Oslo Governance Centre study conducted by the UNEP, also aiming to address goal 9 from the UNDP by possible cooperation between the UNEA and UNDP;
3. *Suggests* mindful implementation of infrastructure, specifically the reduction of car traffic around sensitive environmental areas like shorelines to prevent Ocean pollution, particularly through:
  - a. Reductions in the amount of highways around coastal areas globally as to prevent oil pollution, and microplastic pollution in Earth’s Oceans caused by runoff from cars;
  - b. More sustainable transit like trains, trams, and pedestrian infrastructure near waters and suggests the prevention of future highway construction near waters;
  - c. Establishing that safe modes of transportation for pedestrians and cyclists, means creating safer bike lanes and pedestrian paths particularly in areas near prominent bodies of water in existing roads;
4. *Welcomes* Developed Nations to financially assist Developing Nations in creating sustainable infrastructure by:
  - a. Reminding Member States that sustainable development has traditionally been difficult to implement for Developing Nations, and that implementing sustainable infrastructure requires funding from Developed Nations;
  - b. Striving towards sustainable development through funding viable infrastructure that reduces Ocean pollution, such as longer lasting, multi zoning housing along with supportive rail transportation that is properly maintained and invigorates a community dedicated to green living and reduction of pollution;
  - c. Hoping for the accountability of other Member States to properly allocate and implement funds towards these public infrastructure projects.



**Code:** UNEA/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Underlining* the importance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in reaching the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development, amplifying efforts, and providing mechanisms through advocacy and education to bring about significant and substantial change,

*Recognizing* the continued historical collaboration by Member States and United Nations organizations in terms of climate action, present in the Rio +20 conference and the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

*Reaffirming* Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," which pursues public and private cooperation toward current climate change goals,

*Cognizant* of the financing needs of Member States and the necessity of sustainable and self-sufficient solutions to better address the needs of community organizations in implementing international frameworks and suggestions,

*Further acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 77/248, "Oceans and the law of the sea," which affirms enhancing collective action to safeguard the world's oceans and recommends greater awareness among the international community to promote tools for resilience against unsustainable practices, particularly among developing, landlocked, small island developing states, least developed countries, and coastal African States,

*Acknowledging* the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), which recognizes land pollution as a threat to marine biodiversity,

*Recognizing* the importance of the salinization of the aquifers caused by ocean acidification and rising sea levels, leading to the lack of freshwater for agriculture and human use, but still having flexible solutions based on the country's issues with salinization and seeing the issue from countries perspectives,

*Affirming* the work the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has done so far in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Member States, and other NGOs to preserve coral reefs and similar ecosystems around the globe,

*Emphasizing* the Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) that Guatemala has taken action by drafting a National Climate Change Policy,

*Further Recalling* the agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks,

*Concerned* with the dangers of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and the need to implement new initiatives to build resilience and stabilize the World's Oceans from the impacts of climate change,

*Recognizing* the significant role of marine protected areas (MPAs) that allow marine ecosystems to recover and thrive,

*Acknowledging* national efforts to protect marine environments, such as establishing new MPAs and programs to sequester carbon emissions through the protection of forests,

*Firmly convinced* in the necessity of a bottom-up, community-first approach to developing solutions to issues regarding the sustainable use of environmental resources to ensure the inclusion of stakeholders in initiatives that impact their lives and livelihoods,

Concerned with the flooding risks posed by rising sea levels to coastal communities, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

*Taking into consideration* the greater impact of climate change, the role of our ocean as a carbon sink which absorbs 25% of all carbon emissions, and our goal in accordance with the *Paris Agreement* of reaching net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 as well as, the rapid decrease in coral reefs,

*Acknowledging* a historic resolution to establish a legally binding international instrument to address plastic pollution and its marine impact was passed at the fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2),

*Recalling* The Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), commonly referred to as the the Ocean Dumping Act, establishes regulations that prohibit the disposal of substances into the ocean that could cause significant harm or pose a threat to human health and the marine ecosystem,

*Acknowledging* SDG 14, “Life below water,” particularly Target 14.7, which increases the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources,

*Considering* the global reliance on the oceans, as they provide over 178 million tons of seafood annually as well as providing trade routes to 80% of the world's global trade,

*Emphasizes* the importance of cyber technology, including the internet, social media, and news platforms, in relaying data and news on current events and situations regarding revitalization efforts and the status of the ocean's health,

*Recognizing* the importance of biodiversity and environmental conservation in terms of regulating climate and supporting millions of species and the urgent need for them to maintain resilience to promote the sustainability of biodiversity,

*Deeply conscious* of the devastating environmental impacts of single-use microplastics in cosmetic and cleaning products,

*Underlining* that sea level rise poses an imminent threat to coastal societies with low elevations, as well as understanding the negative impact unregulated foreign industry can possess regarding the overharvesting of marine species,

*Expressing* that the lack of safe and developed infrastructure like sewage and plumbing can be detrimental to the environment and exacerbate oceanic degradation,

1. *Invites* Member States to continue in the historical collaboration and follow the guidelines established in SDG 17 through cooperation and collaboration in the execution of equitable and responsible guidelines and goals for all various states;
2. *Strongly emphasizes supporting* the augmentation of Regional Sea Programmes by:

- a. Recommending the establishment of a fund from by which fellow Member States can draw at their own will in order to build environmental infrastructure;
  - b. Recommending the establishment of Regional Ocean Committees that will collaborate proportionally based on Member States' financial ability to monitor the health of the ocean (the committees will thus be grouped based on surrounding oceans);
  - c. Proposing a summit meeting every five years presenting our findings and scientific data to provide further long-term solutions addressing the issues of our oceans and this programme;
  - d. Establishing a conference every ten years to reevaluate the planification and advising strategies from the UNEA depending on each Member States financial and environmental capabilities;
3. *Calls* for member states to increase the amount of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Coastal Infrastructure and Mangrove Plans (CIMP), and:
- a. Advocates for a strong and robust maritime technical assistance program based on Singapore's Cooperation Programme (SCP) to be upscaled into an international effort (UNCP) as to:
    - i. Bring government entities, private sector leadership, and applicable NGOs and IGOs together at seminar/webinar workshops;
    - ii. Integrate evaluation mechanisms to ensure best practices in line with top industry standards;
    - iii. Pitch costs for state to fund recommended projects;
    - iv. Focus squarely on meeting the target goals outlined in operative clause 3;
  - b. Suggests MPA's increase marine protection from at least 10% to 15%, reducing the amount of human interaction with the sea;
  - c. Looks to begin implementing mangrove trees and shrubs on qualifying, high-need coasts to:
    - i. Prevent the coasts from newly eroding;
    - ii. Provide shelter to coastal marine life biodiversity that the mangrove plants have and will continue to deliver an environment for;
    - iii. Protecting water quality and creating a nursery habitat for fish;
  - d. Add living shorelines to coastlines along with Mangrove trees will further prevent erosion due to the natural occurrences from the sea while improving the habitat in terms of:
    - i. Identifying the most pressing locations for coastal protection;
    - ii. A carbon-storing mechanism incorporating the natural building blocks of nature;

- iii. Making it much easier to maintain than sea walls, with the added benefit that they improve themselves over time and are more affordable;
- 4. *Encourages* the reduction of overfishing impacts through collaboration and oversight with industrial markets and coastal communities by:
  - a. Promoting the necessity of mitigating trawling during annual repopulation seasons of marine wildlife;
  - b. Establishing overarching regulations to prevent overfishing, encouraging:
    - i. International oversight advisory council consisting of Member States that do not have fishing operations in the local sea to make sure regulations are followed;
    - ii. International ports to conduct inspections on fishing vessels and deny port services to offending vessels;
  - c. Increasing regulations on illegal fishing practices by:
    - i. Monitoring IUU fishing, fishing of overfished stocks, and fishing of unmanaged stocks;
    - ii. Continuing enforcement against illegal fishing activities in MPA's;
- 5. *Recommends* the spread and utilization of advanced waste-to-energy incineration plants in the efforts to impact plastic waste volume management as a means to prevent plastic ending up in the ocean while sustaining energy sources by:
  - a. Encouraging the adoption and implementation of Singapore's integrated solid waste management system, which focuses on minimization and recycling (52%), incineration of non-recyclable waste for fuel (45%), and burying the remaining 4% of waste in landfills;
  - b. Incorporating carbon capture and utilization research to regulate the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration for industrial processes after the incineration and other industrial processes;
- 6. *Stresses* the importance of developing and investing in international, non-partisan teams and in the domestic private and public sectors to conduct research and encourage the utilization of biodegradable materials to be used in the substitution of non-biodegradable plastics by:
  - a. Collaborating with different research institutes and companies (private, public, and NGOs) to lighten the financial and resource burden during the transitional period;
  - b. Emphasizing and prioritizing the affordability of biodegradable materials to ensure accessibility to all Member States;
  - c. Encouraging governments to incentivize corporations and consumers to shift from the use of plastic to alternate and eco-friendly materials by replacing plastics with bamboo fungal mycelium, edible materials, nano cellulose and algae, rewarding consumers for using alternate materials, and helping implement eco-friendly materials in corporations financing the implementation of upstream solutions;

7. *Endorses* the international adoption and implementation of the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015, which bans the manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of rinse-off cosmetics containing plastic microbeads by taking note of the importance of an expansion on the ban to include the microbeads found in deodorants, lotions, and non-cleaning products, as well as non-cosmetic microbeads, calling upon further collaboration with the Ocean Clean Up organization with other NGOs to develop more efficient technologies that will eliminate the plastic in our ocean at a faster rate, and strongly recommends that production companies and corporations follow the laws and regulations set in a Member State in which they, the companies and corporations, are conducting business to ensure that they are not illegally dumping and polluting excess microplastics, and,
  - a. Encouraging routine checking of company ships going out to sea for pure microplastics they may be planning to dump into the ocean;
  - b. Considering restricting the amount of microplastics a company can purchase proportional to their production and sales;
8. *Encourages* the continued development of governmental systems dedicated towards improving water quality and ocean health by:
  - a. Reducing the stresses of ocean acidification through:
    - i. The photosynthesis process found in seagrass and algae can neutralize pH, and calls for seagrass to be added to all coastal waters;
    - ii. The encouragement of Member States to utilize seagrass and algae to stabilize the Oceans' pH level for its inhabitants under the supervision of scientists;
    - iii. Partnership with NGOs to implement sea grass cultivation in coastal waters while encouraging algae cultivation in non-coastal waters;
  - b. Improving the containment and disposal of plumbing and sewage and water treatment plants and:
    - i. Recognizing the need to assist developing countries in reaching the following goals in subclauses, especially in areas with inadequate sanitation;
    - ii. Improving the education of plumbers to continue the proper maintenance of these improvements;
    - iii. Building sewage sanitation facilities to ensure proper sewage management;
9. *Emphasizes* the benefits of investing in green hydrogen and renewable energy along the coasts by:
  - a. Utilizing the interdependence of the global economy and the oceans as an opportunity for the expansion and promotion of renewable energy development by:
    - i. Investing in research and development of hydrogen-based vessel refueling infrastructure;
    - ii. Evaluating maritime practices & releasing reports on the sustainability of coastal countries;

