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Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Programme
(UNEP)

Courage
for **peace**



Compassion
in **action**

CONFERENCE B

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Committee Staff

Director	Maximilian Jungmann
Assistant Director	Katie Keelan
Chair	Rachel Mucho
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Agenda

- I. Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans
- II. Corruption in Environmental Governance
- III. Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEP/RES/1/1	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	147 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 5 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/2	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	120 votes in favor, 19 votes against, 15 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/3	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	129 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 19 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/4	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	127 votes in favor, 7 votes against, 20 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/5	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	121 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 28 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/6	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	105 votes in favor, 30 votes against, 19 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/7	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	121 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 21 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/8	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	127 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 22 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/9	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	133 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 17 abstentions
UNEP/RES/1/10	Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans	121 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 18 abstentions

Summary Report

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

1. Corruption and Environmental Governance
2. Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices
3. Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

The session was attended by representatives of 161 Member States and 2 Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II and began discussion on the topic of "Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans." On Monday, during the first suspension, the delegates began dividing themselves into working groups based on potential subtopics. By Monday evening, the Dais had received 18 working papers on subtopics including education and awareness, innovation, waste management, accountability frameworks, good governance, and finance. On Tuesday morning, the papers were returned and the working groups began to merge. During the sessions, the delegates were negotiating diplomatically and the atmosphere of the committee was one of collaboration and innovation. By Tuesday evening, the committee had reduced the number of papers to 10 through the process of merging.

On Wednesday, the Dais approved 10 draft resolutions and the committee did not have any amendments. The committee adopted all 10 of the resolutions, which covered issues including enhancing UNEP's capacity to address plastic debris in the world's oceans, developing regulating mechanisms for plastic consumption and disposal, and cleaning up coastal regions. The body discussed the complex nature of the topic in the many speeches given throughout the committee sessions and developed solutions on preventing and cleaning up plastic debris in the world's oceans.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Guided by Article 1.3 of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for international cooperation in solving*
4 *international problems relating to economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues of concern, as this includes*
5 *promoting environmental sustainability in the world's oceans,*
6
7 *Recalling the Honolulu Strategy as a planning tool to develop and refine spatially or sector-specific marine debris*
8 *programs or projects, which provides a frame of reference for sharing of best practices and a monitoring tool to*
9 *measure progress in programs,*
10
11 *Recognizing the importance of the Honolulu Strategy in establishing methods of change through the organization of*
12 *civil society organizations, private institutions, and government programs, and also the need to support efforts in*
13 *creating change through local governments as established through the Honolulu Strategy,*
14
15 *Expressing its appreciation to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from*
16 *Land-based activities (GPA) along with the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) in engaging and divulging guidance*
17 *for governments to monitor marine litter and to reduce the amount of plastic jettison in the ocean,*
18
19 *Alarmed that 80% of marine pollution comes from land based sources, and that of this pollution, a large percentage*
20 *of this is plastic debris, as stated by the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine*
21 *Pollution,*
22
23 *Highlighting the need to combat the issue of ocean plastic through both land based approaches as well as marine*
24 *targeted approaches, as addressed in the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from*
25 *Land-Based Activities,*
26
27 *Having studied the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which stated that the seabed and ocean*
28 *floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are the common heritage of mankind,*
29
30 *Echoing the Rio +20 Commitment The Future We Want, which emphasizes the need for reduction of pollutants*
31 *from all ecosystems, such as the removal from plastics from oceans,*
32
33 *Emphasizing The Future We Want, which calls for integrated waste management strategies to be improved and*
34 *implemented within all Member States, in order to ensure that plastics and other pollutants do not further harm the*
35 *environment,*
36
37 *Recognizing the role of innovative technologies in achieving improved maritime ecosystems and the need for change*
38 *in the future development of plastic materials and disposal of plastics, as noted in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21,*
39
40 *Recalling the global issue of sustainability, including the reduction of cleanup time through the utilization of*
41 *innovative solutions for cleanup mechanisms as noted in Facilitation Mechanisms to Promote the Development,*
42 *Transfer and Dissemination of Clean and Environmentally Sound Technologies under the United Nations Industrial*
43 *Development Organization (UNIDO),*
44
45 *Acknowledging the importance of information sharing to the implementation of action plans especially between*
46 *developed and developing countries,*
47

48 *Recognizing* the crucial role that healthy ecosystems perform and will continue to perform in the sustainable
49 development of countries in regard to food security, ecotourism, and sustainable livelihoods, as stated in the
50 *Convention on Biological Diversity*,
51
52 *Guided by* national programs such as Waste Busters and Green Earth Recycling as examples to recycle and
53 repurpose plastic waste,
54
55 *Acknowledging* the effectiveness of the Plastic Free Campuses initiative of the Plastic Pollution Coalition in
56 reducing plastic products in universities and developing alternatives for plastic usage,
57
58 *Applauding* the success of the Green Prison initiatives that reduce plastic use and produce plastic alternatives for
59 distribution and saving at least \$4.3 million dollars annually,
60
61 *Expressing its appreciation* for the volunteers in 91 Member States who participated in the 2014 International
62 Coastal Cleanup Day,
63
64 *Noting* the importance of World Oceans Day as an important campaign mechanism, according to General Assembly
65 resolution 63/111 as well as the efficacy of coastal cleanup efforts conducted through organizations such as the
66 Ocean Conservancy Nonprofit and International Coastal Cleanup,
67
68 *Realizing* the need for further implementation of technology banks in accordance with the report of the United
69 Nations Fourth Conference on the Least Developed Countries to help finance the transfer of climate technology
70 through private sector banks and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI),
71
72 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/191, which notes the importance of regional cooperation in all
73 environmental issues,
74
75 *Noting* the report “Capacity Building for Sustainable Development: An Overview of UNEP Environmental Capacity
76 Development Activities”, and its call for a broadened scope of environmental awareness initiatives,
77
78 *Cognizant* of section 2 of the *Stockholm Declaration*, which states that the duty of all governments is to protect and
79 improve the environment for all people,
80
81 *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution S-19/2 of 1997, which notes the importance that the media and
82 advertising sectors can have on improving sustainable consumption patterns, thus reducing the amount of plastic
83 debris in oceans,
84
85 *Guided by* the declarations made by the report of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on
86 “Citizen Engagement and the Post-2015 Development Agenda,” which encourages increased local engagement and
87 public participation in environmental issues,
88
89 *Deeply concerned* about the unsustainable production and consumption practices of the private sector and the lack of
90 adherence to the voluntary goals set out in the Global Compact,
91
92 *Fully alarmed* about the current state of the oceans, as plastics become more of a concern for the international
93 community, according to the “Marine Litter and Debris Report,” and the importance of cooperation towards
94 addressing these issues,
95
96 *Strongly emphasizes* Target 1 of Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls for the
97 reduction of land based sources of pollution, and stresses the desire to raise awareness of recycling, reusing, and
98 repurposing of plastic for Member States,
99
100 *Noting with deep concern* the lack of specificity of the language within the 2015 *Paris Agreement*, in order to ensure
101 the commitments made by donor states towards climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts are adequate to
102 allow developing states to reduce their impacts of plastic in the oceans,
103

104 *Aware* of the World Bank’s report “A Public-Private Partnership Approach to Climate Finance” and its support of
105 green infrastructure investment and development, as it applies towards actions to reduce pollutants, such as plastic in
106 the oceans,
107

108 *Recalling* the successes of joint initiatives between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the
109 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in creating new jobs from recycling programs generated by
110 public-private partnerships (PPPs), such as the 2011 project in Montevideo, Uruguay,
111

112 *Recalling* UNEP’s report “Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter,” which states that biodegradable plastics will
113 not be successful at decreasing plastic litter in the world’s oceans due to the highly complex nature of separating
114 biodegradable and non-biodegradable plastics waste,
115

116 *Recognizing* the implications of plastics pollution on marine and land-based biodiversity as outlined in UNEP Year
117 Book 2014 emerging issues update “Plastic Debris in the World’s Oceans,” as well as in the *Convention on*
118 *Biological Diversity* and the three *Rio Conventions*,
119

120 *Deeply concerned* about endemic species specifically those living in water ecosystems, which are those species that
121 only exist in certain geological areas, as outlined in UNEP’s “State of the Environment and Policy Retrospective”
122 Chapters 2-4,
123

124 *Cognizant* of the UNEP-United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) report “Sick Water: The
125 Central Role of Wastewater Management in Sustainable Development” and its statement that the lack of
126 infrastructure for waste management systems contributes to increased pollution, including from plastic,
127

128 *Emphasizing* the importance of the impact of human activities on marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems,
129 through the Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (COP10), and is deeply concerned
130 about the lack of community involvement regarding this issue,
131

- 132 1. *Endorses* capacity-building initiatives in developing countries, specifically least developed countries (LDCs)
133 and small island developing states (SIDS), which promote institution-building through the UNDP Capacity
134 Development Group’s partnership with national and local governments to enable the implementation of related
135 environmental agreements, such as the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, thus ensuring
136 development needs do not compromise environmental protection;
137
- 138 2. *Recommends* increased assistance from all willing and able Member States for the building and maintenance of
139 infrastructure, specifically infrastructure retrofitted to facilitate access to information and communication
140 technologies, aimed at ensuring inclusive-environmentally friendly policies channeled through *United Nations*
141 *Framework Convention on Climate Change*’s Technology Transfer Framework in order to promote reduction,
142 cleanup, and innovative mechanisms for addressing plastic debris in the world’s oceans, thus bridging the rural
143 urban communication divide;
144
- 145 3. *Suggests* that Member States promote and facilitate technology transfers through the South-South Cooperation
146 Exchange Mechanism, complying with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s definition of
147 technology transfers, with a specific focus on environmentally sound technologies, especially in line with waste
148 management and plastic pollution prevention;
149
- 150 4. *Calls upon* financing institutions, such as the African Development Bank, to further reach out in low to middle
151 income countries, and provide support at the local level to further implement waste management infrastructure
152 necessary for the overall reduction of pollution, specifically plastic debris in marine ecosystems, similar to the
153 successful projects done by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in African countries;
154
- 155 5. *Calls upon* Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) to
156 participate in the International Coastal Cleanup Day according to their capacity;
157
- 158 6. *Recommends* the World Oceans Day project further expand their awareness outreach on plastic waste in the
159 world oceans to a longer term sustainable initiative, especially in developing Member States, by requesting that

160 sovereign governments encourage private sector corporations with established and efficient recycling programs
161 advertise for, and organize, annual community coastal clean up events and community based recycling
162 programs;
163

164 7. *Urges* further coordination between NGOs, CSOs, the United Nations and local communities to address ground-
165 based initiatives concerned with specific conditions of each Member State to bridge the developmental gap
166 faced by developing countries in taking action to tackle the reduction of plastic debris and enhance response
167 capacity to new and incoming environmental threats;
168

169 8. *Recommends* cooperation with Member States, their regional intergovernmental organizations, and the six
170 UNEP regional offices to implement regional education programs to discuss with the general public the dangers
171 of plastics in the world's oceans, modeled after the UNEP Regional Programme on Environmental Education to
172 Sustainable Development of the Southeast Pacific;
173

174 9. *Encourages* stronger cooperation with United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization's
175 (UNESCO) programs and all relevant actors to support Member States build the capacity of educators through
176 training in workshops to emphasize the threats of plastics in the oceans, as well as other environmental issues,
177 within primary education systems, seen in Jamaica's Enhancing Environmental Education in the Curriculum
178 workshop, in which teachers were trained by Jamaica's National Environmental Education Committee to
179 accurately raise environmental awareness in primary schools;
180

181 10. *Supports* cooperation with the Global Partnership for Education to create an Oceans Sustainability framework
182 that addresses the effects of plastic in the oceans, following the model of the Global Partnership for Education's
183 Environmental and Social Management Framework and the UNEP Strategy for Environmental Education and
184 Training, so that school systems, especially in developing and rural areas, can be further educated on the
185 dangers of plastics in the oceans;
186

187 11. *Calls for* an enhanced partnership between UNEP and UNESCO, and United Nations Children's Fund
188 (UNICEF) to develop national education and awareness raising programs, geared towards educating children
189 and youth on reducing, reusing and recycling plastics in order to address the root causes of the spread of plastic
190 debris in the world's oceans and water supplies;
191

192 12. *Requests* that the UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit further supports influencing public
193 environmental and ethical behavior by extending its education and training to the local governments of Member
194 States in order to create sustainable policies, such as those found in the *Honolulu Strategy* through partnership
195 with other Member States, which will foster new environmentally friendly behaviors to reduce plastic in the
196 oceans;
197

198 13. *Calls upon* Member States to promote the expansion of UNEP's Life-Cycle Initiative in partnership with
199 UNESCO's Teacher Training Initiative by implementing syllabus guidelines on the circular economy which
200 include educational material for all educational levels, particularly universities, in order to prevent products
201 with limited lifetimes and thereby enhancing consumer as well as producer responsibility awareness;
202

203 14. *Suggests* the formation of a universal database which facilitates the sharing of best practices between all
204 relevant actors, including corporations, entrepreneurs, and NGOs, led through actors such as the International
205 Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO's International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange, in
206 order to realize an educational and monitoring network between organizations, thus ensuring the most effective
207 and efficient approach taken by all involved and improved response capacity, in accordance with UNEP/IOC
208 Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter;
209

210 15. *Strongly asks* willing and able Member States to contribute more than they currently voluntarily donate to the
211 Global Environment Facility allowing for an expansion of funds available for programs and projects created in
212 order to improve more on current issues involving the private sector; contribute to the economy's gross
213 domestic product (GDP);
214