- iii. Providing economic support to nations where it is not financially feasible to transition to renewable energy easily;
  - b. Investing in technology that can assist in the transition to renewable energy through collaboration with NGOs and/or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- 10. *Calls* for greater investment into the aquaculture industry by willing member states as a means to protect the environment and promote sustainable local industry, and:
  - a. Recommends the adoption of economic incentives for both consumers and producers to promote the industry, including tax incentives for companies that engage in land-based aquaculture and access to subsidies for fishing companies looking to transition their business toward land-based aquaculture;
  - b. Requests collaboration between member states to develop sustainable best practices for the aquaculture industry;
- 11. *Invites* further research to be conducted in analyzing the linkage between technology, consumptive and demographic changes, and their impacts on pressures on marine resource exploitation, such as:
  - a. Accurate simulations based on a whole-of-system approach with an eye for integrated management solutions;
  - b. Utilizing coordinated research to provide tools to integrate modeling and policy in line with analyzing multiple drivers and their impacts:
  - c. Focusing on the importance of technology, the internet, and social media when relaying information and initiatives, including oceanic issues and preventive measures;
  - d. Working closely with large search engines and databases to further assess public perception and education on revitalizing oceans;
- 12. Recommends the creation of a sustainable ad-hoc committee to catalyze a blue economy by:
  - a. Developing standardized training programs to address unique maritime resource needs;
  - b. Focusing on Guiding Exclusive Economic Zones in Least Developed Nations;
  - c. Utilizing innovative and alternative blue financing initiatives, such as blue bonds in Least Developed Nations;
- 13. *Encourages* the development and implementation of the strategy of the Global Campaign to prevent salinization of underwater aquifers, which aims to bring awareness through education, incorporates the International Baccalaureate Education Program to nurture and foster and promote youth leadership internationally and their stewardship of the environment by working closely with different stakeholders (public, private, NGOs), and promote the sustainable development of agriculture and farming techniques;
- 14. *Proposing* collaborations with NGOs such as the Coral Reef Unit (CRU) the Communications Association for Computing Machinery (CACM) and the Coral Research and Development Sector



(CORDAP) to divert funds from the Environment Fund to research and implement advancements in sound science to improve coral reef preservation;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of SDG 14, and further emphasizes Target 14.7, which prioritizes the increase in the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources;
16. *Encourages* Member States to partner with non-governmental organizations such as the Environment Justice Foundation (EJF) to create solutions towards eradicating illegal fishing, particularly through the integration of EJF's methods proposed in their report "Eradicating Illegal Fishing and Improving Transparency in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations" as a roadmap to incorporating effective IUU-combating strategies;
17. *Encourages* the further development and implementation of innovative technological solutions that promote ocean health, biodiversity, and move the world towards clean energy through:
  - a. The creation of offshore wind farms to utilize underwater foundations that act as artificial reefs that The Oceanographic Society states have demonstrated the promotion of biodiversity, fish abundance, and additionally are endorsed by the World Economic Forum for their dual benefits of creating economic stimulation in the green energy field furthermore reducing greenhouse gasses that contribute to ocean acidification;
  - b. The incorporation of the King Abdullah University of Science & Technology (KAUST) has demonstrated the successful use of 3D printing technology for the restoration of degraded coral reef areas. This innovative approach utilizes an eco-friendly and sustainable calcium carbonate photo-initiated ink. Extensive tests have confirmed that the material is non-toxic, making it a safe and effective solution for supporting coral reef rehabilitation;
  - c. Employing underwater robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) for the real-time monitoring and data analysis of marine biodiversity. For instance, the Allen Coral Atlas project, utilizing satellite imagery and AI, has been pivotal in providing detailed global maps of coral reefs. This technology enables the precise tracking of reef bleaching events and assists in the effective management and protection of these critical ecosystems;
  - d. Increasing research towards long-term sustainable solutions such as Global Climate Action award-winning Eco Wave Power, which utilizes natural energy created from waves in the ocean without harming biodiversity;
  - e. Utilization of remote sensing and advanced monitoring systems as a means to effectively govern and maintain the well-being of the world's oceans this technology has the capability to identify and assess various environmental risks such as pollution, overfishing, and other hazards;
18. *Notes* that member states can be limited by outside factors in protecting their surrounding marine environments and would like to create a network of resources to aid in this by:
  - a. Creating barriers and discouragements regarding the misuse of ocean environments including but not limited to financial restrictions, technological limitations, political impediments, and resource competition among member states:

- b. Working with NGOs and IGOs to create environmental initiative workshops to educate their public on how the oceans can affect their country and community;
- c. Promoting international cooperation, establishing mechanisms for capacity building, and offering incentives for sustainable practices;
- d. Considers the creation of a committee that can aid in providing resources to nations that are struggling in the management of their oceanographic region.



**Code:** UNEA/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Welcoming transnational corporations in their effort to take action and to assist in eco-friendly practices, calls for stricter regulations, and transparency,*

*Deeply concerned with the “Carbon Majors” report from the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), which identified that major corporations such as ExxonMobil, Shell, and BHP Billiton have been responsible for 71% of industrial greenhouse gas emissions,*

*Taking into consideration the need for greater intergovernmental collaboration regarding oceanic research, scientific knowledge, and technological advancements,*

*Stressing once again that environmental law is one of the most underdeveloped areas of international law, and that since 2006 there has been no judiciary body to hear cases concerning disputes about international environmental authority*

*Alarmed by the Life Below Water report of the World Bank that states that almost 90% of global marine fish stocks are now fully exploited or overfished,*

*Reaffirming The United Nations Environment Assembly’s (UNEA) commitment to increasing oceanic biodiversity and limiting plastic pollution in the world's oceans,*

*Recognizing that plastic pollution is the top threat to ocean health as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) states that 19-23 million tons of plastic are leaked into the oceans annually,*

*Acknowledging the work that has already been done in the field of addressing ocean resilience, specifically General Assembly resolution 77/248, “Oceans and the law of the sea” (2022), which focused on adopting an international approach to combat Illegal Unauthorized and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices,*

*Highlighting the significance of the effects of greenhouse gasses on the world’s oceans and all marine ecosystems, being that 90% of marine plants are currently facing extinction due to a decrease of more than 200% in ocean oxygen levels, as cited in the United Nations World Economic Forum (2018),*

*Concerned about the preservation of natural ecosystems for their vital roles in lessening the severity of natural disasters, absorbing carbon emissions, and housing wildlife,*

*Recognizing the sustainable development goal (SDG) 14 (Life below water) and the detrimental consequences of anthropogenic pollution on oceans, perturbation of marine ecosystems, increasing levels of toxic emissions,*

*Expressing the need for remote sensing technological advancement in the fishing industry to create global sustainable fishing practices, leading to a more bountiful yield of fish and readily available food for Member States both with established and developing fisheries,*

*Considering* UNEA resolution 2/11, “Marine plastic litter and microplastics,” refers to the use of remote sensing for the monitoring and assessment of marine plastic debris and microplastics and historically highlights the role of satellite imagery, geospatial data, and remote sensing tools in sustainable development,

*Calling attention* to the 10% of marine litter in the ocean that is comprised of plastics and other items that are lost or abandoned by fishers, as reported by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in their report, Stop Ghost Gear: The most deadly form of plastic debris,

*Noting with affirmation* that the implementation of satellite and acoustic remote sensing technology decreases fisheries' reliance on plastic, thus reducing the waste produced by the fishing industry in the form of fishing lines, nets, and other plastic materials,

*Determined* to incorporate accessible implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in resource-deprived nations for the purpose of conserving biodiversity that promotes healthier oceans, fisheries, and human livelihood,

*Highlighting* the use of circular economies, as recommended by UNEP with the aim to minimize plastic waste by promoting changes in producers and consumers of plastic products,

*Appreciating highly* the efforts of UNEA resolution 5/14, “End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally binding legal instrument,” and its attempt to recognize the danger plastic pollution proposes to maritime health and sustainability,

*Reaffirming its belief* that the responsibility of Member States to actively take measures towards protecting the environment is an erga omnes obligation shared by all,

1. *Recommends* willing Member States to abide by the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), which serves as the legal framework for the governance and management of the world's oceans, to pave the way for effective marine conservation and sustainable use of waterways by:
  - a. Implementing the *OceanSafe Business Initiative* from which corporations will take action to prioritize sustainability and conservation;
  - b. Prioritizing building capacity for disaster-prone and low-resource coastal communities through enhancing the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities;
  - c. Reaffirming international cooperation by coastal and littoral Member States in the education, research, and promotion of sustainable ocean management for transnational corporations;
2. *Decides* UNEP will expand the Environmental Fund to address factors hindering the implementation and enforceability of existing Marine Protected Areas “(MPA)” across environmentally threatened and resource-deprived nations, and notes that the committee:
  - a. Appreciates the generosity of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Canada for their voluntary contribution to fund the adoption of these policies;

- b. Sees such expansion critical to addressing the needs of vulnerable nations by assessing the enforcement and monitoring of MPA for their vital role in disaster preparedness and carbon sequestration;
    - c. Encourages “pollution havens” developing countries to amend their environmental policies to further prevent the number of corporations affecting the surrounding habitat;
  3. *Introduces* program drafting implementation in order to protect the world's oceans' well-being concerning greenhouse gas emissions, proposing international programmes and plans with the intent to reduce microplastics and other major contaminants harming marine ecosystems by:
    - a. The development and implementation of new sources of renewable energies, being solar, wind, and hydro energy, thus encouraging transitions to more sustainable alternatives in order to reduce carbon emissions causing harm to the world's oceans health;
    - b. Creating regulatory instruments and opportunities for public participation in environmental protection in urban and rural areas;
    - c. Limiting big-impact contaminants such as Single-Use Plastics, based on ‘Reducing, Reusing, Regulating’ policies, as well as encouraging international cooperation to address the correct management of marine residuals;
    - d. Abiding by greenhouse gas reduction plans included in the Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce industrial carbon emissions by striving for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050;
  4. *Further recommends* the coordination between UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to establish a Maritime Research Facility Cell as a virtual international platform to assist Member States with mitigating and adapting to shifts in oceans and climate through:
    - a. Facilitating international collaboration in maritime research and monitoring by providing an expansion of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE);
    - b. Conducting assessments and providing technical expertise to Member States in the formulation of maritime-related policies, strategies, and action plans;
    - c. Providing regular consultations with Member States to evaluate the effectiveness of maritime-related initiatives, identify emerging challenges, and adapt strategies accordingly;
    - d. Reporting annually to the UNEA and the United Nations conference on oceans on the progress, achievements, challenges, and future objectives of the Maritime Research Facility Cell;
  5. *Endorses* the responsible regulation of fisheries, where both the environment and the economies of countries will not be harmed, and working towards eliminating IUU fishing, and:
    - a. Determining no-fishing zones, where studies would be conducted, and if said studies determined so, a “no-fishing” zone would be created in order to protect marine life;
    - b. Utilizing the red, yellow, and green color codes for areas where there should be free-for-all fishing, regulated/licensed fishing, and no fishing at all;

- c. Promoting incentives for the conduction of local studies that will help determine which species of marine life should be protected (such as the Atlantic Goliath Grouper) and which ones could be of potential use for the economies through the seafood industry. (Such as the Yellowfin tuna);
6. *Further recommends* an adoptable resolution to the International Watercourse to provide guidelines for implementing blue economies and environmental infrastructures to advance sustainable fishing and water management overseen by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with potential funding through the Marine Preservation Association, as they are strong advocates for ocean resilience;
7. *Invites* Member States to collaborate to create a subsidiary body in the UNEP to reduce plastic usage and plastic dumping into the oceans:
  - a. Collaborate with Member States to expand on UNEP's regional program, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) to include more Member States, which focuses on Member States within the region to share data on marine litter and to discuss plans on prevention and clean up of litter in the oceans;
  - b. Introduce blue economic initiatives building off of the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) New Blue Economy for fisheries that promote renewable energy and decarbonization of seaports with the use of sustainable marine resources for exploration, energy, ports, shipping, coastal protection and seafood production;
  - c. Support the implementation of programs such as the Global Ghost Gear Initiative cleaning up marine litter left by fishers, also known as 'ghost gear';
8. *Suggests* an expansion to the United Nations Conference on Oceans to specifically discuss efforts to adopt new technologies and training to support the development of sustainable fisheries and to educate Member States on ways to combat the issue of IUU fishing, with:
  - a. The conference will focus on developing platforms for information sharing between participating Member States to adopt new technologies and training manuals to combat the issue of unsustainable fishing;
  - b. A utilization of the ever-growing development of blockchain traceability technologies to ensure transparency within commercial fish markets and decrease the rate of illegal fishing by holding all fisheries accountable;
  - c. The adoption of regional training materials developed by ASEAN and APEC to adapt current successful training programs and manuals, specifically, APEC's Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing, which gives a comprehensive guide on steps Member States can take to limit this practice;
9. *Advises* member-states to adopt advanced remote sensing technologies, such as satellite imaging and acoustic devices, similar to those used to monitor microplastics, and to monitor commercial fish stock:

- a. This protocol, known as precision fishing, also reduces the threat of bycatch as data reveals where non-commercially relevant species (which are vital to the sustainment of biodiversity) are present, are now avoidable;
  - b. Implementation of this protocol will limit the time fishermen spend at sea, shortening the labor necessary, leading to a more productive, rested, workforce;
10. *Suggests* the protection of the global ocean's well-being, with policy drafting is encouraged for the reduction of microplastics and pollution in our marine environments and ecosystems, as to:
  - a. Develop and implementing new sources of renewable energy and encouraging transitions to a more sustainable alternative;
  - b. Create regulatory instruments and opportunities for public participation in environmental protection;
  - c. Enforce plastic and waste reduction and enforcing legal actions for littering and other illegal practices;
  - d. Promote international cooperation to address the management of marine residuals and microplastics;
  - e. Suggest and abiding by greenhouse gas reduction plans included in the *Paris Agreement*, aiming to reduce industrial carbon emissions by striving for net-zero carbon emissions;
11. *Strongly encourages* the expansion of mangrove forests and requests each state take measures to:
  - a. Reduce the greenhouse gasses that melt the permafrost and lead to dwindling seawater oxygen levels at a rate faster than the present;
  - b. Rebuild and restore mangroves across the globe to decrease the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere and, ultimately, keep the permafrost from thawing and affecting the oceans as well;
12. *Urges* all Member States to come to a consensus on recognizing the preeminent necessity of reinstating the ICJ Chamber for Environmental Affairs such that there will exist a binding and arbitrating legal entity narrowly tailored to environmental disputes such remedial effect that it can:
  - a. Receive requests for and issue advisory opinions on relevant issues pertaining to environmental law and disputes thereto;
  - b. Adjudicate upon environmental disputes of significance implicating the responsibility of Member States of the international community as well as upon disputes between private and public parties contingent upon the prerogative of the Court and provide equitable remedies thereto;
  - c. Arbitrate and mediate environmental disputes;
  - d. Order injunctive and preventative relief in exigent circumstances such that potential disaster might be averted or mitigated;

13. *Recommends* the self-implementation of a circular economic approach to plastic waste that would be tailored to the needs of each Member State in accordance with the UNEP's circularity platform that would:
  - a. Be conducive to the economic and waste needs of an individual Member State;
  - b. Promote the usage of recyclable plastics;
  - c. Support producers of plastics in switching to producing plastics with longer lifespans;
  - d. Facilitate the creation of inter-state recycling centers near coastlines and impoverished areas in order to address oceanic plastic waste.





**Code:** UNEA/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Guided by the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), and the Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994), which set forth ocean protection frameworks and call for united efforts toward preserving marine ecosystems and biodiversity,*

*Noting with Concern* that according to the Nature Resource Defense Council, nearly 800 marine species are impacted by maritime pollution, which directly impacts ecosystem degradation, and indirectly poses a greater risk of worldwide hunger,

*Recognizing* that the world's oceans absorb 25% of all carbon dioxide emissions and that 90% of the heat generated from these emissions, according to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC),

*Keeping in mind* the prior commitments made in the signing of the 30 by 30 Plan outlined in the *High Seas Treaty* to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 in alliance with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda),

*Believing* that with collaborative efforts, the standards of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) will be upheld by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) by way of innovation of technology to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions and waste in the oceans,

*Stressing* that as of 2021, only 7.5% of the world's oceans are designated as Marine Protected Areas through the *High Seas Treaty* (2023), according to the United Nations World Database on Protected Areas,

*Acknowledging* the technology used in Venice since September 2023, the 'Experimental Electromechanical Module' Project consists of an artificial barrier that rises in case of natural hazards to protect the Venetian lagoon from rising sea levels and tsunamis,

*Understanding* that according to the *Sustainable Development Goals 2023 Report*, the overall pH levels of the oceans have become about 30% more acidic than pre-industrial levels,

*Welcoming* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate action) and SDG 14 (Life below water) by taking immediate measures to combat climate change, in particular ocean as well as marine life protection, by transitioning to greener and more environmentally friendly policies,

*Affirming* the United States Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) definition of an MPA as "a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, & managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values to gain consensus on the term,

*Reaffirming* UNEA resolution 5/5, "Nature-based solutions in support of sustainable development," in which it was agreed that nature-based solutions are needed to protect the environment from the impacts of climate change,

*Defining* blue economy as "an economic system or sector that seeks to conserve marine and freshwater

environments while using them in a sustainable way to develop economic growth and produce resources such as energy and food”,

*Recognizing* the benefits of highly and fully protected MPAs to maintain biodiversity, which include the offering of genetic material archives to support the natural or aided recovery of regions impacted by pollution, overfishing, or other natural causes,

*Stressing* the problem of marine food plastic poisoning,

*Recognizing* the existing *Kyoto Protocol* (1997) and its contributions to efficient systems for government and economics in light of the blue economy and carbon credit systems,

*Noting* the lack of support for ecosystem protections in terms of protection of global reefs including reefs to the south of the United Kingdom and Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, and the existing bilateral partnership between the United Kingdom and Australia for the protection of their separate reefs,

*Stressing* the need for time and support, primarily economic support for nations like Costa Rica, Côte D’Ivoire, and Madagascar – as they feel constrained by the time limit placed by the Paris Agreement – for ecosystems protections as they contend with protections for their Indigenous peoples, democratic consolidation and have achieved complete reforestation in the post-colonial era,

*Reminding* all nations of the vitality of the oceans for human life and realizing the right of all human beings to clean and sustainable oceans as recognized in *The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, Sustainable Environment* GA resolution 76/300 (2022), emphasizing the inherent human rights implications of environmental damage, related to Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water,

*Recognizing* the cruciality of involving all Member States, including landlocked states and small island states, in the establishment of policies for preserving the world’s oceans, particularly those regarding plastic pollution and new clean technologies,

*Acknowledging* the imperative need for multinational cooperation between the public, private, and academic sectors in the discussion and implementation of sustainable policies, as well as the multinational potential of private enterprise,

*Further Acknowledging* the importance of Indigenous populations, as these communities have pre-existing sustainable practices that can be utilized on an international scale,

*Alarmed by* the lack of protection and designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs),

*Recognizing* that the marine environment, including the oceans, seas, and adjacent coastal areas, forms an integrated whole that is an invaluable component of the global life-support system and a condition to presenting important opportunities for sustainable development of the upcoming generations; as well as the invaluable environmental knowledge and practice of indigenous communities,

*Emphasizing* the importance of reinforcing preexisting international laws, such as United Nations Agenda in 1992, which outlining strategies for the protection of all oceans and seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use, and development of their living resources and strengthening Member States’ abilities to create specific domestic laws,

*Re-emphasizing* the inherent value of marine ecosystems and recognizing the urgent need to address the environmental challenges faced by natural coral reefs globally; acknowledging the potential of cutting-edge technologies, particularly 3D printing, as a transformative tool in the creation of artificial coral reefs,

with the capacity to enhance biodiversity and restore marine habitats, as well as the reuse of decommissioned ships and military equipment,

*Noting with deep concern* that urban centers have been found responsible for about 60% of the marine plastics we see today, according to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) press release from August 2023,

*Desiring* the continued existence and preservation of marine ecosystems and species and maintaining biodiversity,

*Highlighting* that ships and other water vessels used for transport and trade are responsible for about 3% of total carbon emissions,

*Wishing* to promote youth involvement and education on ocean problems and connecting with SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities),