- 215 16. *Strongly* recommends the enhancement of cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility and International
216 Monetary Fund to identify PPPs and other local stakeholders that make commitments to develop infrastructure
217 supporting the sustainable use and reuse of plastics to reduce their presence in the oceans;
218
- 219 17. *Supports* the employment of PPPs with the proposed objectives:
220
- 221 a. Expand collection programs where the buildup of plastic debris is most urgent, as identified by
222 Member States, their sub-national and local governments;
223
 - 224 b. Repurpose plastics through local workshops that can be led by Member State governments and UNEP
225 regional offices that aim to identify potential uses, such as affordable furniture, for excess plastics
226 before the debris reaches the oceans;
227
 - 228 c. Engage technological entrepreneurs to develop waste-to-energy innovations to provide affordable
229 energy for communities in need, as the request and approval of the Member State government;
230
 - 231 d. Provide recycling and repurposing job opportunities in order to expand the labor market;
232
- 233 18. *Recommends* that Member States partner with the private sector, including advertising and broadcasting
234 corporations, for entertainment-based education campaigns on the threats of plastic products to the oceans,
235 similar in structure to Sony’s “Picture This” campaign, which worked with several Asian countries to promote
236 and educate the public on phasing out individual usage of plastic bags;
237
- 238 19. *Urges* Member States to implement policies that encourage dialogue between the public and governments
239 pertaining to environmental issues, specifically waste leakage of plastic debris into the oceans, such as the
240 Marine Environment Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China, which established the State Oceanic
241 Administration Department, which engages the public in surveys regarding sustainable marine environments;
242
- 243 20. *Welcomes* the collaboration between UNEP and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime to share information
244 under a system related to the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge aiming at the elimination of
245 plastic waste in the future, to aid in the exchange of information and technology systems necessary to make
246 innovation processes more efficient, focusing on programs such as the UNEP supported Packing with Fungi
247 Programme and other alternatives including but not limited to Shrilk, as opposed to packaging with expandable
248 polystyrene foam plastic noting that this material is incapable of biodegradation;
249
- 250 21. *Encourages* the incorporation of local populations, particularly those most vulnerable in society like indigenous
251 peoples, in the development of zero waste strategies through UNESCO’s Education for All Programme through
252 environmental protection awareness raising and media campaigns which incorporate the public and their local
253 governments in the aim of ensuring long term vigilance and local decision making capacity;
254
- 255 22. *Requests* a partnership with The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental
256 Protection, which is a group of coordinating specialized agencies under the United Nation, to increase the focus
257 of their scientific research on environmental benefits of edible and biodegradable packaging;
258
- 259 23. *Invites* collaboration with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to aid in financing the
260 implementation and infrastructure of “zero waste” strategies within Member States in order to reduce the harm
261 of plastic accumulating in the ocean;
262
- 263 24. *Suggests* corporations that produce edible eating utensils, similar to Bakey’s Edible Cutlery, whose utensils can
264 be consumed after use, or else biodegrade within three to five days, to partner with the Food and Agricultural
265 Organization to further both organizations’ zero waste strategies, as well as help to campaign for more
266 biodegradable alternatives to plastic, and to better distribute sustainable products;
267
- 268 25. *Supports* Member States in coastal cleanup efforts modeled after the International Coastal Cleanup to:
269

- 270 a. Provide incentives such as tax deductions for businesses that partner with NGOs like the Ocean
271 Conservancy for a specific and timely cleanup activity and provide volunteer labor to assist in the
272 coastal cleanup;
273
- 274 b. Advertise the specific beach coastal project and encouraging additional involvement and awareness;
275
- 276 26. *Looking* to national programs such as the Waste Busters and Green Earth Recycling as examples for the
277 international community to find existing national programs that contribute to removing debris from the ocean
278 and repurposing plastics into reusable utensils and agricultural tools, using NGOs such as SIMPA, that facilitate
279 the sustainable development of those communities;
280
- 281 27. *Requests* that the Plastic Free Campuses initiative of the Plastic Pollution Coalition (PPC) and other similar
282 programs be used as an example for International Plastic Free Schools initiative to expand the positive effect of
283 the previous campus-specific initiative to cover more educational institutions, specifically pre-university
284 schools;
285
- 286 28. *Advises* the International Plastic Free Schools initiative enhance cooperation with Member States to participate
287 in the benefits which can:
288
- 289 a. Educate faculty in reducing the use of plastics in educational institutions, particularly plastic bottles,
290 bags, straws, utensils, styrofoam lunch trays, and polystyrene food packaging, guided by a list of
291 recommended alternatives to these plastics;
292
- 293 b. Give public schools access to small amounts of PPC funding as well as connections to further sponsors
294 to assist in the financial implementation of plastic-reducing and recycling initiatives;
295
- 296 c. Provide materials to educate and empower students to encourage their peers and families to reduce
297 their plastic usage;
298
- 299 29. *Encourages* the development and strengthening of an international framework with regional platforms for
300 information sharing and communication of best practices, similar to the Marine Litter Network under the Global
301 Partnership on Marine Litter, which conducts research, and connects the regional states and governments, as
302 well as provides successful case studies on the management of plastic;
303
- 304 30. *Recommends* the creation of a plastic debris data collection system that will:
305
- 306 a. Track and collect data on plastic debris in the world's oceans;
307
- 308 b. Record data on plastic debris of, ranging from micro-plastics to visible plastics allowing individuals to
309 be aware of how to recycle all plastics; opportunities, and depletion of resources for communities; as
310 plastic bags, by collecting data on the overall weight of the plastic collected, as well as the proportion
311 of that is greater than or less than one centimeter in length, with each wave of data collection
312 beginning in 2018;
313
- 314 31. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's Delivering As One initiative, which encourages local communities to focus
315 on plastic reduction through local governments and ministries in order to ensure that these programs are fully
316 supported by the United Nations;
317
- 318 32. *Invites* the private sector to consider increasing its presence in developing countries, especially packaging
319 companies who adhere to the Global Compact, and to help advise local economies in sustainable production and
320 consumption practices in efforts to reduce land based sources of pollution, similar to Michael Biddle &
321 Associates Polymers, a world leader in producing post-consumer plastics;
322
- 323 33. *Recommends* the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and
324 Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) research, and, if feasible, develop the technical capacity to monitor plastic
325 spillage in the world's oceans in coordination with the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization

- 326 and the International Maritime Organization, to increase mechanisms for accountability and reporting of
327 pollution;
328
- 329 34. *Welcomes* the Clean Energy Solutions Center, an intergovernmental platform the connects governments seeking
330 policy information and advice with policy experts to provide in-depth answers to policy questions and concerns,
331 to incorporate plastic waste management policy advice, in collaboration with UNEP’s Division of Technology
332 Industry and Economics;
333
- 334 35. *Recommends* the investigation of the Green Prison Project and similar initiatives to create programs dedicated
335 to expand recycling and reducing plastic usage in public institutions as well as programs within incarceration
336 facilities to produce goods to be used as plastic alternatives like woven baskets that can be sold to the
337 surrounding communities to replace the usage of plastic bags;
338
- 339 36. *Encourages* a partnership with the UNIDO and developed nations to expand SID DOCS to work with
340 developing countries, which would support the creation and implementation of alternative energy sources, thus
341 reducing plastic in the ocean;
342
- 343 37. *Recommends* a partnership with the UNDP and developing states to encourage the development of garbage
344 facility infrastructure, modeled by the UNDP’s India-Brazil-South Africa Solid Waste Management Project, to
345 help reduce plastic debris brought into the ocean from improper disposal methods;
346
- 347 38. *Encourages* the establishment of a partnership between UNEP and UNIDO for the coordination of efforts with
348 private sector industries to promote best use practices through a process of eco labeling which certifies that the
349 product does not use or release microplastics that would encourage the use of and raise awareness for
350 biodegradable products, , as well as the reduction in use of microplastics to:
351
- 352 a. Provide the certified products of the private sector with positive public images through promotional
353 activities which recognize the significant efforts to eliminate microplastics and achieve environmental
354 responsibility;
355
 - 356 b. Be in accordance with a standard set by the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
357 giving a certificate rating the quality of products;
358
 - 359 c. Incentivize the private sector to invest in research and development, resulting in environmentally
360 friendly substitutes to microplastics.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Alarmed and concerned* with the vast amount of plastic in the world's oceans,

4
5 *Bearing in mind* that both production of and demand for plastic products are, amongst other factors, responsible for
6 the continuous flow of plastic wastes into the world's oceans,

7
8 *Noting with concern* that plastic products are designed to become waste at the end of their usage, flowing determined
9 from the cradle of production into their grave in the ocean,

10
11 *Seeking to expand* innovative uses for the plastic collected from the world's oceans,

12
13 *Fully aware* of the existing United Nations Office for Partnerships' (UNOP) initiative to foster collaboration
14 between private sectors and foundations, which furthers the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides
15 support to new initiatives of the Secretary-General,

16
17 *Recognizing* with satisfaction recycling projects involving public-private investments supported by international
18 funds such as Bhutan's Green Project Roads,

19
20 *Welcoming* all countries to partake in an open dialog with civil societies in the form of focus groups to help better
21 understand the process in which the international community will recycle and reuse ocean plastics,

22
23 *Acknowledging* that the reduction of pollution and the reduction of the creation of plastics as well as preventing the
24 disposal of plastic debris into the world's waterways are the first steps towards tackling the issue of plastic debris in
25 the world's oceans,

- 26
27 1. *Calls upon* Member States to integrate the private sector into common solution-finding both in terms of
28 knowledge creation as well as in developing financial incentives in order to foster closed material cycles or full
29 biodegradability of plastic products;
- 30
31 2. *Expresses* its hope that Member States will build on its current infrastructures to reach out to interested
32 companies in the form of focus groups that devise a blueprint on creating a funnel between the collection of
33 reclaimed ocean plastics and the production of new products;
- 34
35 3. *Encourages* Member States to establish collaborations with civil society organizations that can provide private
36 sector corporations with the proper expertise that could assist with the expansion of innovative recycling
37 methods modeling the structure of companies such as Pilot, Nike, and Adidas in their respective industries such
38 as but not limited to:
- 39
40 a. Athletic apparel companies utilizing reclaimed ocean plastic materials to design their shoes, clothes,
41 and other applicable materials;
- 42
43 b. Utensil and stationary companies to partner with bottling and recycling companies to use recovered
44 plastics from the oceans in the creation of their products;
- 45
46 4. *Strongly recommends* Member-States to utilize recycled ocean plastics to create their public infrastructures as
47 modeled by Bhutan's Green Roads Project that creates roads using these materials;
- 48

49 5. *Strongly encourages* Member States to develop country-specific approaches to implement a zero-waste strategy
50 regarding plastic products, such as the innovative “Cradle to Cradle” concept as both sustainable and profitable
51 approach, which aims at designing products in forefront of production in a way that they are fully recyclable
52 either in closed technical cycles or by full biodegradability under natural conditions, and which has been proven
53 to be successful for a variety of products by different companies.



Code: UNEP/RES1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Guided by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 that calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the*
4 *world's oceans,*
5
6 *Recognizing the already existing and accumulating amounts of plastic debris in the world's oceans that affect the*
7 *international community equally as a whole,*
8
9 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228, which aimed to prevent pollution in the ocean through laws, reports,*
10 *and funds,*
11
12 *Deeply concerned about the negative health impacts caused by chemicals diffusing from plastics into the freshwater*
13 *systems and oceans,*
14
15 *Profoundly concerned by the direct toxicity caused by chemicals from diffusion out of plastic debris in the world's*
16 *water systems such as lead, cadmium, and mercury,*
17
18 *Alarmed by the presence of carcinogens resulting from the breakdown of plastics in the oceans and deeply regretting*
19 *the lives lost as a result of such chemicals in drinking water like benzene, chlorine, fluoride, arsenic, diethylhexyl*
20 *phthalate (DEHP), and more,*
21
22 *Distressed by the cases of endocrine disruption linked to plastic debris pollution resulting in cancer, birth defects,*
23 *immune system suppression, and developmental problems in children,*
24
25 *Taking into consideration that landlocked states may feel that they have less incentive to participate in cleanup*
26 *projects,*
27
28 *Acknowledging that the issue of plastic debris in the world's oceans can only be resolved by a multilateral approach*
29 *that includes the active participation of all Member States,*
30
31 *Emphasizing that individual citizens of both coastal and landlocked states are the victims of plastic debris in the*
32 *world's oceans,*
33
34 *Further acknowledging the issues that Member States may face such as possible strains on resources while working*
35 *to educate and raise awareness about plastic debris in the world's oceans,*
36
37 *Seeing the need for increased cooperation between all Member States to counter plastic debris in the world's oceans*
38 *and the negative health impacts it has on humans,*
39
40 *Applauds the Global Environments Facility for past success in providing funding for sustainable projects while*
41 *building a database of the steps taken in successful and unsuccessful projects,*
42
43 *Emphasizing the success of the Clean Up the World Project that is currently implemented in Australia by the United*
44 *Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), that – at a local level – pushes cities and municipalities to pursue proper*
45 *waste disposal practices and pollution control multilaterally,*
46
47 *Reinforcing the benefits of using education on multiple levels to educate the public as well as establish plastic debris*
48 *awareness and action in the next generation, utilizing the Global Universities Partnership on Environment for*
49 *Sustainability's (GUPES) guidelines,*

- 50
51 *Observing* the Threat Abatement Plan for Marine Debris on Vertebrate Marine Life adopted by Australia, that
52 addresses the impact of plastic debris on Marine Life,
53
54 *Emphasizing* participation of not only Member States, but individuals as well,
55
56 1. *Suggests* to expand upon the Clean Up the World Project to include more Member States in the form of Clean
57 Up the World 2.0;
58
59 2. *Establish* the UNEP World Fishing Campaign (WFC) and urge Member States to involve citizens in cleanup
60 efforts through the and develop a program for students who are interested in collaborating and participating with
61 Clean Up the World 2.0;
62
63 3. *Recommends* that the World Fishing Campaign be similar to the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign
64 that UNEP has previously established that had encouraged citizens to plant trees to raise awareness about
65 climate change through citizen action;
66
67 4. *Encourages* Member States and their citizens to be involved with WFC by fishing for plastic debris in the
68 world's oceans and freshwater systems; set a standard for a number of trash cans per linear kilometer in beach
69 areas (1 per 100m); and quarterly beach cleaning campaigns similar to the Australian Take 3;
70
71 5. *Recommends* the extension of the Save Our Shores Pollution Prevention Initiative that will be adapted to an
72 international framework to be implemented at the local level that will work to prevent, advocate, and educate on
73 how to reduce plastic in the ocean and will focus on how plastic effects organisms that live in the ocean and the
74 effects plastic debris has on humans;
75
76 6. *Creates* the Plastic Debris Awareness Day (PDAD) to raise awareness about plastic debris in the world's oceans
77 and freshwater systems one day out of the year with focuses on political attention and action as well as urge
78 Member States to educate citizens through UNEP;
79
80 7. *Advocates* for governments to add educational curriculum to their public schools for Plastic Debris Awareness
81 Day similar to what the United States implements on Earth Day;
82
83 8. *Reiterates* the importance of educational curriculum, especially those in which Member States can work with
84 conservation programs to educate students on marine animal species and plants with focuses on the negative
85 impacts of plastic debris on marine life;
86
87 9. *Endorses* the use the guidelines set by Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability
88 (GUPES) established in 2010 to foster participation of student engagement in sustainable practices within and
89 beyond universities, enhance management of the greening of university operations and promoting research and
90 community participation in regards to developmental efforts and sustaining the marine environment with
91 programs such as Pakistan's Next Generation Pakistan and the National Programme for the Development of
92 Education in the Republic of Macedonia effective from 2005-2015 to educate youth on the responsibility of the
93 3 "R's" reduce, reuse, recycle of plastic materials as well as clean coastal zones within the framework of
94 PDAD;
95
96 10. *Encourages* states which are without oceanic borders to additionally focus on PDAD on the impacts of
97 freshwater systems and drinking water, as well as the impacts on seafood resources;
98
99 11. *Proposes* action in Plastic Debris Awareness Day (PDAD) through prevention protocols determined and
100 implemented in relation to individual Member States' plastic debris levels in water systems;
101
102 12. *Encourages* these programs to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in conjunction with the
103 funding already in use for Clean Up the World in order to increase transparency and accountability by
104 uploading data gained and the efficiency of funds used to a database on the GEF website which shows what
105 causes successful or unsuccessful projects;

- 106
107 13. *Encourages* the GEF to fund the removal of plastic debris from the world's oceans for Clean Up the World 2.0
108 incorporating;
109
110 14. *Urges* Member States to upload data from each project implemented into the GEF database recommending that
111 Member States measure the levels of the chemicals including lead, cadmium, mercury, and DEHP, as well as
112 the incidences of endocrine disruption in order to include in their reports;
113
114 15. *Recommending* Member States issue reports on the progress and success of the Clean Up the World 2.0 project
115 within their state, as well as the positive impact it has had on their plastic debris levels;
116
117 16. *Urges* willing and able Member States to further collaborate with UNEP and other United Nations bodies for
118 the implementation of informative sessions and campaigns with each state on the dangers that plastic debris has
119 and will continue to on the world's oceans including the establishment of educational classes within public
120 schools resulting in a preventative step being taken as well as innovative campaigns that include facts about the
121 toxic effects on sea animals, the loss of job allowing students to be aware of how to recycle all plastics;
122 opportunities, and depletion of resources for communities.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Recognizing* the development in regional and international entities such as the Islamic Educational, Scientific and
4 Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Sea
5 Programme in coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to enhance educational programs
6 and best-practice share of plastic debris waste management,

7
8 *Referring* to General Assembly resolution 69/245 section IX of 29 December 2014 concerning marine environment
9 and marine resources and resolution 70/1 “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
10 Development” of 25 September 2015 on the negative impact of plastic debris and micro plastics on the world’s
11 oceans to biodiversity and human health,

12
13 *Highlighting* the success in developing Shoreline Management Master Plan (SMP) as exemplified by the Iranian
14 Department of Marine Environment in forming ad hoc groups such as the Office of Beaches and Coastal Wetlands
15 in reducing land based pollution by working with coastal community in promoting best-practices of waste
16 management,

17
18 *Recalling* Part XII, Article 207 of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas* entitled Protection and
19 Preservation of Marine Environment which recognizes that pollution of the world’s oceans also occurs from land
20 based sources such as rivers,

21
22 *Cognizant* of the Singaporean Recycling Corner Programme for schools in educating on best practices in the
23 reducing, reusing, and recycling methods to enhance social and environmental responsibility, particularly relating to
24 plastic mitigation within the world’s ocean,

25
26 *Noting* the International Oceans Institute’s Women, Youth and Sea Program in providing training assistance of
27 educational awareness through web seminars in order to develop volunteer services on best-practices of
28 environmental issues, such as the plastic debris within the world’s oceans,

29
30 *Acknowledging* that proper and efficient policies such as the Marine Environment Protection Law of the People’s
31 Republic of China will contribute to lessening the amount of waste leakage specifically plastic waste from entering
32 the marine ecosystem,

33
34 *Recognizing* the devastating effects of plastic debris in the world’s oceans on aquatic ecosystems, climate, and
35 humans, such as destruction of natural habitats, climate change (rise in sea level), diseases, disruption of food
36 chains, displacement of aquatic organisms in the ocean floors among others,

37
38 *Applauds* the efforts on Singapore’s coastline by the Design Studio SPARK for the recent introduced innovative
39 reuse method of marine debris similar to non-biodegradable plastic called high density polyethylene (HDPE) as a
40 means to build solar Powered Beach Huts,

41
42 *Emphasizing* the urgent need of addressing and offering solutions to reduce the amount of plastic debris in the
43 oceans by the Member States as the garbage in the oceans continue to pile up and destroy aquatic habitats, and other
44 ecosystems,

45
46 *Acknowledging* the fact that humans and aquatic animals heavily depend on water for their survival,

47
48 1. *Recommends* for Member States to collaborate with regional and international entities focused on the expansion
49 of sustainable marine educational programs akin to ISESCO’s Educational System, Societal Issues and

- 50 Sustainable Development and UNEP's Global Initiative on Marine Litter that coordinate with NGOs to assist in
51 the training in the reduction of plastic debris;
52
- 53 2. *Advocates* the involvement of local communities, NGOs, regional, national, and international community in
54 efforts to:
55
- 56 a. Monitor the sources and amount of plastic wastes that are disposed in the oceans;
57
- 58 b. Educate communities on monitoring mechanism to reduce the negative effects of plastic debris in the
59 oceans;
60
- 61 c. Utilize awareness programs on best-practices of plastic wastes management such as The Coastal
62 Cleanup Initiatives which heighten awareness of the issue of plastic debris by enhancing NGOs and
63 national government relationships;
64
- 65 3. *Calls upon* Member States to establish and empower plastic waste management industries to eliminate plastic
66 wastes that pollute the oceans, which will cooperate with national and local governments, and which will
67 facilitate an international environment conducive to investment in plastic waste management through collection
68 and recycling, to be funded by participating Member States for the establishment of such industries within
69 them;
70
- 71 4. *Invites* Member States to develop confidence-building programs in an effort to promote cooperation between
72 their regional partners that facilitate the cleanup of inland waterways, modeled after the Central African
73 Republic's participation in the Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS), which
74 is funded by the World Bank to:
75
- 76 a. Improve data collection about plastic debris in the world's rivers, as well as the processing and
77 management of that information in an effort to facilitate cleanup of and enhance their economic
78 potential;
79
- 80 b. Promote inland navigation and the integration of water resources management between Member
81 States;
82
- 83 c. Ensure the sustainable management of waterways by harmonizing the regulation of river transport for
84 the safety of navigation and promotion of the environment within and between Member States;
85
- 86 5. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate in the development of national guidelines in order to promote best-
87 practices of recycling and upcycling of plastic debris by:
88
- 89 a. Promoting national recycling as outlined in Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015 to the upmost
90 capacity of states in aim for a rate of 70%;
91
- 92 b. Coordinate to regional entities as a means to utilize best-practices shares on recycling methods;
93
- 94 6. *Recommends* Member States to strengthen efforts with coastal communities in order to develop action plans
95 such as SMP as a means to provide coastal zone management to address plastic debris on and off shorelines by:
96
- 97 a. Developing volunteer programs with local leaders to coordinate with coastal communities that allow
98 for the cleanup of local beaches by empower the local population to address local issue of plastic
99 debris reduction by strengthening best-practices sharing between local and national leaders of
100 environmental entities;
101
- 102 b. Assisting in the development of shoreline management plans consisting of a hazard management and
103 an ecosystem-based development management to relay plastic debris information to:
104
- 105 i. Local policy maker for the purpose of comprehensive legislation;

- 106 ii. Regional entities to track development;
- 107 iii. International organization to achieve the Target 1 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
- 108 14;
- 109
- 110 7. *Urges* regional cooperation to ensure access to and prevent pollution in inland waterways, such as rivers, in an
- 111 effort to ensure sustainable maritime transport practices, modeled after the African Union's *African Maritime*
- 112 *Transport Charter*, which recognizes that most inland waterways are shared with other Member States;
- 113
- 114 8. *Advocates* for the innovative reuse methods of marine debris similar to non-biodegradable plastic called HDPE
- 115 as a means to solar Powered Beach Huts as recently introduced by the Design Studio SPARK that enhancing
- 116 upcycling method of reutilizing plastic debris and promotes cost effective housing;
- 117
- 118 9. *Suggests* Member States to seek financial collaboration in the area of developing waste management
- 119 infrastructure through, but not limited to, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) committed to
- 120 furthering infrastructure development in low to middle income Member States.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Recalling* Resolution 1/6 on Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics adopted by the first United Nations
4 Environment Assembly (UNEA) on 27 June 2014,

5
6 *Aware of* the substantial impact of marine plastic debris on human welfare and aquatic ecology, of plastic debris on
7 migratory marine wildlife threatened with extinction, that debris pollution often flows into oceans through the same
8 channels as other forms of pollution, and that these shared channels and the inseparability of one type of pollution
9 from the rest,

10
11 *Recognizing* that plastic streams into the oceans from rivers, lakes, and smaller seas and that all kinds of water
12 sources and their ecosystems are affected by debris,

13
14 *Noting with regret* that there is little data regarding pollution within freshwater and smaller saltwater bodies,
15 particularly concerning microplastic particles, as is apparent in the 2015 United Nations Environmental Programme
16 (UNEP) report on Plastics in Cosmetics,

17
18 *Further reiterating* that human activity is the primary cause of the environmental damage to oceans and all water
19 sources,

20
21 *Bearing in mind* that many Member States possess the knowledge, technology and the will to address the problem
22 caused by plastic debris, and recognizing the importance of information sharing with regards to this know-how,

23
24 *Recognizing* with satisfaction non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and initiatives such as The Ocean Clean-up
25 to decontaminate marine and fresh waters using networks of long floating barriers to passively gather plastics, which
26 can be collected in the point of concentration and afterwards recycled,

- 27
28 1. *Urges* Member States to work collaboratively within relevant international forums, national institutions, and
29 regional economic communities to discuss methods to address the global impacts of plastic debris on human
30 and ecological welfare by:
- 31 a. Investing in educational programs and public awareness campaigns about alternatives to plastic, plastic
32 waste management, and responsible consumption;
 - 33 b. Empowering local stakeholders to raise awareness through partnerships between UNEP, Member
34 States, and stakeholders of the ecological impacts of plastic debris with the objective of changing
35 collective attitudes and actions and develop a more responsible culture towards plastic consumption;
 - 36
 - 37
 - 38
- 39 2. *Encourages* the United Nations Department of Public Information to partner with UNEP to develop social
40 media campaigns on the importance of sustainable use of plastic and the damage caused to the world's
41 ecosystems by plastic debris, including hosting an international contest for gathering innovative ideas out of the
42 population;
- 43
44 3. *Utilizes* the Environment Fund to ensure funding to civil society actors and private institutions to conduct
45 research and implement innovative solutions proposed during the contest for gathering innovative ideas out of
46 the population;
- 47

- 48 4. *Encourages* Member States and the international community to support and invest in research by both public
49 and private institutions for novel alternative materials to plastic, in order to develop products either completely
50 biodegradable in nature or fully recyclable, by:
51
- 52 a. Using financial incentives to promote consumers and producers to participate in recycling programs
53 necessary for a sustainable industrial cycle;
54
 - 55 b. Having Member States establish tax policy tools to de-incentivize the use and production of plastic
56 containers;
57
 - 58 c. supporting active collaboration between civil society actors and private industry to develop
59 commercially viable and economically feasible products;
60
- 61 5. *Strongly encourages* that Members States work to share information and best practices regarding reducing the
62 use of plastics and plastic cleanup processes by:
63
- 64 a. Encouraging Member States to expand their use of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform for
65 interactive and ongoing communication about state efforts and newly developed scientific expertise to
66 facilitate technology transfer;
67
 - 68 b. Submitting annual reports to the Green Growth Knowledge Platform that include sources of waste in
69 their corresponding bodies of water and efforts made to combat this problem;
70
- 71 6. *Encourages* Member States to extend their pollutant mitigation policies and strategies to include all solid
72 wastes, not only plastic, and to include all water sources, both fresh and marine, and additionally:
73
- 74 a. Fund research on plastic pollution in smaller bodies of water that contribute to plastic flowing into the
75 world's oceans in order to create a better understanding of the plastic pollution cycle;
76
 - 77 b. Implement innovative methods of prevention and clean-up of freshwater sources and at-risk bodies of
78 water;
79
- 80 7. *Further invites* all Member States to increase their financial contributions allocated for pollution mitigation
81 technologies by:
82
- 83 a. Funding research in fungi that digests polyurethane and aids in the plastic degradation;
84
 - 85 b. Increasing voluntary contributions to the GEF Trust Fund such that it can fund research into
86 mechanisms that remove or destroy ocean-borne plastic, such as floating barriers or plastic-eating
87 fungi;
88
- 89 8. *Decides* to create a new UNEP pilot programme that will provide specialized training and compensation for
90 those who aid in the ocean clean up by:
91
- 92 a. Using human resources and funds, offered voluntarily, for the cleanup of oceans in accordance with
93 Member States' abilities;
94
 - 95 b. Training personnel to work regionally on major cleanup projects to increase efficiency and provide a
96 resource for states seeking assistance;
97
- 98 9. *Proclaims* the creation of a global cooperative advisory board in which all members of the UNEP are invited to
99 participate who have developed efficient, effective practices for dealing with the issues concerning plastics in
100 the world's oceans can share their information with member states who are struggling to tackle these issues and:
101
- 102 a. Meeting initially in Nairobi, Kenya, where UNEP headquarters is located;
103