1. *Suggests* Member States consider the creation and implementation of a Marine Strategy Advisory Board within the United Nations Environmental Programme, beginning in 2025, that:
  - a. Have the primary goal of advising and providing support to Member States on safeguarding and increasing the preservation to 30% of the world's territorial and international waters as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2030;
  - b. Consists of a rotating board of marine experts based on geographical distribution that are:
    - i. Representing each of the various global regions that consist of 13 seats for African States, 13 seats for Asia-Pacific States, 8 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 7 seats for Western European and other States, 6 seats for Eastern European States;
    - ii. Nominated by the Member States composing each region;
    - iii. Elected by UNEA;
    - iv. Limited to a 3-year term as a member of the board and can be re-elected only once;
  - c. Researches marine areas both scientifically and culturally to:
    - i. Determine where MPAs should be implemented;
    - ii. Achieve the expansion of MPAs, by encouraging Member States to work with Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
  - d. Advise through cooperation with the UNEP the implementation of incentives for members and organizations meeting goals set forth by climate change agreements, such as data-sharing and tax-cuts allocated from a secondary fund under the board;
  - e. Ensures the protection of the expanded Marine Protected Areas is supported in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and their decision to formally adopt Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT) to implement

satellite monitoring, surveillance technologies, and collaboration with member states' maritime authorities in deciding MPA borders, overseen by the advisory board;

- f. Encourages and supports Member States to develop effective ecological networks of MPAs, integrating individual MPAs to operate synergistically, in order to meet objectives that a single reserve cannot achieve through a framework based upon:
  - i. MPA characteristics such as size, ecological value, and level of protection;
  - ii. Types of natural ecological connectivity, including oceanographic, migratory, habitat, and seascape connectivity;
  - iii. Distances for typical larval dispersal are critical for the sustainability of marine species;
  - iv. Population dynamics of fish species;
  - v. Intensity and distribution of fishing efforts to ensure a balance between conservation and the economic vitality of local communities through sustainable fishery practices;
- g. Develop a set of standardized international criteria, for the identification and sustainable management of MPAs, including factors such as, but not limited to:
  - i. The ecological significance of the proposed MPA;
  - ii. The inclusion of biodiversity conservation targets;
  - iii. The consideration of climate change impacts and resilience;
  - iv. The engagement of local communities in the establishment and management of MPAs;
- h. Supports and guides Member States in implementing agreed conservation and management measures;
- i. Advocates for the oversight of the progress and effectiveness of the established MPAs;
- j. Sets standards and guidelines for voluntary monitoring and reporting, ensuring uniformity and public disclosure;
- k. Is funded through the UNEP's Environment Fund and the World Banks' PROBLUE multi-donor trust fund to help fund the monitoring and process section of MPAs and Member States based on the individual needs of countries through:
  - i. Recommending the use of a global MPA monitoring network, the *Marine Protection Atlas*, that would cover 20-30% of the seas that according to recent data would only cost between \$5-19 billion per year to run;
  - ii. Encourages the use of optional grants by Member States facilitated through the UNEP in assisting developing countries in funding sustainability initiatives and enabling them to afford the designation of Marine Protected Areas;

2. *Supports* new research projects based on the lines of the Italian project MOSE (Experimental Electromechanical Module, which can:
  - a. Reduce hazards that affect marine sustainability;
  - b. Limit the damages to coastal regions caused by marine hazards and safeguard the touristic flow in a sustainable way in order to benefit the countries which rely on it;
3. *Welcomes* Member States to actively explore, invest in, and deploy cutting-edge technologies with the aim of enhancing marine life, including but not limited to coral reefs, seagrass, and algae forests; emphasizes the importance of innovation in sustainable practices to address environmental challenges and promote the health and resilience of marine ecosystems, and:
  - a. Endorses and actively supports the utilization of 3D printing technology as a strategic tool to optimize and enhance the production of coral reefs, as recommended by the UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 187, recognizing its potential to improve efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and ecological outcome in marine habitat restoration, with a commitment to restoring 30% of the damaged area with artificial reefs by 2030, and further:
    - i. Invites the primary focus of restoration efforts to the Southeast Asia region, where 95% of its original coral reef population has been compromised;
    - ii. Calls upon member states and relevant stakeholders to prioritize the use of eco-friendly and sustainable materials in 3D printing for artificial coral reefs;
    - iii. Draws attention to the necessity for a dedicated international fund to provide, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for financial support and coordination for artificial reef initiatives;
  - b. Appeals the environmental and economic benefits of repurposing decommissioned ship and military vehicle in artificial reef construction, aiming to facilitate efficient and cost-effective reef production;
  - c. Encourages the cultivation of seagrass and algae forests in an effort to restore lost habitats by partnering with the International Coral Reefs Initiative of the UNEP;
  - d. Encourages Member States to expedite the transition away from fossil fuel consumption to renewable sources of energy, such as solar power and wind power, in order for ocean acidification to greatly be reduced, creating a more sustainable coral reef ecosystem;
  - e. Decides UNEP will work to establish and advocate for environmental standards for technology projects to ensure that they are developed in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and local communities;
  - f. Suggests that each member state seeks out The Environment Fund in order to assist in financing this project;
  - g. Reasserts the pursuit and implementation of innovative technologies to combat the present problems of microplastics and water security through:

- i. The usage of carbon nano springs by decomposing the polymers found in microplastics by its magnetic properties;
    - ii. Advising the coastal members states to keep updated their water's desalination structures in order to contrast the rising issue of water security;
    - iii. Fully supports the installation of devices and methods, such as phosphate sorbent, algal turf scrubber, and phosphorous removal systems, to stop eutrophication and to share success stories with all Member States;
4. *Urges* the Member States further to finance research projects about point absorbing wave energy generators, following the example of the Kislo Gubskaya pilot tidal power plant (TPP), in order to achieve the implementation of blue economy programs and merging them into a 360-degrees sustainable form of energy, and:
  - a. Moves the focus out from the harmful hydroelectric implants and therefore protect the marine biodiversity in the areas affected;
  - b. Allows Less Developed Countries (LEDC) with coastal regions to have a sustainable alternative to produce energy and therefore lower the global energy price and encourage guidance for developing countries to grow within blue economic forums by creating partnerships with rapidly developing states;
  - c. Emphasizes the need to continue development plans for the blue economy, as stated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and World Bank Group event on "*Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges*" in 2017, that will be reviewed and cooperation with other countries will be promoted, with special attention to blue economy practices for business activities;
5. *Emphasizes* stricter regulations on single-use plastics and the promotion of alternatives such as:
  - a. The promotion of continued research and use of biodegradable and recyclable plastics, including polyethylene terephthalate plastic (PET);
  - b. Supporting the shift in industries away from single-use plastics and towards more I recommends research into how plastic enters the world oceans and how that can be prevented;
6. *Suggests* Member States invest in combating the damages of maritime pollutants such as oil, sewage, chemicals, and heavy metals that cause acidification and harm to marine ecosystems, and:
  - a. Requests Member States to review and update the already established project IAEA made by the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) at the Rio+20 conference in 2012 in order to conduct greater research and development in reducing the ability of these pollutants to enter the world oceans through maritime activities, sharing this information with Member States, and therefore increasing awareness among stakeholders and world's leaders;
  - b. Encourages the reduction of ballast water used by cruise line ships and cargo transports, as the integration of these waste into the ocean will cause a variety of bacteria and other biological materials that cause marine life disruption;

- c. Further invites Member States to be knowledgeable of proper disposal methods of nutrient pollution that lead to hypoxia that causes extreme damage to ecosystems;
7. *Recommends* an extension of the *Paris Agreement* for member states that have initiatives in place to work for ecosystem protection, ocean protection, and reforestation, and:
  - a. Takes into mind the high seas treaty and existing economic partnerships, historical relationships and good government;
  - b. Stresses the support of the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland towards civic rights in the era after colonial rule, and encouraging further support of initiatives for democracy by member states Australia and Japan;
  - c. Backs full individual initiatives to democratic consolidation for member states that need it, such as in the case of Costa Rica, providing support where Costa Rica cannot afford to attempt to meet the Paris Agreement, or the same goals as other member states;
8. *Recommends* the continued support of multinational private enterprises and NGOs aimed at removing plastic pollution from oceans, and strives to :
  - a. Establish frameworks similar to The Ocean Cleanup project on structure, standards, goals, and operations in most affected regions, such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and developing nations:
    - i. Invites local government support to private enterprise cleanup efforts, such as removing plastic pollution from bodies of water;
    - ii. Suggests consistently monitoring data regarding the effectiveness of the operations;
  - b. Create domestic local recycling facilities to process the removed residue, and engaging regional communities in the preservation and recycling processes;
  - c. Collaborate with the Ocean Grants Organization to fund private enterprise and NGO operations for the refinement of oceanic ecosystems, which would provide cutting-edge technology to improve results;
9. *Emphasizes* stricter regulations on single-use plastics and the promotion of alternatives such as:
  - a. Continued research and use of biodegradable and recyclable plastics, including polyethylene terephthalate plastic (PET);
  - b. Supporting the shift in industries away from single-use plastics and towards more recommends research into how plastic enters the world oceans and how that can be prevented;
  - c. Anticipating voluntary cooperation of Member States with access to raw materials to increase the availability of these resources to developing Member States in order to decrease dependency on single-use plastic;
10. *Recommends* collaboration with Indigenous Peoples in specific Member States with significant interest in coastal or glacier sustainability – such as countries in Latin America with land in the

Andean Mountain Range where several dozen major Indigenous tribes reside—in pursuit of building resilient solutions for the preservation of ocean health, and:

- a. Invites leaders from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to partner with Member States to facilitate the mutual transfer of ideas, technologies, and practices, especially in the fishing industry;
  - b. Urges Member States to partner with the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to engage in the applicable, cohesive training and education for Indigenous peoples to keep these communities abreast of international frameworks and developing policies related to ocean health;
  - c. Encourages the preservation of Indigenous lands and reservations, as these environments are imperative in continuing the prosperity and local sustainable practices of Indigenous populations;
11. *Strongly encourages* technological advancements in the tracking of both legal and Illegal Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing, while also:
- a. Focusing on the self-reported tracking of ship location and the number and species of fish caught, in order to mitigate disruption of marine protected areas and the biodiversity of ecological communities;
  - b. Requesting Member States to work towards the voluntary integration of the IUU Fishing Supply Chain Risk Project (SCRIP) framework into domestic policies to enact regulatory measures to be placed on fishing vessels that do not self-report this information and practice IUU fishing;
12. *Endorses* research and technological advancement in fuel and waste management in transport vessels to reduce the amount of total carbon emissions, and:
- a. Calls for regulation of shipbreaking, which utilizes unused or derelict ships and breaks them into parts and is currently a dangerous industry (as dangerous chemicals such as asbestos, lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) are dumped into beaches and pollute the ocean waters, and encourages sustainable methods to create ships and other water vessels;
  - b. Emphasizes the potential of shipbreaking, the use of old, unused ships, which can greatly help the current transport system established in the world's oceans, in addition to preventing old ships from rotting and polluting the ocean floor;
  - c. Calls for more regulation for the shipbreaking industry as a whole by:
    - i. Encourages scientists and other experts who know how to handle toxic chemicals from old ships;
    - ii. Suggests that shipbreaking should be handled in a facility rather than beaches where toxic chemicals can seep through;
    - iii. Potentially calls for engineers to enhance the current practice of shipbreaking to make it more sustainable;