- 104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
- b. Designates that hosting of the advisory board rotate amongst the regional zones held in a location offered by a state and chosen by the body;
 - c. Establish regional groups within the board and encourage member states to work cooperatively within their respective zones to discuss and tackle issues exclusive to their zone;
 - d. Emphasizes the importance of cooperation within the established regional groups to share innovations and technology during both regional and global conferences;
 - e. Invites all Member States to also meet within their regional economic communities to facilitate information sharing and establish common goals to address the issue of plastic debris in the world's marine ecosystems, including oceans, lakes and rivers, on a global scale.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Deeply concerned* by the fact that 80% of plastic debris in the world's oceans come from land related activities and
4 sources,
5
6 *Noting with deep concern* the connection between land-based pollution and increasing ocean debris, as noted in the
7 Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the
8 Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,
9
10 *Upholding* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, which calls for revitalizing the global partnership for
11 sustainable development,
12
13 *Appreciating* that the global issue of plastic debris in the world's oceans is highly transnational in its nature,
14
15 *Reiterating* that developing Member States value the importance of maintaining state sovereignty, in issues dealing
16 with oceanic resources within their exclusive economic zones, as defined by *United Nations Convention of the Law*
17 *of the Sea* (UNCLOS) (1982),
18
19 *Reaffirming* the work done by the international community especially recognizing *the London Convention* (1972),
20 *and the London Protocol* (1996), which prohibits the wastes of plastic as well as other matter in order to better the
21 environment and economy in all Member States, which lead to the creation of *the International Convention for the*
22 *Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (MARPOL) (1973),
23
24 *Recognizing* education as a human right as defined in Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
25 (1948) and necessary for the improvement of the environment and the economy within all countries,
26
27 *Understanding* the detrimental effects of the chemicals released when plastic dissolves in water in marine
28 ecosystems as a whole, as well as the effect this has on human health through the consumption of marine biolife,
29
30 *Acknowledging* the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, which references the fact that different
31 Member States have different levels of responsibility for environmental problems, and this difference ought to be
32 reflected when addressing these problems,
33
34 *Keeping in mind* the SDGs, in particular SDG 14, which calls for the sustainable use of oceans seas and marine
35 resources, with a focus on preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds,
36
37 *Recalling* the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
38 entitled *The Future We Want*, which stresses the importance of and the right to development in all areas, especially
39 concerning marine ecosystems, in order to ensure a sustainable future,
40
41 *Considering* the South Asian Cooperative Environmental Programme which builds upon the Report of the
42 Secretary-General on the Oceans and Law of the Sea 70/74 (2015), by highlighting the importance of waste
43 management for combating plastic debris in the world's oceans,
44
45 *Stressing* the importance of international collaborative efforts and sustained dialogue between and within regional
46 blocs,
47
48 *Deeply concerned* that developing Member States that wish to reduce plastic debris in their exclusive economic zone
49 may be limited by a lack of funding or access to financial institutions,
50

51 *Further recalling* the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) goals in improving the environment and
52 ecosystems throughout the world with the use of the Environment Fund (EF),
53
54 *Calls* on all Member States to all endeavors to resolve and reverse the effects of marine plastic debris and micro-
55 plastics and looks kindly upon collaborating through a multilateral, holistic approach in conjunction with the Geneva
56 Environmental Network,
57
58 *Affirming* the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which notes the importance of regional cooperation and
59 confidence building measures to mitigate the problems posed by plastic debris in an effort to protect biological
60 diversity,
61
62 *Reiterating* the findings of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) as well as General Assembly resolution
63 64/245 (2014) that highlight the detrimental impact of plastic and microbeads on biodiversity, which affects not only
64 the livelihood of the world’s poorest but has far reaching ramifications for humanity as a whole,
65
66 *Acknowledging* the impact river systems have on the oceans of the world, especially when it comes to land-based
67 dumping in landlocked Member States according to General Assembly resolution 68/438 (2013),
68
69 *Convinced* that cooperation between Member States is one of the main components of resolving and decreasing the
70 amount of waste in oceans highlighted by the Global Partnership on Marine Litter which embodies the development
71 and implementation of international collaboration,
72
73 *Bearing in mind* the *Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter* that
74 requires its parties to prohibit the disposal of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials,
75
76 *Appreciating* the African Union's contribution of the 2050 Integrated Africa Maritime Strategy, which is oriented
77 around developing a marine-based economy to secure and sustain the environment,
78
79 *Recalling* the 1990 State of the Environment report on Children and the Environment, which was jointly produced
80 by UNEP and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and noted that children are dynamic and powerful
81 protagonists for an environmentally stable world,
82
83 *Recognizing* Article 193 and 194 of the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment of UNCLOS, which
84 expresses Member States’ right to utilize their natural resources in accordance to their national legislation, and
85 emphasizes each Member State’s responsibility in accordance with its capabilities to prevent, reduce, and control
86 pollution of the marine environment,
87
88 *Recognizing* that a sustainable and tailored approach to reducing levels of oceanic plastic debris will involve specific
89 financial strategies on a multi-governmental, regional and national level,
90
91 *Emphasizing* that in environmental law, the concept of the polluter paying principle is enacted to make the party
92 responsible for producing pollution fiscally responsible for environmental damage, also known as extended
93 producer responsibility,
94
95 *Re-emphasizing* the crucial roles developed and developing nation cooperation plays to combat infrastructure
96 deficiencies as well as encourages South-South Cooperation,
97
98 *Affirming* the language of the 2009 Copenhagen Agreement in which developed countries commit to a goal of
99 mobilizing jointly \$100 billion dollars per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries,
100
101 *Stressing* that the lack of proper waste management and disposal infrastructure is the largest contributor to the
102 leakage of plastic debris into the world's oceans,
103
104 *Acknowledging* a 2006 report by Greenpeace called “Plastic Debris in the World’s Ocean” from the UNEP
105 homepage, that identifies significant problems associated with plastic debris, which causes harm to aquatic water
106 life, as well as damages coral reefs and organisms that dwell on the ocean floor, resulting in not only a threat to

107 biodiversity, but a threat to individuals, communities, and Member States who rely on these organisms for income or
108 sustenance,

109
110 *Affirming* the fact that plastics within the ocean are being moved through oceanic currents creating large garbage
111 patches specifically in the Pacific Ocean with the Great Pacific Garbage Patch,

112
113 *Recalling* the General Assembly's resolution 63/111 of 2008, which calls for stronger cooperation concerning
114 preventing and reducing pollution from ships and land,

115
116 *Recalling* the successes of joint initiatives between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and
117 UNEP in creating new jobs from recycling programs generated by private public partnerships (PPP), such as the
118 2011 project in Montevideo and Uruguay,

119
120 *Taking note* of the efforts on *Manila Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the*
121 *Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Activities*, which recognizes the need for preventative measure on
122 land to save marine environment in the sea,

123
124 *Highlighting* the work of the International Maritime Organization, particularly its role in establishing the 1975
125 *London Convention*, which concerns the prohibition of dumping plastic debris into the oceans,

126
127 *Recognizing* the problems regarding the circulation of plastic and other debris that arise when natural disasters, i.e.
128 hurricanes and tsunamis, hit Member States with coastlines, in accordance with Rio+20 (2012) which references
129 small island developing states (SIDS) in particular because of their small size, remoteness, narrow resources, and
130 exposure to natural disasters,

131
132 *Emphasizing* the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), especially Articles 1, 5, and 6, which
133 promote integrity, accountability, and proper management of public affairs and appropriate legal measures
134 especially concerning environmental policies,

135
136 *Recognizing* the 8 June 8 2015 UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) report "Plastics in Cosmetics: Are we
137 polluting the environment with our personal care products" recommending a ban on microplastic, specifically in
138 cosmetic products, citing the dissemination and proliferation of microplastics throughout marine bodies and their
139 potential detrimental effects on the health of the greater food chain,

140
141 1. *Further encourages* the developed countries to support and assist governments that do not possess the means by
142 themselves to establish a simple waste management system, not only in terms of funding but also in terms of
143 knowledge;

144
145 2. *Highly recommends* the extension of UNCLOS Article 43 to apply to any Member States sharing borders along
146 a coastline for the purposes of:

147
148 a. Addressing problems that stem from transnational pollution, especially extreme buildup resulting from
149 natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tsunamis;

150
151 b. Solving the collective action problem of addressing the buildup of plastic debris in seas and ocean
152 sections bordered by multiple countries;

153
154 c. Involving regional intergovernmental organizations in coordinating grievances amongst neighboring
155 Member States;

156
157 d. Seeking assistance from UNEP Regional Seas Programme and UNEP regional offices in facilitating
158 any collaboration between neighboring states;

159
160 3. *Strongly encourages* the development of Proof-of-Concept (POC) plastic debris cleanup projects where UNEP
161 regional offices engage with Member State governments, at their request, for the purposes of:

162

- 163 a. Encouraging investment from the private sector and local stakeholders in future plastic debris projects;
164
165 b. Proving clear examples of successes in POC projects that can be transferred within other communities
166 and cities;
167
168 c. Reducing apathy about the impact and success of UNEP-led programs;
169
170 d. Encouraging Member States to engage local communities and private entities by holding joint
171 informational forums to educate and raise awareness for both private citizens and businesses on
172 ongoing plastic debris cleanup initiatives led by both public and private organizations;
173
174 e. Inviting Member States to share waste management best practices on the UNEP Integrated
175 Environmental Assessment (IEA) on-line interactive training resource platform to:
176
177 i. Make IEA tools, methods, case studies, and available reports available to interested Member
178 States;
179 ii. Allow Member States to share their experiences in developing and implementing waste
180 management programs in within their borders;
181 iii. Increase communication between Member States to allow for sharing of technology and
182 strategy to enable greater visibility of waste management programs;
183
184 f. Utilizing local forums to enable the media to help educate the general public and disseminate
185 information on the dangers of improper waste management;
186
- 187 4. *Calls for* increased participation in the *MARPOL Convention*, specifically Annex V, which discusses the
188 complete ban of the dumping of plastic into the ocean from all willing and able Member States in order to meet
189 the goal of reducing pollution to zero, in accordance with each United Nations organizations' Zero Waste
190 Strategy where appropriate in order to protect the environment for the future;
191
- 192 5. *Calls for* increased cooperation between the international community, United Nations Educational, Scientific
193 and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and UNEP to promote environmental education on all levels, especially
194 within developing countries, SIDS, coastal and landlocked states, such as the Environmental Education and
195 Training Unit, which serves as a focal point for implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education
196 for Sustainable Development, adopted by General Assembly resolution 69/211 on 19 December 2014;
197
- 198 6. *Suggests* the international community expands their national education programs through the sharing of best
199 practices to raise public awareness and encourage people to change their perceptions and actions on solid waste
200 management, similar to the Recycle Now Jamaica program;
201
- 202 7. *Affirms* that effective engagement and education at all levels of society is an essential tool to raise awareness
203 and promote positive behavior change, and thus encourages Member States to develop educational campaigns
204 like Australia's "Keep the Sea Plastic Free," which aim to educate the public to dispose of plastic waste
205 properly to prevent plastic debris from entering bodies of water and protect marine animals;
206
- 207 8. *Requests* that Member States work in accordance with UNEP's Kids Against Marine Litter Program as well as
208 with National Productivity Organizations to facilitate environmental promotion and awareness programs
209 including social media campaigns and celebrity sponsorships to teach schoolchildren to keep their environment
210 clean and how to effectively reduce their own waste in order to build a more sustainable future, in accordance
211 with UNEP's Kids Against Marine Litter program;
212
- 213 9. *Endorses* the necessity of promoting the benefits of providing a food source and employment opportunities,
214 modeled after the 2050 "AIM" Strategy, which:
215
216 a. Allow job opportunities in different industries including commercial fishing, waste management, and
217 technology;
218