- iv. Highlights the fact that regulated shipbreaking in conjunction with technological innovation to reduce carbon emissions can become the ultimate sustainable approach to building water vessels of the future;
    - d. Further requests the usage of less-deadly fuel like wind or biomass for transport ships to ensure the decreasing of the method, sea freight as it enhances the carbon dioxide emissions to the detriment of the sea's health, as to:
      - i. Provide inclusion measures regarding materials for the implementation of solar energy for a more complete goal for the betterment of ocean and air pollution;
      - ii. Encourage the promotion of campaigns and programs for wind production via sails and/or mini turbines, preferably wooden or other reusable materials;
- 13. *Considers* a reduction of ballast water used by cruise line ships and cargo transports, as the integration of waste into the ocean will cause a variety of bacteria and other biological materials that cause marine life disruption;
- 14. *Suggests* Member States invest in combating the damages of maritime pollutants such as oil, sewage, chemicals, and heavy metals that cause acidification and harm to marine ecosystems, and further:
  - a. Requests the Member States to review and update the already established project IAEA made by the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) at the Rio+20 conference in 2012 in order to conduct greater research and development in reducing the ability of these pollutants to enter the world oceans through maritime activities, sharing this information with Member States, and therefore increasing awareness among stakeholders and world's leaders;
  - b. Invites Member States to be knowledgeable of proper disposal methods of nutrient pollution that lead to hypoxia that causes extreme damage to ecosystems;
- 15. *Recommends* to the UNEP a subcommittee on Oceanic Sustainable Development (OSD) is called to specifically address how each nation can contribute to sustainable development that can be utilized to both improve ocean resiliency and support developing nations by researching:
  - a. The current capacities and resources of each nation in regard to development;
  - b. The issues that are either affecting or being contributed to by each nation, focusing on environmental issues, but also considering cultural implications;
  - c. Pathways for collaboration across nations to support sustainable development;
  - d. The percentage of each nation's coastline that could be established as a development-free zone without negatively harming that nation's economy, resulting in an individual benchmark for each nation;
  - e. Social awareness of environmental issues within each nation and making recommendations for education;
- 16. *Suggests* to the UNEP incorporating an Ocean Resilience Summit (ORS) for researchers and developers from all member states to meet annually to both share new research and technology

within the field of ocean-based sustainable development into existing United Nations Ocean Conference, specifically with:

- a. A yearlong continuous information sharing by publishing data to a shared portal throughout the year between meetings;
  - b. The promotion the coordination between the ORS and UNICEFs Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, to empower international students of all ages to be at the forefront of the discussion and share a space with the ORS, with an emphasis on future collaboration between the two groups;
  - c. Local blue technology startups, scientists, and federal policymakers to attend, which will allow local efforts to exchange ideas and network; the expansion of these local efforts can create a bigger impact on a global scale;
17. *Decides* UNEA will adjust the current framework for monitoring and reporting as established in resolution 4/22, Implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions (2019) to include monitoring rivers and seas that overlap borders with local NGOs encouraged to focus on rivers holistically, while also:
- a. Encouraging collaboration with neighboring countries to establish a regional framework for the protection of shared marine ecosystems, with:
    - i. Member States shall proportionally, according to their financial capability, to contribute funding for operations needed to protect marine and freshwater ecosystems;
    - ii. Incentivizes for NGOs within constituent Member States to help monitor water bodies' health and to add to government efforts to keep them clean;
  - b. Encouraging research into the appropriate level of environmental flow which would allow the ecosystem of downstream countries to flourish;
  - c. Creating educational materials to distribute to the populace that inform them of the happenings on the river and future plans;
18. *Urges* the importance of developing a social consensus within member states focused on awareness of multipronged climate issues, looking to:
- a. Build upon the recommendations of the subcommittee, OSD referenced in clause 1;
  - b. Encourage more member states to share marine climate data and expand upon the World's Meteorological Organization report "*State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022*" studying key indicators of climate change effects on marine habitats, such as temperatures, sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification, and extreme weather events to increase the global scope of data sharing information;
19. *Emphasizes* the need for further comprehensive and accessible education and training programs made available by the UNEP to empower developing nations with a focus on internal capacity-building, designed to meet the needs of each nation and will include:

- a. Responsible management of fertilizers used on local, small-scale agricultural and coastal lands;
- b. Reinforcing the connectivity of rivers to oceans and the harmful impacts of waste dumping;
- c. Breaking reliance on single-use plastic and responsibly recycling plastic waste;
- d. Training educators to continue spreading empowering educational programs within developing nations;
- e. Provide training on how to discuss water issues and equip them with tools to make the topics engaging for students, as well as assist educators in integrating water conservation into their regular teaching methods.



**Code:** UNEA/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Guided by* the United Nations' commitment to maintaining international peace, fostering friendly relations among Member States, and promoting social progress and a better standard of life as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Acknowledging* our shared responsibility to protect and sustainably manage the ocean in accordance with the principles of equitable and international cooperation,

*Recognizing* the United States Geological Survey that there is a large gap in marine sustainability as 72% of the planet's surface is water and only 3% of our oceans lie within a highly protected zone, which is a vital resource for food, trade, and discovery,

*Alarmed* that nearly 100 million animals are greatly impacted by ocean pollution, specifically the dumping of harmful chemicals into the oceans, and according to Condor,

*Fully alarmed* by the fact that, according to NOAA, the ocean absorbs about 30% of the carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere,

*Having devoted attention to* the commitment to address Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) 14 (Life below water), a report from 2022 stated that the world lost nearly 14% of coral reefs between 2009 and 2018,

*Deeply concerned* with microplastic deposition that has roughly produced nearly 200 billion pounds of plastic waste and has impacted marine ecosystems as 267 species have endured entanglements of plastic waste or have mistaken it for food,

*Affirming* that 170 Member States pledged to "significantly reduce" the use of plastic by 2030 as the World Economic Forum reported that 77 countries implemented full or partial bans on plastic bags in 2022,

*Conscious* that the LIFE Shara Project aims to communicate, raise awareness, and understand climate change to generate social awareness of product waste and improve general knowledge about the negative impacts of climate change,

*Emphasizing* the importance of efficiently responding to climate disaster risk areas in need of assistance from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations to address communities from Member States that have been negatively impacted by climate change,

*Reminding* Member States to implement aspects of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) to improve renewable, sustainable green technologies, like solar panels, to mitigate the rapid increase of greenhouse gases and the implementation of water power generated machines for moving water biomass to create renewable energy,

*Fully aware of* the advantageous benefits of utilizing and preserving nature-based solutions to protect oceans against natural disasters and climate change effects,

*Keeping in mind* the need for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which will expand on the objective of

preventing overfishing and protecting biodiversity,

*Recognizing* that nearly 80% of fisheries management is over-exploited and in a state of collapse due to overfishing and the need for MPAs to protect biodiversity,

*Cognizant* that there are negative implications of a lack of ocean resilience, such as ocean acidification and the degradation of marine ecosystems worldwide, which is amplified by the negative effects of overfishing on the microbiome and implementing resilient tools to protect the ocean,

*Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)*, which addresses issues of navigation rights, territorial boundaries, and environmental protections all for the oceans,

*Concerned* that mangroves, crucial for carbon sinking and coastal protection, are facing significant decline due to a rapid increase of greenhouse gasses that have significantly impacted water quality and biodiversity,

*Considering* the European Union (EU) Single-Use Plastics Directive seeks to reduce ocean-bound plastic pollution and plastic products covered under the directive represent 70 percent of all marine litter items and promote involvement within all Member States,

1. *Directs* this committee and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to create the ad-hoc Sustainable-Biodiverse Marine Committee, as to:
  - a. Help Member States build the resilience of coral reefs and mangrove forests in support of SDG 14.2 by;
  - b. Undertake and providing recommendations and policy advice from research on technological and sustainable economic planning;
  - c. Have Member State report needs of assistance and implementations of policies that promote mangrove and coral growth resilience through technological advances;
  - d. Provide potential research and oversight from the UNEP with;
  - e. Direct potential research efforts on technological ways to protect mangroves and coral reefs, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, that support environmental conservation;
2. *Encourages* the creation of MPAs, and preservation of natural coastal defense mechanisms while simultaneously increasing the percentage of MPAs globally, such as mangroves, against natural disasters;
3. *Suggests* increased funding for marine species preservation projects through UNEP grants contributed by the Environment Fund and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) that focus on conservation of marine habitats by:
  - a. Planting appropriate tree species that can withstand the high-speed wind and break the wind speeds;
  - b. Restoring coral reefs through grants funded by the Environment Fund, leading to a healthy marine ecosystem;
4. *Suggests* willing member nations work to expand on the working mandate “End plastic pollution:

Towards an international legally binding instrument," which sets out a goal for the treaty to be negotiated before the end of 2024 to gradually reduce the amount of plastic being released into the ocean through:

- a. Ensuring that most impacted Member States refuse plastic waste outside of their capacity through "Controls of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal";
  - b. Recommending incorporations resolutions urging large retail corporations to stop the distribution of single-use plastic at the checkout counters;
  - c. Encouraging the reduction of all single-use plastics, including cups, straws, wrappers, and bags;
  - d. Emphasizing the need for increased research into alternative plastics;
  - e. Encouraging member nations to engage in conversations about the implementation of taxes on retail corporations that continue the distribution of single-use plastic bags to incentivize the transition towards eco-friendly materials;
5. *Recommends* expansion of Life Shara programs that aim to communicate, raise awareness, and capacitate adaptation to climate change, and further:
- a. Reaffirms open invitations to Member States and inclusion in the international community and further develops and promotes Life Shara's adaptive resources;
  - b. Recommends creation of an informational exchange forum on developmental progress made to adapt to climate change, thus also creating a global forum of exchange for the international community;
6. *Strongly affirms* the implementation of *BlueInvest* on a global scale that focuses on sustainable technology and expanding finances for blue economies. BlueInvest aims to boost innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy by supporting readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses and promoting a global forum for the international community that aims to:
- a. Reaffirm BlueInvest community members by offering capacity-building courses, training events, and exclusive webinars to accelerate business for investment, market access, and international expansion in the blue economy with encouraged voluntary contributions from regional blocs and support from the European Union;
  - b. Underline that new businesses will receive 1:1 advisory service from investors providing business management coaching and marketing suggestions with investment-readiness experts with a proven track record of preparing start-ups for negotiations with investors, thus creating a community system for successful blue economy international entrepreneurship;
  - c. Urge allocation of United Nations budget funding to be allocated to provide internet access on a global scale as a human rights need and emphasize accessibility within BlueInvest communities;