- 219 b. Endorse the necessity to promote a sustainable development approach;
220
- 221 10. *Supports* Member States in the implementation of Articles 193 and 194 of UNCLOS through the creation of
222 environmental policies in accordance with their duty to protect and preserve the marine environment, especially
223 in regards to reducing the amount of plastic and other debris;
224
- 225 11. *Urges* Member States to promote the mainstreaming of environmental programs in developing, implementing
226 and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional biological diversity strategies and action plans,
227 based upon the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
228
- 229 12. *Calls for* the creation of a collaborative initiative on Reducing Plastic Debris (RPD+), which will:
230
- 231 a. Promote informed involvement of stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples, and regional banks in
232 national and international RDP+ implementation;
233
- 234 b. Create a potential revenue stream for developing countries as the project seeks to establish large-scale
235 financial incentives to encourage both reductions in plastic usage and promoting cleanup of oceanic
236 and coastal debris;
237
- 238 c. Facilitate open and sustained conversation between participating countries;
239
- 240 d. Support partner countries in two ways, by:
241
- 242 i. Directing support through education and implementation of financial instruments to create
243 incentives for action;
244 ii. Providing complementary support to national RPD+ action through financial support;
245
- 246 13. *Further calls upon* the strengthening of international and regional cooperation and strategy creation to improve
247 waste management systems after natural or manmade disasters to prevent further damage to marine ecosystems
248 through:
249
- 250 a. Cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR);
251
- 252 b. Increasing collaboration between Member States and UNEP's Regional Sea Program (RSP) and
253 UNISDR's Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction program in order to create platforms aimed
254 at discussing such matters;
255
- 256 c. Supporting countries which are vulnerable to coastal disasters by advising model strategies, policies,
257 and practices and providing technical support, especially to SIDS;
258
- 259 14. *Calls upon* Member States to uphold their obligations under UNCLOS to prevent and control marine pollution
260 to designate the incorporation of plastic pollution in the world's oceans into Article 7 of the *Rome Treaty* as a
261 classification of a crime against humanity;
262
- 263 15. *Recommends* the expansion of the mandate of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include punitive action
264 against violators of UNCLOS:
265
- 266 a. That non-state violators of the UNCLOS shall be brought before the ICC for prosecution:
267
- 268 i. Submission to the ICC will be considered compulsory for violations of the UNCLOS;
269 ii. Violators will be responsible for funding clean-up efforts and may additionally be responsible
270 for reparations;
271
- 272 b. Guilty verdict violations will be strictly enforced by the United Nations Security Council:
273

- 274 i. If reparations are not fulfilled in accordance with the ICC verdict, the Security Council shall
275 have the right to revoke the violating state's voting privileges until these obligations are met;
276
277 c. The Environment Coordinating Board (ECB) will be responsible for determining the criteria for which
278 crimes involving plastic pollution will fall under the authority of the ICC:
279
280 i. Crimes eligible for submission to the ICC shall be determined upon the basis of tonnage
281 increments;
282

283 16. *Recommends*, in a regional context, that Member States seek funding for environmental projects, especially
284 related to wastes and chemicals, from the regional and global banks that have consistently contributed the
285 monetary support, including but not limited to:

- 286 a. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund;
287
288 b. The African Development Bank;
289
290 c. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD);
291
292 d. The Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB);
293
294 e. The Inter-American Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean;
295
296 f. The Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Fund;
297
298 g. The North American Development Bank, as well as the New Development Bank for the BRICS (NDB
299 BRICS);
300
301 h. UNEP, UNDP, the New Development Bank (NDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
302 United Nations (FAO), and the World Bank;
303
304

305 17. *Suggests* Member States incentivize commercial fishing vessels by creating a reimbursement method, per pound
306 or relevant weight standard, for the plastic rubbish collected by the vessels that:

- 307 a. Implements a system in which commercial fishing vessels, when applying for permits, would be
308 eligible to participate in the collection of plastic debris, and other trash that are fished from their nets;
309
310 b. Can be stored and brought by ships to their next port of call, or to a port of call capable of handling the
311 debris, to be properly disposed of;
312
313 c. Prioritizes and gives favor to commercial fishing vessels who are willing to participate in the removal
314 of plastic debris for permit granting purposes;
315
316 d. Develops a system for the collection and transportation of plastics on land to be properly disposed or
317 recycled from the ocean;
318
319 e. Incentivize commercial fishing vessels to participate in the collection of plastic debris and other trash
320 through compensation based upon standard per pound weight and prioritizing permit granting for
321 vessels willing to engage in plastic removal;
322
323

324 18. *Encourages* the bi/multilateral Member State agreements to facilitate the technological and financial aid to
325 develop or enhance Waste Management and Recycling infrastructure:

- 326 a. Agreements such as the financial aid and technical assistance provided by Japan to assist Dominica in
327 establishing a state wide Waste Management and Recycling program for plastics;
328
329

- 330 i. Technology may include machinery, informational systems, and best practices in the creation
331 and management of Waste Management programs;
- 332 ii. Financial Aid including direct program assistance in the form of funding systems and
333 purchase assistance for essential infrastructure;
- 334
- 335 19. *Suggests* the implementation of the 'Polluter-Pays' principle on product consumers of different plastic products
336 by including levees on plastic products that contain excessive plastic packaging bought by consumers;
337
- 338 20. *Encourages* every country to support eco-design and waste reduction of business ventures by subsidizing
339 sustainable, eco-friendly production materials, especially in packaging, establishing benchmarks for the usage
340 of plastics in packaging production, and promoting waste management during production and packaging in
341 order to reduce waste production;
342
- 343 21. *Suggests*, in a national context, the implementation of a national tariff on imported plastic packaging coming
344 into United Nations Members States, with consideration of the following benefits:
345
- 346 a. An import tariff will place a greater cost burden on producers rather than consumers, as per the
347 "Extended Producer Responsibility" principle, so to induce change in plastic behaviors as upstream as
348 possible;
349
- 350 b. Tariff on non-essential goods will prioritize equity so that the cost burden does not fall principally on
351 the poor or disadvantaged;
352
- 353 c. A national cash income from tariffs can be then be used to sustain positive financial incentives, such as
354 subsidies for green technologies and projects and waste management, especially at a local level;
355
- 356 d. A tariff grants countries the opportunity to maintain a degree of state sovereignty in what remains a
357 transnational issue;
358
- 359 e. Transparency is a priority, as well as monitoring and accountability;
360
- 361 22. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting partnerships between public and private sector organizations within
362 Member States for collaborating on waste management policies and programs, as well as drawing attention to
363 the dangers of contamination from land waste in Member States that affects underground water sources linked
364 to the marine environment by:
365
- 366 a. Encouraging Member States to engage local communities and private entities by holding joint
367 informational forums to educate and raise awareness for both private citizens and businesses on
368 ongoing plastic debris cleanup initiatives led by both public and private organizations;
369
- 370 b. Inviting Member States to share best waste management best practices on the IEA on-line interactive
371 training resource platform to:
372
- 373 i. Make IEA tools, methods, case studies, and available reports available to interested Member
374 States;
- 375 ii. Allow Member States to share their experiences in developing and implementing waste
376 management programs in within their borders;
- 377 iii. Increase communication between Member States to allow for sharing of technology and
378 strategy to enable greater visibility of waste management programs;
379
- 380 c. Utilizing local forums to enable the media to help educate the general public and disseminate
381 information on the dangers of improper waste management;
382
- 383 23. *Advocates* the employment of PPPs with the proposed objectives:
384

- 385 a. Expanding collection programs where the buildup of plastic debris is most urgent, as identified by
386 Member States, their sub-national and local governments;
387
- 388 b. Repurposing plastics through local workshops that will be spearheaded by UNEP regional offices,
389 national governments, and UNDP aiming to identify potential uses for the plastics, including, but not
390 limited to, affordable furniture, dinnerware, tools, and temporary housing structures;
391
- 392 c. Engaging technological entrepreneurs to develop waste to fuel and waste to energy innovations to
393 provide cheap energy for communities in need, as determined by the relevant sovereign state
394 government;
395
- 396 24. *Encourages* Member States utilize the EF to sustain and support environmental projects, and asks all Member
397 States to increase the number of funds donated to the EF;
398
- 399 25. *Calls upon* UN-Energy to aid developing states in the implementation of technology transfer mechanisms to
400 help Member States detect and clean up plastics in the ocean, which is vital to protect the biodiversity and
401 marine ecosystems and promote a more sustainable future environment;
402
- 403 26. *Suggests* all Member States to promote technology and information sharing through participation in the Clean
404 Our Oceans Refuge Coalition, which focuses on the cleanup of garbage patches, to decrease the sizes of
405 garbage patches within the world oceans, in particular the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, using three specialized
406 marine vessels that filter plastic debris and convert that into usable energy, and also:
407
- 408 a. Calls for:
409
- 410 i. The first vessel be viewed as a research mechanism as it collects plastic debris from the ocean
411 to understand the types of plastic within the garbage patches;
412
- 413 ii. The second vessel be designed to allow for the conversion plastic and biomass to a clean and
414 effective energy source;
415
- 416 iii. The third vessel have storage containers to hold the energy created by vessel two to nearby
417 Pacific islands to allow them a more cost efficient and eco-friendly energy source;
418
- 419 b. Encourages the use of litter booms and the implementation of the Ocean design from the National
420 Taiwan University for Science and Technology for general usage within oceans as it will enable
421 capturing surface plastic to be caught and returned to recycling plant;
- 422 27. *Invites* Member States to continue to work towards technological advancements in plastic collection and
423 removal from waterways, modelled after Zimbabwe's cooperation with Australia to:
424
- 425 a. Expand the use and effectiveness of water filtering technologies such as Seabins;
426
- 427 b. Increase the scope of Phoslock techniques to immobilize phosphorus and prevent algal blooms from
428 occurring in streams and rivers;
429
- 430 c. Encourage increased innovation and creative thinking on water purification by promoting regional
431 river cleanup projects;
- 432 28. *Endorses* increased efforts in monitoring of production, use, and disposal of plastic waste, especially with
433 concern to the marine and land ecosystems, by all willing and able Member States through the increased
434 participation in the Zero Waste Strategy, which dictates the sustainable use of ecosystems;
435
- 436 29. *Urges* Member States to improve the tracking of plastic goods produced by individual Member States to ensure
437 the goals set by the United Nations, though incorporating the sharing of best practices regionally, specifically
438 referring to monitoring among the Member States;
439

- 440 30. *Fervently urges* UNESCO to engage with UNEP and other scientific organizations within the United Nations
441 structure to conduct research of the ocean currents that move plastic from Member States' coastlines to the
442 gyres, or garbage patches, in order to:
443
- 444 a. Identify critical stoppage points between plastic debris sources and ocean buildups;
 - 445
 - 446 b. Employ ocean cleanup technologies with maximum efficiency in their impact on debris and minimum
447 impact on marine life;
 - 448
 - 449 c. Restrict the growth of the five plastic gyres;
 - 450
- 451 31. *Recommends* the creation and improvement of a plastic debris data collection system, in conjunction with the
452 Ocean Health Index, which is a means of advancing policy concerning ocean health by combining the efforts of
453 scientists, experts, and partnership among different organizations, via the United Nations World Ocean
454 Assessment, that will:
455
- 456 a. Accurately track and collect data on plastic debris in the world's oceans, with an emphasis on plastic
457 debris surrounding SIDS and coastal Member States;
 - 458
 - 459 b. Record data on plastic debris of all sizes and types, ranging from microplastics to visible plastics such
460 as plastic bags, by collecting data on overall weight of the plastic collected, as well as the proportion of
461 the plastic that is greater or less than one centimeter in length, with each wave of data collection
462 occurring every two years, beginning in 2018;
 - 463
 - 464 c. Receive data from all Member States, who may establish methods designed to record the amount of
465 plastic debris that wash upon their shores, and may also survey the level of plastic debris in the water
466 surrounding their borders, in such a way that:
467
 - 468 i. The data will come from volunteers within Member State who collect data on type and weight
469 of plastic debris;
 - 470 ii. When Member States are unable to collect data effectively, they may choose to partner with
471 other Member States and financial institutions such as the Global Environment Fund, as well
472 as non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, such as Ocean
473 Conservancy, Worldwide Fund for Nature, and Greenpeace to ensure that accurate data is
474 collected and wisely utilized;
 - 475
 - 476 d. Use its data to monitor and determine the effectiveness of beach cleanups by comparing the data on
477 plastic debris;
 - 478
- 479 32. *Strongly urges* collaboration in funding the development of basic waste collection, transport, treatment,
480 processing, storage, and disposal and recycling infrastructure aimed at proper disposal of waste especially in
481 developing countries, emphasizing the need to achieve the goals set forth by the SDGs, specifically SDG 14
482 such that to reduce waste leakage by incorporating waste management systems and services at municipal levels;
483
- 484 33. *Asks* Member States to encourage the adaptation of a basic waste management infrastructure based on the GPA
485 for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for plastic waste collection, recycling
486 and processes to convert plastic waste into useable forms of energy, in an effort to reduce waste leakage in
487 transportation and landfills into bodies of water, such actions should be in the collaboration between both
488 private and public sector;
- 489
- 490 34. *Urges* cooperation from Member States to partner with the GPA to endeavor further study into the ingestion of
491 microplastics by zooplankton, citing Article 65 in UNEP resolution 60/L.22, placing specific focus on the long
492 term effects on the zooplankton population as well as the effects on the greater food chain including affected
493 human populations;
- 494

- 495 35. *Suggests* that organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) aid in studies and research in order to
496 utilize their laboratories, facilities, resources, and personnel in the progress of the following goals of the
497 Member States to allocate a budget from ‘Polluter-Pays’ tax revenue to environmental programs that aim at the
498 reduction of plastic debris in world oceans, in which countries will gain the following:
499
- 500 a. A larger budget for developing programs related to cleaning as well as preventing plastic debris
501 emission;
 - 502 b. A smaller reliance on loans or external partners on funding such programs;
 - 503 c. A higher incentive for consumers to substitute plastic products in place of environmentally-conscious
504 alternatives;
 - 505 d. *Intends* such research to determine:
506
507
 - 508 i. The perceived benefits of the usage of microbes against plastic;
 - 509 ii. The pros and cons of microbe usage in the combat against plastics in the ocean;
 - 510 iii. What byproducts of the microbes will occur when consuming man made products in the
511 ocean;
 - 512 iv. What effects the microbes have on human entities, human health, manmade edifices or man
513 used objects;
 - 514 v. The effects that the microbes may have on animals, plants, or any other living creatures;
 - 515 vi. Microbial impact on elements in the waters and ground of the world, including rocks, sea
516 beds, sand beaches, salt and fresh water, and other earthly elements;
 - 517 vii. Predictions on the cost of using microbes in a wide scale project in locations such as gyres or
518 large plastic dumps located in the ocean;
 - 519 viii. That the research be conducted:
520
 - 521 1. Under the previously selected organizations by the local governments, via both legal
522 and scientific supervision and jurisdiction;
 - 523 2. In a controlled environment that is safe and secure for developing and testing these
524 microbes;
 - 525 3. Under strict supervision so that the microbes are not to be released to the natural
526 environment until further instruction;
 - 527 ix. That if these microbes are determined to be safe, they will be used in the ocean in a large-
528 scale project to dissolve plastic, dissolve oil in oil spills, as well as to dissolve plastic and
529 styrene based products quickly;
 - 530
 - 531
- 532 36. *Expresses its support* for maritime experts and biologists in the global community to keep cooperating with
533 municipalities in the evaluation of the threat to local biological system by the plastic debris in the rivers and
534 seek the possibility to make recovery based on Annex V of the *International Convention for the Prevention of*
535 *Pollution from Ships*.



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Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 29/97 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which outlines the creation of the
4 United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and establishes it as the primary international body for
5 regulating global environmental standards,
6
7 *Recognizing* the significance of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
8 Development (Rio+20) entitled *The Future We Want*,
9
10 *Acknowledging* the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whose aim is to conserve and sustainably use the
11 oceans, seas, and marine resources, and specifically Target 1 of Goal 14, to prevent and significantly reduce marine
12 pollution of all kinds by 2025,
13
14 *Drawing attention* to the crucial role rivers play in channeling plastic debris into the world's oceans,
15
16 *Bearing in mind* the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) in the conservation and protection of
17 seal plants and animals and their ecosystem,
18
19 *Affirming* UNEP's Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based
20 Activities to protect ocean from harm caused by human activities, deterring deadly chemicals and pollutants into the
21 sea,
22
23 *Taking into consideration* Resolution UNEP 5/1.1 on the Need for Urgent Action to Address Water Security,
24
25 *Emphasizing* the importance and significance of the recommendations of the *Honolulu Strategy*, which consists of
26 non-binding proposals for joint partnership between all Member States in protecting the environment by focusing on
27 marine litter on coastal areas, land-based, and sea-based sources,
28
29 *Bearing in mind* United Nations Environment Assembly (UNE) resolution 1/6, which calls upon UNEP's
30 responsibility to assist Member States in the development of action plans for national implementation of UNEP
31 programs,
32
33 *Recalling* the *Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*,
34 (1973) (MARPOL Convention),
35
36 *Remembering* the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their*
37 *Disposal*, which prohibits the unauthorized disposal of hazardous wastes,
38
39 *Affirming* the *London Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and*
40 *Other Matter* (1996), and *noting with deep concern* that the London Protocol has only been ratified by 45 Member
41 States,
42
43 *Guided by* General Assembly resolutions 62/215 (2007) and 64/71 (2009), which encourage Member States to ratify
44 the London Protocol in order to promote effective preventative measures of plastic debris from marine based
45 sources,
46
47 *Referring* to the principles of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), in particular, the
48 interpretation of Part XII, Section 5, Article 211 on pollution from vessels,
49

50 *Recalling* Regulation XI-2/6 under the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea* (1974) (SOLAS
51 Convention), which provides requirements for port facilities, ensures port security assessments are being carried out
52 and developed,

53
54 *Guided by* the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and their establishment of safe and secure environmental
55 strategies, by the adoption of the resolution General Assembly resolution 787/19 (1995), which institutes procedures
56 for port state control,

57
58 *Remembering* the propositions of the Environment and Globalization Project in having a subjective measurement
59 when it comes to state government accountability,

60
61 *Trusting* international organizations to work with domestic and local based governments to be mindful of citizen
62 initiatives towards prevention of plastic debris in the world's ocean,

63
64 *Welcoming* initiatives like The Ocean Cleanup as a catalyst to clean the marine environment, convinced that this
65 initiative represents a valuable contribution to sustainably reducing the dimension of marine pollution,

66
67 *Affirming* regionally-tailored plans such as the Atlantic Coastal Action Program to promote community-based
68 leadership through environmental initiatives, projects, and partnerships,

69
70 *Emphasizing* the need to address the problems of inland sources of plastic waste in order to prevent the pollution of
71 rivers and thereby reduce the influx of pollution into coastal areas and the world's oceans,

- 72
73 1. *Calls on* all Member States to sign the London Protocol, SOLAS Convention, UNCLOS, and the MARPOL
74 Convention;
- 75
76 2. *Endorses* the regulations of various protocols and conventions revolving around the central themes of port
77 management, total prohibition of pollution from oil and harmful substances, and the limitation on atmospheric
78 emissions from ship exhausts such as *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea*
79 *area*;
- 80
81 3. *Encourages* collaboration between Member States and international maritime security agencies in utilizing Sea
82 Marshals aboard all United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) registered merchant
83 vessels to mitigate the dumping of heavy plastics, modeled after current practices implemented by the Maritime
84 Transportation Safety Coalition;
- 85
86 4. *Suggests* that worldwide efficient monitoring be enhanced by working in collaboration with the IMO by
87 encouraging Members States to submit regular reports and updates on compliance of the convention,
88 implementation of measures and rate of efficiency to monitor the actual effectiveness of the protocols;
- 89
90 5. *Encourages* Member States to adhere to the Regulation XI-2/6 under the SOLAS Convention, which provides
91 requirements for port facilities, ensures port security assessments are being carried out and developed;
- 92
93 6. *Recommends* the creation of a sub-program that would be overseen and conducted by the UNEP Environment
94 Fund (EF), which is financed by voluntary contributions of Member States and will be specifically devoted to
95 increasing the capacity of Member States who need assistance in meeting the standards set out by existing
96 protocols and conventions on marine-based dumping, and proposes to:
- 97
98 a. Clarify that Member States who financially contribute to the project be given the option to localize and
99 designate which region they wish their contribution to be applied to, but reiterates that such a
100 designation is not mandated;
- 101
102 b. Provide funds to Member States who submit a formal request for funding on a specific port-waste
103 management project or related initiative which deals directly with the clauses of the London Protocol,

- 104 MARPOL Convention, UNCLOS, or other related international regulations addressing marine-based
105 dumping of plastic debris;
- 106
- 107 c. Designate the importance of allocating funding for this project to Member States who can demonstrate
108 a clear dedication to the spirit of the protocols on preventing marine-based sources of plastic debris in
109 oceans and demonstrates a clear dedication to accountability in this matter;
- 110
- 111 7. *Affirms* that the distribution of funds for this initiative will be dispersed through an equitable grant-based
112 program and the quantity of projects funded will depend on the capacity according to the voluntary
113 contributions of Member States;
- 114
- 115 8. *Suggests* the Member States who are interested in receiving this funding to commit transparently in sharing their
116 project's progress with UNEP and sharing their experiences and best-practices with other Member State's
117 projects funded through this initiative by submitting regular reports to UNEP that will subsequently by
118 publically published online;
- 119
- 120 9. *Encourages* Member States to delegate federal, regional, and local representatives to collaborate with one
121 another and pre-existing community groups, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to render this
122 project accessible to all motivated citizens;
- 123
- 124 10. *Further Encourages* Member States to delegate federal, regional, and local representatives to collaborate with
125 one another and pre-existing community groups, including NGOs, to render this project accessible to all
126 motivated citizens;
- 127
- 128 11. *Create* annual reports that consist of a document, exhibition, or presentation to address:
- 129
- 130 a. Any positive impact resulting from the funding and the funded projects;
- 131
- 132 b. Past actions, or lack of past actions of the funded projects, that require additional improvement;
- 133
- 134 c. Solutions to be explored to improve these past actions, or lack past of actions of the funded projects;
- 135
- 136 d. An explanation for continued funding of this project;
- 137
- 138 12. *Designates* a portion of the project to grants for awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders, including the
139 shipping industry, on the effects of plastic debris in the oceans and to strengthen efforts of this initiative on
140 regional bases; these grants will be available to both the national and subnational governments and nonprofit
141 organizations of all Member States;
- 142
- 143 13. *Promotes* international and bilateral collaboration by contributing to capacity building efforts of proper waste
144 management facilities at both international and national ports, in addition to further strengthen the enforcement
145 of maritime law set forth by the MARPOL Convention, UNCLOS, and exemplified by the Port of Seattle
146 Recycling Program, to ensure the proper disposal of plastic waste and hold violators accountable through fines
147 set by each Member State;
- 148
- 149 14. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with UNEP to develop regionally determined standards to ensure that
150 regulations concerning marine-based sources of debris are efficiently reported to:
- 151
- 152 a. Monitor plastic waste disposal of incoming cargo ships at ports in the format of a short form that can
153 be filled out by ship officials and will be available in all requested languages of participating Member
154 States;
- 155
- 156 b. Complete the aforementioned form by vessels docking at their facilities to declare information to assist
157 authorities in the port in ensuring that ships are meeting the appropriate waste disposal estimates;
- 158

- 159 c. Compile estimates of appropriate levels of waste per ship that will be developed by UNEP, using a
160 specific algorithm;
161
- 162 d. Enforce voluntary random inspections in Member States in order to ensure that the declared waste
163 corresponds to the amount of estimated waste they should be in possession of;
164
- 165 e. Provide of training for port captains in regards to waste management observation and regulation;
166
- 167 15. *Calls upon* the international community to strengthen research initiatives and to consider the environmental and
168 economic benefits of biodegradable products and plastic alternatives, as referenced in UNEP’s report on
169 Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter, including but not limited to:
170
- 171 a. Alternative containers such as the “Ooho!” Water Bottle, an edible and biodegradable alternative that
172 is made from a calcium chloride- and seaweed-based membrane, to replace contemporary plastic water
173 bottles;
174
- 175 b. Use of biodegradable bioplastic pipes, to automatically collect rainwater to reserve the water resources
176 while reducing the usage of plastic;
177
- 178 16. *Suggests* the creation of a platform for information-sharing to enable cooperation between companies that work
179 to develop biodegradable materials and mass producing firms;
180
- 181 17. *Recommends* the initiation of scholarship programs to encourage creative, sustainable, and innovative
182 alternatives for cleaner oceans and to commence a triannual global conference where Member States reflect,
183 share, and innovate their ideas, successes, and failures together in regards to communal localization efforts
184 within the context of alleviation of plastic debris from the ocean;
185
- 186 18. *Acknowledges* the benefits that private-public partnerships such as the International Environmental Technology
187 Centre can provide when it comes to making significant change in the adoption of production processes that
188 commit to environmental friendly practices, such as the use of biodegradable material, and proposes to:
189
- 190 a. Work with existing mechanisms such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Green
191 Marketplace for Sustainable Technology to create a consultative database that unites existing
192 knowledge and technologies and is able to help countries make adequate decisions in order to improve
193 their waste management and recycling practices;
194
- 195 b. Ensure the database is updated frequently to encourage private firms to engage in fair cooperation with
196 interested countries through UNEP programs and to contribute their knowledge and provide the
197 technology needed;
198
- 199 c. Encourage stronger pre-existing intersections and new unexplored connections between public and
200 private partnerships such as small businesses or for profit organizations by initiating community based
201 forums and community meeting centers;
202
- 203 19. *Intends* to collaborate with local governments and NGOs, such as Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, to
204 promote waste management practices on local and regional frameworks that could:
205
- 206 a. Incorporate systems of refundable containers for all canned, glass bottles and plastic bottled drinks in
207 every local convenience store;
208
- 209 b. Collaborate with municipalities to establish a profitable recycling program by integrating recycling
210 containers in residential areas;
211
- 212 c. Build awareness by working conjointly with developing countries municipalities to promote recycling
213 initiative through public speeches and advertisement;
214

- 215 d. Locate areas that have a tendency to accumulate plastic debris and provide updated information
216 translated into local dialects;
217
- 218 e. Develop efficient waste collection systems that monitor locations of dump sites around the region in
219 order to ensure that wastes are properly discarded away from any bodies of water;
220
- 221 f. Implement programs for building recycling facilities in developing countries' municipalities;
222
- 223 g. Eradicate open dump sites and offer alternative approaches including regulated landfills with the use of
224 soil and clay, instead of plastic, as a protective cover blocking any debris from entering the oceans;
225
- 226 20. *Requests* that all willing and able coastal Member States create marine protected areas along coastlines to
227 prevent the passing of commercial fishing and shipping vessels, in an effort to decrease the amount of pollutants
228 in marine ecosystems contributed by commercial fishing and shipping vessels passing through shallow bodies
229 of water;
230
- 231 21. *Requests* the expansion of the Environmental Education Training Unit, a joint program between the United
232 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNEP, to include a program for
233 primary education that will:
234
- 235 a. Focus on sustainable consumption and production in efforts to reduce personal plastic use;
236
- 237 b. Collaborate with regional and local governments to foster nationally standardized curriculums
238 regarding environmental topics;
239
- 240 c. Organize educational professional development seminars to assist in the implementation of the
241 standardized curricula;
242
- 243 22. *Suggests* the creation and implementation of an effective recycling plastics economy or Closed-Loop Industrial
244 Plastic Production (CLIPP), which is a pollution-reduction program similar to UNEP's own Life Cycle
245 Initiative, to encourage international life cycle thinking aimed at targeting the production of plastics through:
246
- 247 a. A 25% plastic recycling mandate for Member States so as to increase recycling internationally, thereby
248 incentivizing recycling companies to recycle otherwise unprofitable forms of plastic;
249
- 250 b. Funds generated by such recycling at the start of plastic production that will boost Member States'
251 economies while additionally helping them contribute to protecting the world's oceans;
252
- 253 23. *Recommends* efforts to quell plastic debris in urban waterfronts due to tourism, and industry by suggesting that
254 Member States:
255
- 256 a. Collaborate with innovative awareness-raising non-profit organizations and NGOs, similar to Algalita,
257 a non-profit that built a 60-foot catamaran out of 12,500 plastic bottles, sailed across the Pacific in
258 efforts to raise awareness of plastic debris in marine ecosystems;
259
- 260 b. Cooperate with local and international media outlets to create radio campaigns in efforts to raise
261 awareness of the detrimental effects of plastic waste on marine ecosystems, modeled after the Forest
262 Action Network (FAN) Programme;
263
- 264 c. Establish an increased municipal tax of plastic goods for tourists and/or introduce fines for littering on
265 the coast to support waterfronts;
266
- 267 d. Increase patrol of beaches so that littering may be prevented;
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- 269 e. Strengthen Community Based Natural Resource Management Practices to encourage local
270 communities to conduct litter clean-up project and to increase accessibility to recycling bins;