7. *Recommends* the expansion of the United Nations Development System Reform Checklist to include the analysis of identifying the best policies for individual Member States to help accomplish the objective of SDG 14, and:
  - a. Notes that the United Nations Sustainable Group Chair created a checklist to monitor the United Nations development system entities to adhere to the dual reporting model and facilitate an oversight role over state members;
  - b. Calls for cooperation by allowing Member States to share the best sustainable practices they have through discussions;
  - c. Recognizes in mind each nation's sovereignty by adopting the development checklist to what each specific country needs and enacting sustainable solutions adhered to Member State concerns;
  - d. Considers the involvement and assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to help develop new checklists;
  - e. Welcomes the assistance from the World Bank to aid in creating stockholding analyses by providing country-specific and high-quality data on natural resource stocks and flows while assessing risks and opportunities for sustainable development;
  
8. *Encourages* member nations to set up educational campaigns through social media, workshops for capacity building, and conferences to raise awareness about the risks of overfishing and promote sustainable fisheries and work together to set up fishing regulations, which involves setting specific seasons during which fishing is allowed and reducing the quantity of fishing allowed, while also:
  - a. Recommending the creation of educational programs that promote collaboration with local fisheries and the younger generation;
  - b. Endorsing collaboration with Non-governmental Organizations, such as Oceana and Ocean Conservancy;
  - c. Emphasizing how crucial it is to involve community members in decision-making processes, seeking to promote information exchange, increase capacity, and establish community-based efforts to adapt;
  - d. Underlining the importance of blending environmental education into the official curriculum and playing an indispensable role in raising the younger generation's awareness;
  - e. Recommending educational modules apply systems thinking and simulation, which include themes that:
    - i. Concentrate on various natural values, namely intrinsic, instrumental, and relational values, which clarify the roles of nature itself as well as the closed relationships between human beings and nature;

- ii. Disseminate nature-related knowledge, which contains the history of nature, human and nature relationship, functions, and progress of ecology when it comes to sea creatures specifically;
    - iii. Develop fundamental skills for students, such as leadership and critical thinking, so that they can play the role of decision-makers when it comes to natural crises;
  - f. Welcoming other state members to follow the aforementioned implemented programs since they have a profound impact on the awareness of the younger generation;
  - g. Recommending that NGOs, environmental organizations, and centers to proactively promote environmental awareness by supporting schools, communities, and local governments, creating classes, seminars, and trips in those communities to convey environmental knowledge not only to students and the public but also to government officials;
9. *Requests* the development of sustainable tourism with a view to conserving the environment, thereby boosting the local's overall well-being, and also:
- a. Notes that the Sustainable Development Development Agenda set for 2030 aims towards devising and imposing legislative frameworks with a view to developing sustainable tourism, thereby creating more jobs for the local communities;
  - b. Reaffirms the importance of ditching single-use plastic by urging tourists to switch to reusable bottles and bags;
  - c. Recommends nature-based tourist destinations considering the long-term benefits regarding not only ocean protection but also a thriving economy of the nations conducting;
10. *Suggests* that overfishing be regulated and balanced between economic feasibility and ecological preservation, with:
- a. UNEP and the World Council of Fisheries Societies (WCFS) researching the management of fish stocks, and recommending the prevention of overfishing and providing rebuilding chances for the overfished water regions;
  - b. MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) being considered of paramount importance in preserving marine biodiversity and providing food sources as well as income for coastal communities;
11. *Suggesting* the Marine Litter Mitigation Fund, PROBLUE, and other NGOs and IGOs as well as Member States, work to expand the scope of their existing efforts with the voluntary, equitable redistribution and transfer of retired technologies regarding infrastructure, marine detection systems, and marine litter mitigation acquired from developed states to developing states in order to mitigate the impact of the negative effects of global warming, pollution, natural disasters, and other harmful effects resulting from climate change;
12. *Further* invites Member States to submit a detailed Nationally Determined Contributions Report to UNEA to further discuss the negative human contributions that directly impact marine ecosystems, like carbon emissions, oil spills, and overfishing, so as to:



- a. Be aware of the total percentage of carbon emissions produced by man-made machines, like cars, boats, and factories;
  - b. Draw attention to recent oil spills that have affected marine life in oceanic ecosystems or lakes, rivers or man-made rivers or lakes;
  - c. Bear in mind that the overexploitation of fishing has affected marine habitats that are essential in reducing carbon emissions, like mangroves;
13. *Urges* Member States to join the UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative to promote ocean-based environmental benefits by implementing climate resilient strategies to reduce human impacts and support marine and coastal ecosystems:
- a. Mapping and assessing the valuation of marine ecosystems and understanding ocean health to develop pollution reduction strategies;
  - b. Building capacity and translating know-how into action to encourage sustainable management from stakeholders.



**Code:** UNEA/1/6

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Desiring* the need for low maintenance, sustainable, nature-based solutions, with a focus on marine ecosystems and their implications in Member States who may be limited in their technological and economic means of production to create a more cohesive global force to contradict the change in the climate as well as marine ecosystem degradation,

*Believing* that despite the internal and external limitations Member States experience, they are fully able to implement their own environmental programs, tailored to their own environmental, economic, cultural, geographical, and technological needs, independent of pervasive and intrusive international influence during times of peace,

1. *Reiterates* Article I, Chapter 2 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), particularly:
  - a. [The Purposes of the United Nations are:] To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace”;
  - b. In recognizing the importance of the United Nations as a valuable medium for international forum and cooperation, it is also necessary to acknowledge that it is the Member States themselves who take action in their territories, among their people, and who know their land and how to best solve issues regarding marine ecosystem degradation;
  - c. The interpretation for Member States to formulate their own solutions to issues regarding the ocean, and various other environmental disagreements, that they face on a daily basis free of the input of those who may not understand cultural, geographic, and economic customs, needs, and limitations;
2. *Encourages* Member States to establish within their own governments, and without omnipresent international influence, legislation and statutes that focus on nature-based solutions which require little to no maintenance, and which are sustainable, with:
  - a. Said statutes and pieces of legislation when applied to above-ground marine ecosystems should include:
    - i. The establishment of seawalls and other structures made from natural, non-biodegradable materials, such as rocks and boulders, which combat coastal erosion and create beachheads without dredging that damages sandbars necessary for the development of barrier islands and subsequently salt marshes and wetlands;
    - ii. A focus on the stabilization of biomes separate from the aforementioned sub-sub-clause, such as wetlands, marshes, beaches, coastal forests, including Mangrove and Holly Forests, sandbars, estuaries, natural deltas, and more so that they may be prompt for regrowth and expansion;

- iii. The setting aside of land for the regrowth of these biomes to combat coastal erosion after the process of stabilization;
  - b. Said statues and pieces of legislation when applied to underwater marine-ecosystems should include:
    - i. The creation of viable and safe artificial reefs to increase biodiversity and attract species of fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine life;
    - ii. The dissemination of information of where artificial reefs are located to promote equitable and sustainable fishing to non-commercial fishers, thus reducing the risk of over-fishing;
- 3. *Recommends* the creation of a sub-committee, within the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), to explore the expansion of funding from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) program, a joint program between the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP, that aims to decrease the effect that deforestation has on emissions within the environment as well as promote reforestation, and its viability among Member States that:
  - a. Explores the concept of incentives for Member States who currently, and eventually, fund UN-REDD be inducted into the program, if they are not already, but with relaxed measures at a flexible and recommended 15% reduction on up to 2 quotas designated by the UNEP;
  - b. Also acknowledges tree planting movements, it is recommended that the 2nd week of March be dedicated and titled to the Week of International Tree Planting (WITP) as a way to disseminate information, and take action, about the role of trees in the global community serving as the worlds' lungs reducing carbon in the air and keeping the oceans cool; reducing acidification and the melting of polar ice; reducing the risk of the destruction of cultural groups, and the homes and lives of individuals who are in danger of rising sea levels.



**Code:** UNEA/1/7

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Building Tools for Resilience to Protect the World's Oceans

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/235, “Oceans and the Law of the Sea” (2015), which aims to promote the collaboration and coordination for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources, to improve upon Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water), and 17 (Partnerships for the goals),

*Guided by the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) 2019 Action Plan* that identifies gaps to address plastic pollution, including gaps in knowledge, policy, technology, financing, and awareness,

Expressing strong beliefs in the effectiveness of environmental education and campaigns emphasizing ocean conservation, such as the 2019 *Green Legacy Initiative (GLI)* in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the 2021 *Save Our Blue* campaign in the Republic of Malta, and the UNEP *Green Jobs for Youth Pact*,

*Calling attention to* the inadequacies in funding and accessibility to blue technologies along with the inefficiencies associated with oceanic databases, and highlighting the potential for positive impact via technology, education, and information-sharing forums,

*Underscoring* the importance of incentives for grand-scale reforestation for ocean ecosystems, clean air, de-pollution, and decarbonization, to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses, promote an international effort to slow climate change, and meet temperature goals as promoted by the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

*Having examined* the carbon credit system introduced by the *United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* in the *Kyoto Protocol* (1997), which sets emissions limits and penalizes the failure to adhere to them via emissions trading mechanisms,

*Stressing* collaborative action to safeguard the world's oceans and greater awareness among the international community to promote tools for resilience against unsustainable practices, particularly among developing, landlocked, small island developing states, least developed countries, and coastal African States as endorsed by General Assembly resolution 77/248, “Oceans and the law of the sea”,

*Affirming* that extremely damaging human activities like overfishing, unsustainable coastal development, and mass production of toxic pollution, like forever chemicals and excessive carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), have devastating implications on marine life and marine ecosystems,

*Reminding* Member States of the importance of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to the blue economy, making up 40% of the global fishery catch and 90% of fishermen and fisherwomen globally,

*Recalling* the *United Nations Environment Assembly* resolution 4/11 (2019), “Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production,” which invites Member States to protect the marine environment from land-based activities, including fishing,