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24. *Recommends* that the Member States adhere to General Assembly resolution 69/29 (2015), which advises Parties to introduce an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and to establish a panel administered through the UNEP, with the assistance of the IMO and Cruise Ship International Association to oversee the progress of Member States in the field;
 25. *Encourages* Member States to support the Ocean Cleanup Project, which would facilitate technology to collect reusable marine plastic in order to:
 - a. Collaborate with the local communities in the process of recycling collected oceanic plastics into reusable utensils and agricultural tools, using NGOs such as SIMPA, which would facilitate sustainable development of these communities;
 - b. Work with the United Nations International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) and NGO Plastic2oil to convert used plastic into ultra-clean and ultra-low sulfur fuel without the need for refinement;
 - c. Promote local community employment in the recycling and reusing of plastics in order to create revenue streams within civil societies.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/8

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2

3 *Bearing in mind* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 14, which focus on clean water and life below water,
4 both issues strongly affected by plastic debris for the purpose of developing and managing marine resources and
5 conservation of biodiversity,
6

7 *Confident* in General Assembly resolution 67/79 (2012) condemning plastic debris as a pollutant that threatens the
8 marine environment,
9

10 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 44/228 of the *United Nations Conference on the Environment* reaffirms the
11 need for technical skills to preserve and enhance the environmental habitat of all Member States,
12

13 *Recalling* Article 13 of the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption* (UNCAC), which calls for the
14 participation of society to ensure that all Member States have proper access to information related to plastic waste,
15

16 *Welcoming* the implementation of viable waste treatment processes as echoed in General Assembly resolution
17 50/126 on "Water Supply and Sanitation" as well as the benefits of technological advances referenced in General
18 Assembly resolution 66/211 on "Science and Technology for Development" and called for within General Assembly
19 resolution 70/1 on "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"
20

21 *Emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 60/30 (2006) on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea" and its focus on a
22 coordinating mechanism between intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
23 and private companies for plastic debris management on the ocean waters,
24

25 *Affirming* General Assembly resolution 67/223 (2013), which emphasizes the positive outcomes of ecotourism in
26 achieving international agreements,
27

28 *Acknowledging* the significance of the *Honolulu Strategy* and its three goals towards eliminating hazardous plastic
29 wastes through the cooperation of global, regional, national and local stakeholders,
30

31 *With the utmost regard* for the *Malmö Ministerial Declaration* and its precedence for ensuring the involvement of
32 civil society organizations (CSOs) in promoting shared environmental values key to combating plastic debris in the
33 world's oceans,
34

35 *Recognizing* the funding commitments of the World Bank, Regional Investment Bank, Global Environment Facility
36 (GEF) and other international financing institutions, contributions to international needs for research and
37 development and the mobilization of resources,
38

39 *Keeping in mind* General Assembly resolution 62/195 (2008), which recognizes that substantial scientific research
40 on the impacts and prevention of plastic debris for the effective foundation of the environmental framework,
41

42 *Welcoming* the *Quindao Declaration* from the International Conference on Information and Communication
43 Technology (ICT) and Post-2015 Education, and noting General Assembly resolution 69/204 on "Information and
44 Communications Technologies for Development" as well as General Assembly resolution 66/211 on "Science and
45 Technology for Development in using ICTs toward sustainable development and anti-corruption measures,"
46

47 *Noting with satisfaction* the existence of online information dissemination systems toward civil society, as
48 exemplified by the Clean Up the River program developed by Clean Up Australia, and further encouraging the use
49 of social media as a platform for spreading the message of the harmful effects of plastics within these systems,
50

51 *Underscoring* the invaluable provisions within the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements*
52 *of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*, to reduce the movements of hazardous debris between Member States,
53

54 *Taking into consideration* national sovereignty as outlined by General Assembly resolution 2131 (XX), the
55 *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their*
56 *Independence and Sovereignty* pertaining to Member States when addressing the issue of plastic debris in marine
57 environments,
58

59 *Noting with appreciation* strategic partnerships between governments and private organizations when observing the
60 impact of improper waste management of plastic debris affecting the global environment,
61

62 *Reaffirming* the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (1973) (MARPOL
63 Convention), especially Annex V, and recognizing the imposed ban on the disposal of plastics from ships in the
64 ocean and its requirement for governments to construct adequate and sustainable waste management facilities,
65

66 *Acknowledging* SDGs 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” and its Target 5 of Goal 16 to reduce corruption
67 and bribery in all forms and its role in securing SDG 14 to conserve oceans and marine resources,
68

69 *Recalling further* Article 36 of UNCAC, calling for specialized authorities to combat the abuse of plastic debris
70 through specialized subdivisions of law enforcement pertaining to issues of environmental degradation related to
71 corruption, and within its implementation in Oman has helped to decrease environmental degradation related to
72 debris in the Gulf of Oman,
73

- 74 1. *Calling on* Member States to recognize the importance of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*
75 Part XII;
76
 - 77 2. *Fully aware* of the important role of financial institutions and public funds in providing solutions to plastic
78 debris in marine environments;
79
 - 80 3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Protection, Awareness, Media, and Accountability (PANDA), addressing the
81 need to protect our natural environment, awareness of the problem through training, and implementation and
82 development of media and accountability of governments, private sectors, and civil societies, toward the clean-
83 up and prevention of plastic debris in the world’s oceans;
84
 - 85 4. *Expresses its support* to see all Member States declare all non-essential non-compostable plastic materials as a
86 pollutant rather than a product, as has been accomplished by several Member States worldwide, in order to
87 constrict the usage of such non-essential non-compostable plastics to meet SDGs 6 and 14;
88
 - 89 5. *Emphasizes* the need to focus upon the implementation of viable waste treatment processes and stresses the
90 importance of developing a comparative evaluation of methods to be utilized in achieving the most sustainable
91 practices for recycling plastic materials, with special consideration of individual Member State circumstances;
92
 - 93 6. *Notes* the current deficiencies of waste management infrastructure in developing Member States and calls for
94 developed Member States to provide assistance in the form of technical and logistical support, as set up in the
95 Plan Estatal Marco de Gestión de Residuos (PEMAR), to:
 - 96 a. Adopt a circular economic system based on recycle and reuse of materials;
97
 - 98 b. Develop upon waste-to-energy frameworks, as well as policy and infrastructure aimed at encouraging
99 the use of reusable plastic products as an alternative means of renewable energy;
100
 - 101 c. Make use of recovery and recycling mechanisms used to process discarded items useful for energy in
102 the form of heat, electricity or fuel;
103
- 104

- 105 d. Support the effectiveness of Programs such as China’s “Green Fence Initiative” turning imported
106 plastic waste into sources or reusable material and energy hence lessening the amount of plastic debris
107 leaking into the world’s oceans;
108
- 109 7. *Regrets* the current lack of proper waste management infrastructure in the international community and draws
110 attention to Iraq’s National Solid Waste Management Plan including its goal of building 33 environmentally
111 engineered landfills by 2027 and focusing on collection, transportation, recycling and reuse systems with the
112 help of international waste management specialists, and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-
113 HABITAT) while encouraging Member States to utilize similar experts funded by the Global Climate Fund
114 (GCF);
115
- 116 8. *Emphasizes* the importance of Member States working with ecotourism programs, such as South Africa’s
117 Oceans Blue Adventures, as a means to empower those involved in ecotourism, a widely used and easy to
118 access industry, to educate tourists about the harmful effects of plastic debris and its effects on marine
119 biodiversity in local regions;
120
- 121 9. *Encourages* Member States to develop a voluntary public service announcement campaign funded by host
122 countries through means, including but not limited to, popular radio and television channels which will educate
123 the public about waste and waste management practices and promotes conducting research and providing
124 technological assistance to willing Member States to improve their respective infrastructures related to waste
125 management;
126
- 127 10. *Supports* the use of public announcement campaigns created by Member States through the use of social media
128 platforms modeled after the works of NGOs such as Ocean Conservation in order to educate Member States in
129 effective waste management strategies including the Trash Free Seas Alliance, which addresses scientific non-
130 profit organizations with similar goals for a clean ocean free of plastic debris in order to safeguard marine
131 ecology, and the and promote innovative solutions based on rigorous science and smart policies;
132
- 133 11. *Takes note* of the framework and techniques of Clean Up Australia showcased within the Clean up the River
134 program, particularly as an effective curriculum-based program, and encourages Member States to launch
135 online campaigns to develop and advertise similar information and dissemination programs;
136
- 137 12. *Endorses* media training sessions in order to educate media personnel on the destructive properties of plastic
138 debris to human health and to assist in disseminating information on the importance of establishing proper
139 waste management facilities as demonstrated by the United States Agency for International Development
140 (USAID) efforts in Burundi;
141
- 142 13. *Encourages* Member States to support the biannual African Marine Debris Summit and further encourages the
143 Summit body to invite other Member States outside the region to contribute strategies that would expand on the
144 ideas of prevention strategies, promotion of education, and innovative solutions to plastic debris;
145
- 146 14. *Expresses its appreciation* of the GEF to promote, facilitate, and establish public-private partnerships (PPPs)
147 and its role in mobilizing resources to allow a mutual agreement between involved actors to establish singular
148 mechanisms, such as an agreement on the amount of plastic materials produced, consumed and utilized to lessen
149 marine debris in order to control the environmental footprint on a global scale and save oceans from further
150 destruction;
151
- 152 15. *Invites* financing entities including NGOs, the GEF, and other financial institutions to provide funding for the
153 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) to further
154 research efforts and alleviate the impact of plastic debris in the marine environment;
155
- 156 16. *Further invites* the GESAMP group to devote a portion of their research towards effective and environmentally
157 favorable plastic alternatives, including cellulose based material and creating more biodegradable solutions,
158 while continuing the task to discover impacts of plastic debris effects on marine and human life;
159

- 160 17. *Encourages* collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
161 (UNESCO) to empower CSOs with the necessary skills to collect information on the effects of plastic debris to
162 biological diversity and the importance of waste management practices;
163
- 164 18. *Invites* the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) and United Nations Institute for Training and Research
165 (UNITAR) to strengthen their partnership with Member States and expand international workshops to address
166 management techniques of plastic debris as well as work to provide training opportunities at UNEP regional
167 offices for Member States to train individuals on urban planning, waste management and transportation of waste
168 vehicles;
169
- 170 19. *Recognizes* the self-determination and autonomy of Member States, including the right to access and protect
171 one's own lands and natural resources and to ensure the proper disposal of plastic wastes with:
172
- 173 a. Implementation of an integrated spatial information system with reference to the Palestinian Ministry
174 of Local Government's GeoMOLG system as a user-friendly public portal where government officials
175 and the general public can access planning information for any location, in which all urban master
176 plans are stored in a database to enable multi-user editing;
 - 177
 - 178 b. Inclusion of land parcel specifications, agricultural classifications, local authorities' administrative
179 boundaries, electoral districts, and other aspects of classification as relevant to Member States and
180 other existing territories;
 - 181
 - 182 c. Systems to monitored ecological hazards and adapting to monitor ecological hazards across the world,
183 especially through the use of tele-epidemiology technologies to monitor the proliferation of
184 microorganisms to unfamiliar territories due to climate change;
 - 185
- 186 20. *Encourages* Member States which have not yet ratified the MARPOL Convention to adopt the Convention with
187 special consideration given to Annex V, as it provides specific guidelines for garbage disposal in the ocean,
188 thereby empowering Member States to pursue SDG 14 for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans,
189 seas, and marine resources;
190
- 191 21. *Suggests* the creation of divisions within national courts which focus upon the problem of corruption in the
192 context of environmental degradation, specifically regarding plastic debris, modeled after the Sultanate of
193 Oman's Public Funds Court, which facilitates court cases in regards to corrupt practices:
194
- 195 a. Includes an Oceans Taskforce sub-division which specifically focuses upon issues pertaining to the
196 environmental degradation within oceans;
 - 197
 - 198 b. Is implemented by national and/or regional bodies such as the Financial and Administrative Audit
199 Control, which conducts frequent audits of financial flows between entities and seeks illicit forms of
200 financial flows nationally and internationally;
 - 201
 - 202 c. Is further financed by a variety of sources;
 - 203
 - 204 d. Fines taken from actors who have committed violations against environmental laws in that region or
205 state;
 - 206
 - 207 e. Taxes and tariffs collected from private sector entities and actors in that state;
 - 208
 - 209 f. Funding from NGOs and IGOs specifically related to financing activities;
 - 210
- 211 22. *Further encourages* the utilization of certain financing mechanisms that would make the PANDA initiatives of
212 protection, awareness, media, and accountability possible, which include:
213
- 214 a. Public financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Development Bank of Latin
215 America, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the European Bank of Reconstruction and