*Strongly emphasizes supporting* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU) by reducing the incentive for vessels to continue unsustainable practices and blocking the import and export of products derived from IUU fishing,

*Considering* that arid countries rely heavily on water desalination practices, yet they are unsustainable and negatively affect the health of ocean ecosystems, water supplies, and fisheries,

*Understanding* that the salinity of brine production is at least 1.6–2 times higher than that of seawater (35 g/L average) and that contaminants introduced by brine such as chlorine, coagulants, heavy metals, and acids are often dumped into the ocean,

*Affirming* the sentiments expressed during the 1972 *London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter* about promoting the effective control of all sources of marine pollution,

*Noting with approval* the work of the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES) on research of marine species facing the threat of extinction,

*Encourages* health protection and preservation of seas, marine ecosystems, and oceans that would be targeted regarding a Blue Economy, as compromising the range of economic sectors and related policies that determine if the use of oceanic resources is sustainable,

*Reaffirming* the encouragement of Member States and pertinent international institutions and organizations to join unitedly to assist the gambit of restoring and protecting the world's oceans,

*Acknowledging* the General Assembly resolution 70/1 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" that calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, which provides the framework for sustainable and conserving usage of their resources for the "future we want,"

*Expressing its appreciation* for the significant impact fisheries and the export industry have on international trading, economic growth, international relations, and human livelihood,

*Cognizant* of the fact that 10-40% of the world's fishing catch is bycatch, and that illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities cost the global economy between \$10-23 billion USD annually,

*Concerned by* the lack of available data on fish stocks, waste management, and the use of sustainable fishing methods in many fisheries around the world,

*Drawing attention to* the *Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency* (GACERE) in conjunction with the *UN Industrial Development Organization* (UNIDO) and its success in increasing compliance with good standards and manufacturing practices,

*Reaffirming* the encouragement of States and pertinent international institutions and organizations to join unitedly to assist the gambit of restoring and protecting the world's oceans,

*Recognizing* the great importance of fisheries and the export industry on international trading, economic growth, international relations, and human livelihood,

*Mindful* of the globally shared responsibility for the management of the oceans and the significance of enhancing the responsibility of Member State actors in properly administering oceanic waste within their own borders,

*Affirming* long-standing pollution-based threats to river water quality, such as chemical, human waste, and plastic pollution primarily sourced from urban centers, as well as the negative impact this has on river tributaries to ocean bodies,

*Bearing in mind* a poll by OCENA and the UNEP which determined that 72 percent of people want food delivery free of plastic,

*Deeply alarmed* that at least 14 million tons of plastic are produced every year, with plastic making up about 80 percent of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments,

*Valuing* sustainable civilian participation in the conservation of trees at the national level, a fundamental carbon sink,

*Firmly convinced* of the benefit of implementing better waste management systems in all Member States, with a special importance to educating the public on the dangers of human fecal matter from contaminating the water systems,

*Calling attention to* landlocked nations the opportunity to limit pollution from reaching the oceans by implementing cradle-to-grave pollution control in order to ensure the prevention of oceanic pollution,

*Underscoring* the importance of incentives for grand-scale reforestation for ocean ecosystems, clean air, de-pollution, and decarbonization, for the promotion of emissions reduction overall and meeting temperature goals on the *Paris Agreement*,

*Reminding* Member States of the importance of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to the blue economy, making up 40% of the global fishery catch and 90% of fishermen and fisherwomen globally,

*Taking into account* slower contributing levels through a focus on UNEP pollution mitigation initiatives over adaptation initiatives as *Sea Level Rise* (or SLR) becomes a concern due to melting permafrost,

*Working* for sustainable economic solutions in the area of road transport, shipping to reduce overall emissions, and working towards decarbonization of transport,

*Resolving* single-use plastic bans for all Member States concerned with such a directive, resolving a phase-out of plastic and plastic production overall,

*Keeping in mind* that numerous other Member States have successfully established artificial coral reefs and the same technology could be wielded in other countries,

*Reiterating* the need for stronger adherence to the FAO's *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* to prevent the purchase of illegally obtained marine life, which is detrimental to marine biodiversity and the livelihoods of coastal communities,

*Supporting* the necessary research and funding needed to further initiatives for alternative plastic use and sustainable resource management,

*Conscious* of the detrimental effects of declining ocean health and climate change disproportionately affect *Least Developed Countries* (LDCs), who have contributed comparatively less emissions and lack sufficient resources to cope,

*Taking into consideration* that developing nations risk suffering maritime predicaments as knowledge gaps hinder development in the blue economy sector, requiring support from advanced countries,

*Deeply conscious* of the value of information sharing in allowing Member States to know how to best approach developing a blue economy and the benefits of furthering the education of Member States in regard to oceanic waste management,

*Acknowledging* the need for the sharing of best practices, knowledge, and expertise among Member States to support the management of oceanic waste on an international level,

*Expresses deep concern* for nuclear and atomic testing in the ocean and supporting the mandate of the *Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty* (CNTB) and *The Partial Test Ban Treaty* (PTB) in all Member States as well as their respective marine jurisdictions to navigate nuclear and atomic testing in oceans,

*Noting with deep concern* of the excess contamination of hazardous waste in the ocean due to the use of pesticides, mercury, oil, and other chemical substances from land runoff, contributes to 80% of ocean pollution globally, where more than 80 percent of vulnerable groups—women, youth, elderly, and indigenous peoples— are impoverished,

*Further recalling* UNEA resolution 4/13 on “Sustainable Coral Reef Management” which encourages Member States to engage in enhanced sustainable international coral reef policies that would maintain the ecosystem and assist coral restoration practices,

*Strongly emphasizes supporting* the IPBES in researching species at risk of extinction while sharing data with all member states, and encourages and well-being of all marine ecosystems targeted by a blue economy,

*Re-emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 71/257 on “Oceans and the law of the sea” that stresses the crucial role that coastal blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves , tidal marshes, and seagrass, play in climate alteration and alleviation through carbon sequestration, furthering the expansion for tools of the resilience of coastal ecosystems that succumb to ocean acidification, as well as emphasizing the range of other benefits that these blue carbon ecosystems provide, such as sustainable livelihoods, food security and biodiversity conservation, and coastal protection,

*Observing* the ability of non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as the Environment Justice Foundation (EJF) to contribute resources toward creating framework solutions for the eradication of illegal fishing,

*Working towards* ocean protection, ecosystem protection, and individualized conservation initiatives – with pressure towards the overall ban of plastic and large-scale replanting to let the ecosystem thrive over industrial factories,

*Focusing* on Individual Member State goals for sea level rise, with stress on meeting the goals of the *Paris Agreement*,

*Reiterating* the 2022 UNEA resolution 5/14, “End plastic pollution,” that highlights the convention of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and the marine environment,

*Recommends* government regulations that limit the fishing activity of industrial corporations in the Member State’s *exclusive economic zone* (EEZ), as defined by the *United Nations Convention on the Law and Sea* (UNCLOS) including the limitation of cyanide fishing, electroshock fishing, overfishing, bottom trawling, and fishing for endangered species,

*Recalls* the UNEP Medium Strategy 2018-2021 that emphasizes the importance of making better use of Member States’ natural resources for economic and social growth to improve management of waste and chemical products to develop effective policies,

*Expressing hope* regarding the implementation of inclusivity and sustainable development by reinforcing the *11th European Development Fund Strategy* to aid Member States needing support,

*Expressing* its appreciation for the efforts of the LDC *Expert Group* to help less developed Member States manifest technical guidance to ocean resiliency and climate adaptation,

1. *Expresses its hope* for all Member States to eventually implement national single-use plastic bans in order to combat maritime plastic pollution, specifically hoping to:
  - a. Encourage Member States to share their successful policies and action plans to support others in the transition to a lifestyle free of single-use plastics;
  - b. Recommend coordinated regional efforts to ban the importation, distribution, and sale of single-use plastics to successfully prevent, reduce, and control microplastic pollution;
  - c. Support the creation of governmental departments dedicated to the establishment, implementation, and review of plastic ban initiatives;
  - d. Further recommend that national education programs accompany single-use plastic bans to educate the public on the benefits of a plastic-free society and of the detrimental environmental effects of plastic pollution;
  - e. Recommend the integration of interactive technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) simulations of the effects of plastic pollutants on marine habitats, to enhance youth educational attainment and increase public participation in ocean conservation efforts;
  - f. Approve of Member States working with commercial and business sectors to promote the development of more sustainable environmental measures and alternatives to single-use plastics during transition;
2. *Solemnly affirms* that underserved populations, such as rural populations, children, and indigenous people, can contribute to the overall health and safety of the oceans through:
  - a. The Establishment of educational systems for rural populations and areas with barriers to education in order to provide equal opportunities to rural communities given that disparities in funding vary by location;



- b. Informing general public through advertisements, on product packaging, etc. in order to reach those who are no longer in schooling;
  - c. Educating school children of the effects of plastic pollution through interactive activities integrated into their curriculums;
  - d. Cultivating higher education through required coursework or a school-wide training module that must be passed;
  - e. Embracing the power and importance of local community involvement in protecting ocean ecosystems and recognizing that many indigenous groups already integrate conservation actions into their lives through religious or traditional preservation, and:
    - i. Notes that Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) work alongside Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as complementary pathways that protect our ocean ecosystems;
    - ii. Encourages governments to formally recognize indigenous conservation actions as OECMs to give legal recognition of Indigenous and community rights to applicable areas;
  - f. Further noting that Member States' recognition of indigenous conservation efforts can count towards global biodiversity conservation targets;
3. *Look to integrate* a liaison system to local NGOs to aid them in developing international environment training programs to aid businesses in the tourism industry for the usage of a scoring system of the practices of diving and snorkeling companies that visit coral reefs and areas of endangered wildlife accredited United Nations observers monitor businesses' interactions with environments and give the scores, and:
- a. Recommends that scores below a certain threshold on the training results in an offer of advisement from UNEA workers to shape more sustainable business practices going forward;
  - b. Looks for the official UNEA worker advising period would entail a recommendation to publish biannual reports for the span of five years assessing tourist business failures in implementing green practices;
4. *Suggests* the implementation of aqua-drones to patrol calm-water areas including harbors and lakes in order to:
- a. Collect items such as marine waste plastics to be brought to the mainland to be repurposed, excess biomass that harms marine species, samples to monitor water quality, and absorb excess oil from oil spills;
  - b. Encourage the recording of data on water quality so areas at-risk of marine environment degradation can be properly monitored;
  - c. Assist in removing marine pollutants from bodies of water that feed into seas before it can reach marine ecosystems;

5. *Encouraging* incentives to engage in blue financing to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its effects on our oceans, and further:
  - a. Suggests for other Multinational Development Banks (MDBs) and developed Member States to set aside part of their climate financing for financial instruments that reduce risk;
  - b. Advises Member States and MBDs to work with private financial institutions to expand the use of blended financing in international climate financing;
  - c. Affirms domestic market incentives, and:
    - i. Calls upon the United Nations University World Institute for Economic Development Research to cooperate with Member States to identify weaknesses and barriers to green energy and sustainable development in domestic regulatory frameworks;
    - ii. Supports the creation of tax incentives for blue investment;
  - d. Invites Member States to adopt debt-for-adaptation swaps to supplement economic growth while lowering unsustainable fishing practices;
6. *Underscores* the need for developed members states to meet their international financing pledges in order to assist in the creation of sustainable blue economies and environmental infrastructure in developing member states;
7. *Looks to promote* ways to implement *Environmental and Social Governance* (ESG) investment standards into global economics development investment in line with the initiatives set by GACERE by:
  - a. Encouraging Middle Income and higher countries and MDB to involve ESG standards in all of their interactional development aid;
  - b. Supporting efforts by Member States to require financial institutions to implement transparency of their climate risks;
  - c. Calling for the United Nations University's World Institute for Economic Development Research to lead a global research effort to determine the most effective methods of International climate financing;
8. *Calls for* Member States to contribute voluntarily to existing environmental relief programs, such the Global Environmental Fund and the Green Climate Fund;
9. *Requests* voluntary funding programs for the newly created education programs and technology transfers, operating on contributions from Member States with a suggested donation from Member States of 0.5% of GDP for the following causes, and strives to:
  - a. Organize International education and training programs, with the goal of:
    - i. Expanding UNEA's partnership with the UNDP to coordinate funding grants that businesses can use to receive training;

- ii. Appropriate allocations towards the global education campaign to promote a more sustainable development;
  - b. Enact voluntary funding from more economically developed nations who share similar values and understand the importance of educating all generations on these topic;
  - c. Facilitate grants and other funding options for developing plastic disposable systems;
  - d. Evaluate Member States seeking funding and assistance in accessing resources to determine their needs;
10. *Suggests* UNFCCC to establish further guidelines for carbon taxing mechanisms under the carbon credit system of the *Kyoto Protocol* for the purposes of:
- a. Defining which substances are covered by the tax based on their carbon dioxide content;
  - b. Focusing taxes further upstream in the energy resource supply chain on suppliers, processing facilities, and refineries rather than downstream on individuals and households;
  - c. Bolstering competition in the energy market while safeguarding local production and industries by allocating subsidies for select sectors whilst offering rebates;
  - d. Evaluating tax rates and escalation in a consistent, timely manner based on the social cost of carbon which is the estimated environmental damages caused by emissions over time, availability and cost-effectiveness of alternative energy resources, and the progression of research into clean technology;
  - e. Devoting portions of tax revenue to investment into clean technology research and development, with a particular focus on local startups;
11. *Calls for* further research to be conducted by academics on fisheries with consideration for the cross-border nature of certain fisheries with specific focus on establishing data on populations within coastal ecosystems, maintaining fishery data for the public record, and applying causation correlation between the data and the damage or lack thereof within the ecosystem;
12. *Requests* that Member States adopt the following guidelines and procedures for the management of fisheries for the purposes of preventing overexploitation, protecting natural habitats, and ensuring food security, including:
- a. The further integration of the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries into Member States' domestic environmental policies;
  - b. The administration and enforcement higher requirements for domestic fishing licenses and responsible behavior of fisherman and tourists in fishing regions;
  - c. The creation of government regulations that limit the fishing activity of industrial corporations in the Member State's EEZ, as defined by the UNCLOS including the limitation of cyanide fishing, electroshock fishing, overfishing, bottom trawling, and fishing for endangered species;

- d. Increased transparency in reporting fishery stock data and institutional governance standards, especially for small-scale and artisanal fisheries;
  - e. The development of plans to reduce the amount of plastic pollution, especially pollution caused by abandoned fishing nets, which is responsible for the majority of the large plastics in the ocean;
13. *Expresses hope* for the expansion of education on ocean-related issues as they pertain to sustainable fishing through additions to public curriculums, especially for ocean-related professions, especially pertaining to sustainable fisheries, through additions to public school curriculums and through the publication of online resources, as per the guidelines established by the *Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee's Ocean Literacy Plan (IOCOLP)*, as well as by the *Ocean Literacy Framework of Action (OLFA)* for the United Nations;
14. *Recommends* that Member States prioritize local fishing in their markets by having contracts with local fisheries that increase their access to the Member State's EEZ to distribute their products within the local market;
15. *Further encourages* the management of a stop-light system for fishing areas by the UN DESA Statistics Division, where Member States designate local environmentalists in a regulatory agency to monitor different frequently visited fishing spots in order to provide a red, yellow, or green designation with an according policy recommendation:
- a. When assigned a red designation, the area is considered dangerously depopulated and must be completely blocked off for fishing for an extended period of time;
  - b. When assigned a yellow designation, the area is beginning to show signs of strain, and the State limits fishing activity in their territorial waters and recommend other fishing holes;
  - c. When assigned a green designation, the area is a strong ecosystem that can withstand fishing, and fishing activity can continue without changes;
  - d. With local agents will report their designations to UNEA to increase accountability. If there is an area that is staying in the red designation for a long period of time, UNEA can coordinate with UNEP and send in additional resources to get it restored to green;
16. *Supporting* initiatives taken by Member States on a national scale to reduce bycatch in commercial fishing by:
- a. Encouraging all Member States to implement bycatch reduction devices within their fishing industries;
  - b. Supporting the creating international research partnerships between Member States, NGOs, and Universities to capture the differences of bycatch around the world and execute national accountability;
  - c. Calling for researchers, NGOs, and members states to work toward the adoption of a common definition for bycatch;

- d. Noting the need for bycatch reduction efforts to focus on saving keystone species, such as sharks and rays;
  - e. Recognizing the importance of publishing of bycatch data by all Member States to facilitate effective research into bycatch;
- 17. *Notes* the suggestions of the EJF methodology proposed in the article “Eradicating Illegal Fishing and Improving Transparency in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations” as a roadmap to incorporating effective IUU-combating strategies;
- 18. *Calling on* developed states and MDB to remember the importance of waste management Systems for the proper disposal of plastic, and urge Member States and bodies to set aside funds for waste management services and proper plastic disposal in their international development financing plans;
- 19. *Requests* that Member States adopt documentation under the premises of SDG 14 recognizing the hazards destructive fishing practices impose on blue carbon ecosystems such as the destruction of mangroves that absorb carbon in the oceans, and:
  - a. Implement policies to protect these regions under international law under the umbrella of a global understanding, can model after the program Policy and Strategy of the Sea for the purposes of strengthening sovereignty over a country’s waters and retaining a structure for a new blue, profitable and sustainable ocean economy;
  - b. Encourage legal code ensuring that fisheries will be met with substantial consequences if found at fault in participating in destructive practices towards blue carbon ecosystems;
  - c. Constitute environmental operatives and policy that implement the plantation of more mangroves along the coasts of specifically under developed nations;
- 20. *Calls upon* Member States that depend on water desalination to convert their plants to sustainable methods of desalination, such as reverse osmosis;
- 21. *Directs* the Executive Director of the UNEP to consider establishing a subsidiary body to be known as the Committee on Water Desalination to regulate the disposal of brine produced by water desalination facilities, to be constructed:
  - a. For the purposes of accomplishing the following objectives:
    - i. The publication of educational materials on the impact of brine on water salinity and ocean ecosystems;
    - ii. The facilitation of communication among all concerned stakeholders on the subject of brine and desalination;
    - iii. The development of a set of guidelines for desalination-dependent Member States for the proper disposal of brine with the target of reducing by half the amount of brine that is released in the oceans by 2033;
    - iv. The creation, of programs that incentivize the implementation of sustainable brine management practices;

- v. The production of suggested policies for brine management through further research, the focus of which will include but not be limited to the effective reuse of brine in alternative applications;
  - b. With biennial meetings held as part of the meetings of the UNEA at the UN Headquarters to discuss the progress of the committee on achieving these objectives;
  - c. With guidance and leadership from academic scholars and researchers for the production of educational materials, guidelines, and reports on brine production and desalination;
  - d. With oversight from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ensure the implementation of the regulations established by this body;
  - e. With material support for a subsidiary body on brine waste management be provided by NGOs, voluntary contributions by Member States, and the reallocation from Member States' claim of Special Drawing Rights from the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
22. *Supports* the continual installation by NGOs of equitable, affordable waste treatment technology for national industries with water pollution risks associated with maritime pollution like forever chemicals;
23. *Stresses* to Member States the importance of increased awareness regarding the following exasperating factors and harmful impacts associated with ocean acidification, particularly from:
- a. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the burning of fossil fuels;
  - b. Impacts on marine food chains, as well as food security;
  - c. Ramifications for biodiversity and the effects of the bleaching of coral reefs;
  - d. The work of the *Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre* on the role of nuclear and isotopic techniques, ramifications of radioactive contamination, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to nuclear and atomic testing;
24. *Endorses* the expansion of *The London Convention* to include the prevention of dumping persistent plastic waste into ocean bodies, supported by policies created by UNCLOS;
25. *Draws attention* towards a collaborative network to promote research and the expansion of the usage of the *Chemicals and Waste Management Programme* to stimulate the fabrication of an annual report on hazardous waste production to manage the amount of runoff of hazardous waste into the ocean and advocates for Member States of the *Chemicals and Waste Management Programme* to address the risks faced by vulnerable groups regarding hazardous substance exposure through gender-focused strategies favoring impoverished vulnerable groups;
26. *Requests* Member States prevent economic repercussions in coral reef and coastal environment protection and restoration, by:
- a. Adopting legal documentation that actively hinders environmentally damaging fishing practices, as damaging fishing practices can damage marine ecosystems for decades to come in mere minutes with damaging fishing practices;

- b. Supporting collaboration with NGOs to provide relief and support in damaged ecosystems Providing relief into the ecosystem via actively improving populations within or collaborating with NGOs that focus on conserving coastal ecosystems;
- 27. *Urges* Member States to implement national programs to rehabilitate, which have natural flood prevention capabilities, such that coastal communities are better protected from the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels, flooding, and natural disasters, by:
  - a. Requesting that the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) support the creation of these programs through partnerships with Member States;
  - b. Recommending the inclusion of researchers and public employees to design effective community-based solutions.