- 216 Development (EBRD), the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office – Ministry of Environmental
217 Protection of China (FECO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), among others;
218
219 b. The Global Environment Facility, which finances national and regional projects, tailored to that
220 specific Member State or region, and that facilitates the implementation of certain United Nations
221 conventions, such as the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Report to the Convention on
222 Biological Diversity project, which was implemented by the Sultanate of Oman and other regional
223 Member States;
224
225 c. Voluntary endowments by individual Member States and their agencies, and regional coalitions such
226 as the European Union, which has given funding to the NGO Transparency International in recent
227 years;
228
229 d. Private sector firms including:
230
231 i. NGO funding organizations for oceans, such as the Ocean Lending Group, the Ocean Lending
232 Group, and the Rapid Ocean Conservation (ROC) Grants program;
233 ii. Not-for-profit foundations such as the Ocean Foundation, the Oceanic Preservation Society,
234 OceansWatch, Greenpeace, and the Prince Albert Foundation;
235 iii. For-profit entities such as private banks, corporations, and private businesses;
236
237 23. *Further welcomes* Member States to adopt the PANDA program and thereby promote and ensure the protection
238 of our natural environment for the betterment of future generations.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/9

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Underlining* the importance of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably
4 use oceans, seas and marine resources,

5
6 *Noting with concern* the lack of international mechanisms suited to specific Member States' need to implement
7 sustainable plastic management measures,

8
9 *Recognizing* the effort and plans of actions regarding efficient plastic management and disposal put forward by
10 various international frameworks, such as the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*
11 (MARPOL), *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), and the *London Convention and*
12 *Protocol,*

13
14 *Expressing grave concern* about the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) report, "Plastic Debris in
15 the World's Oceans," stating that the world's oceans contain 18,000 pieces of plastic per square kilometer,

16
17 *Taking note* of the successful implementation of deposit laws on beverage containers in Member States such as
18 Germany, Israel, and the Netherlands in order to reduce the amount of plastic bottles entering the world's oceans,

19
20 *Deeply concerned by* the detrimental effects microplastics have on the maritime ecosystem as reported in the UNEP
21 Microplastics Brochure,

22
23 *Alarmed by* the fact that plastics are especially prone to being a source of pollution when used in products with
24 planned obsolescence, as discussed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20)
25 and in the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues,

26
27 *Distressed by* the lethal effects that plastics have on the marine ecosystems that are vital to the regulation of oxygen
28 and carbon dioxide as stated by the United Nations World Health Organization's (WHO) "Climate Change and
29 Human Health" report,

30
31 *Acknowledging* the \$4.7 billion (USD) available in the Green Climate Fund dedicated to eradicating any origins of
32 climate change including the toxic emissions released by the production of plastics from fossil fuels that are likely to
33 be found in the world's oceans at the end of their production cycle,

34
35 *Remembering* the UNEP's report "Plastics in Cosmetics and the subsequent request to ban microbeads from
36 cosmetics," which currently threatens marine life and pollutes the world's oceans by becoming imbedded in marine
37 habitats and being consumed by marine fauna causing circulatory and digestive blockages, malnutrition and
38 starvation and furthermore threatening human health by the consumption of seafood,

39
40 *Recognizing* the success of the Japanese public research and development management organization New Energy
41 and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) as a global platform for the creation and sharing of
42 guidelines regarding energy, environmental policy, and technology which has been extremely useful in the
43 development of plastic waste management as well as ocean conservation methods,

44
45 *Concerned by* the latest toxicological report on Bisphenol A (BPA) carried out by the Food and Agriculture
46 Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, which was not able to reach a consensus on an acceptable
47 amount of BPA per unit volume of sea water,

48
49 *Further encouraging* the evaluation of long term exposures of BPA following the respective Organisation for
50 Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines as well as its bioaccumulation potential,

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1. *Calls upon* the Regional Seas Programme to create a specific department or unit dedicated to the Initial Steps Leading to Actions of National Determination (ISLAND), which would include economic and environmental experts who specialize in the disposal and management of plastic resources with a specific focus on ocean's;
 2. *Expresses its support* as a United Nations committee to the ISLAND unit created as a specific branch of the Regional Seas Programme in engaging to foster and oversee its implementation;
 3. *Recommends* the implementation of the Japanese created public research and development management organization NEDO as a global platform for the creation and sharing of guidelines regarding energy, environmental policy, technology focused on proper plastic waste management;
 4. *Expresses its hope* that WHO in collaboration with UNEP carries out a detailed toxicological assessment with the intended goal of determining the acceptable amount of BPA in both fresh and marine waters before being considered polluted by the substance;
 5. *Encourages* the adequate performance of more studies in the natural environment to evaluate real concentration of BPA, long term exposures following the respective OECD guidelines as well as its bioaccumulation potential;
 6. *Encourages* the UNEP Regional Seas Programme to widen its objectives in order to address the issue of plastic debris, land or sea based, on a national level by implementing plastic substitutes for Member States, providing counsel on plastic waste management practices towards developing countries, advising regarding the drafting of Member States' environmental action plans, and working closely with non-governmental organizations such as Greenpeace, International Rivers, World Resources Institute and others to acquire knowledge and experience on plastic waste management;
 7. *Advises* Member States to cooperate and actively engage in the Regional Seas Programme's specific unit dedicated to ISLAND to reduce their plastic waste production in an efficient and sustainable way;
 8. *Suggests* that the ISLAND specialized unit, in its plastic litter reducing measures, promotes recycling measures such as adding a small amount to the price of all single-serve plastic beverage containers as monetary deposit that would be reimbursed to the consumer when the container is returned to a waste management facility;
 9. *Further suggests* that the ISLAND specialized unit provide recommendations to decrease the prevalence of cosmetics containing microbeads through measures including banning microbeads in cosmetics over the next five years, implementing a corporate or consumer tax on cosmetics containing microbeads, or increasing awareness about the carcinogenic effects of microplastics by labeling products to inform consumers about the consequences of using cosmetics that contain plastic microbeads;
 10. *Further suggests* that the ISLAND specialized unit invites Member States to confront the issue of planned obsolescence which leads to improperly disposed wastes that pollute the ocean, through random product audits conducted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management or Labeling of products about perceived planned obsolescence of the product understandable to the laymen;
 11. *Invites* Member States to utilize the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) to educate the general public about the importance of responsible purchasing and consumer disposal;
 12. *Recommends* that the ISLAND unit supports Member States in continuing to enforce pre-existing laws, which prohibit the dumping of fishing gear and equipment in the oceans, which is the essence of ghost fishing, through the sharing of information and technology that NEDO offers to Member states, as well as taking action such as:
 - a. Provide framework guidelines that facilitate the registration and identification of fishing gear in order to hold owners accountable;

- 107 b. Investigate the future usage of GPS tracking devices to promote accountability for lost fishing gear and
108 enable its recovery through recognizing that these technologies are still too costly for global usage;
109
- 110 13. *Suggests* that the ISLAND unit in collaboration with the sharing mechanisms of NEDO support Member States
111 in the development of research of fishing-equipment that is made out of conscious materials such as
112 biodegradable and agro-based materials, in addition to developing technology, which will dissolve otherwise
113 non-biodegradable materials;
114
- 115 14. *Further suggests* that the ISLAND unit supports Member States in promoting a labeling program called the
116 Non-Endangering Tools Label or ‘NET’ Label, which would display the amount of time a product takes to
117 completely degrade and also include the of a product’s non-biodegradable components to biodegradable
118 components by volume, mass and number;
119
- 120 15. *Endorses* the partnership between NEDO and the ISLAND unit as a reliable network and assistance platform
121 for Member States to provide the necessary technological expertise in order to meet the set goals of nations’
122 environmental agenda;
123
- 124 16. *Suggests* that the ISLAND dedicated unit and NEDO be funded by the resources available in the Green Climate
125 Fund and other voluntary donations;
126
- 127 17. *Supports* the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* to utilize NEDO as method for
128 achieving technology and information transfer among civilians, Member states and the private sector;
129
- 130 18. *Recommends* that national port authorities follow local, regional and global standards set under the United
131 Nations Code for Trade and Transport Location (LOCODE) platform in order to guarantee the proper
132 management of waste to eradicate the unregulated and unlawful waste disposal in ports;
133
- 134 19. *Endorses* the further development and improvement of Beat the Microbead application, in order to maximize its
135 efficiency, through the creation of the Green App to identify not only micro bead presence but also the presence
136 of BPA and other hazardous substances in commonly used plastic products;
137
- 138 20. *Draws attention* to the fact that the efficiency of the Green App relies on the yearly update of the app’s
139 database, which requires Member States to strongly encourage manufactures of plastic containing products to
140 report levels of harmful plastic byproducts such as micro beads and BPA.



Code: UNEP/RES/1/10

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Strongly* emphasizing that financing is critical to the success of all efforts to prevent plastic wastes from entering the
4 world's ocean and the need of monetary support for various plastic waste initiatives,

5
6 *Aware* of the effect that industrial activity in relation to plastics and other environmentally detrimental sources of
7 waste has on the oceans,

8
9 *Alarmed* by the continued consequences of marine litter on the oceans and the negative impact on marine life
10 outlined in General Assembly resolution 69/215,

11
12 *Fully aware* that many least developed and developing Member States require additional technical, logistical, and
13 financial assistance in pursuing sustainable development initiatives, which could assist in the reduction of pollution
14 in the world's oceans,

15
16 *Taking into consideration* the importance of regional and local matters when dealing with plastic debris in the
17 world's oceans,

18
19 *Deeply concerned* by the absence of a specific body that allocates funds for plastic waste prevention to Member
20 States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

21
22 *Emphasizing* efforts to work alongside plastic producers so as to affect change at plastic wastes' source thereby
23 affecting production and consumption patterns,

24
25 *Acknowledging* the private and public sector's need to process and utilize plastic materials innovatively,

26
27 *Seeking* to include the private sector into Member States' attempts to solve and mitigate the amount of plastic that is
28 currently used within our system,

29
30 *Admiring* innovation and creativity in creating bottom up strategies in international and national financing,

31
32 *Affirming* the Atlantic Coastal Action Program by promoting community-based leadership through environmental
33 initiatives, projects, and partnerships,

- 34
35 1. *Invites* Member States to contribute further to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) projects
36 and goals, to ensure the continued work combating plastic debris in the world's ocean through the formation of
37 innovative challenges or scholarships that prioritize the inventions of innovative, creative, and sustainable
38 progressions towards cleaner oceans;
- 39
40 2. *Recommends* that all Member States consider introducing an investigative unit provided and developed by
41 UNEP to implement standards on plastic-using companies, similar to the successful structure of the
42 International Atomic Energy Agency as the investigative authority for nuclear facilities;
- 43
44 3. *Suggests* the creation of a UNEP-certified SEAL, administrated by the UNEP investigative unit and oversight
45 advisory panel, which would incentivize these corporations and Member States to participate by providing them
46 with global brand recognition, as well as increased customer confidence due to the dedication of
47 environmentally friendly products;
- 48

- 49 4. *Urges* the UNEP founded investigative unit and advisory panel to introduce a tiered system of product
50 evaluation when considering products for UNEP SEAL, allowing for Member States and involved firms to
51 distinguish themselves within the program, avoiding adherence to a bare minimum;
52
- 53 5. *Additionally recommends* that Member States should be required to introduce a system dedicated to financing,
54 in order to be included in the investigative unit and advisory panels activities and benefits, by contributing
55 directly to their operational costs and to UNEP efforts globally;
56
- 57 6. *Approves* the creation of an international investigative unit and advisory panel that comprises of regional panels
58 that will oversee the assessment of UNEP SEAL carrying companies, as well as the associated grants and funds
59 by acting as a reporting and advising body to UNEP itself:
60
- 61 a. Member States may, on a voluntary basis, send highly-qualified citizens in the field of environmental
62 investment and finance as delegates on the advisory panel;
63
- 64 b. The regional panels should include North America, South America, Central America and the
65 Caribbean, Oceania, Europe, South-Central Asia and Russia, South-Eastern Asia, Africa, and the
66 Middle East and meet annually;
67
- 68 c. Regional panels will further congregate biennially for the international advisory panel to advise and
69 share the accumulated information;
70
- 71 d. The advisory panel will submit quarterly reports to UNEP on the issues addressed by it, including the
72 current state of tax funds and grants, as well as providing its recommendations on how to further invest
73 UNEP funds most efficiently;
74
- 75 7. *Emphasizes* the aspect that companies and Member States would have to adhere to the requirements of advisory
76 panel outlines, which will include environmental standards, and would not be able to participate in the UNEP
77 seal program without committing to the investigative units set ongoing conditions;
78
- 79 8. *Affirms* that the advisory panel's decisions may only gain UNEP approval after having been submitted to UNEP
80 for ratification during their quarterly reports;
81
- 82 9. *Calls upon* Member States with large investments in plastic food and beverage container industries, to hold a
83 conference to discuss an international 50/50 fund, in which Member States would allocate revenue of the 50/50
84 fund to expanding waste management capabilities in developing countries by implementing a logistical method
85 of recycling and processing of plastic products in the public and private sectors, such as distribution of plastic
86 bins and processing plants;
87
- 88 10. *Encourages* participatory Member States of the 50/50 fund to acquire revenue through the collection of
89 incentivized levies from plastic food and beverage container manufacturers that exhaust vast amounts of water,
90 which would be put towards the UNEP supported International Coastal Clean-up project, for the purpose of
91 cleaning up plastic debris along shorelines;
92
- 93 11. *Promotes* the further use of UNEP regional consultants to utilize financial monitoring strategies, in order to
94 inform future UNEP efforts, through the advisory council, to create sustainable finance systems in tackling
95 waste production and ocean pollution worldwide;
96
- 97 12. *Encourages* further international investment by increasing investor confidence through additional financial
98 oversight and efficiency provided by regional knowledge and expertise which can be thoroughly accomplished
99 by the assertion of International actors for collaboration with regional and local knowledge collection moving
100 towards providing valuable insight for the success, allocation, and creation of UNEP projects and resources;
101
- 102 13. *Recognizes* the key role that international actors at regional and local levels play:
103

- 104 a. Realizing the first-hand experience of local leaders and their in-depth knowledge of regionally specific
105 issues;
106
- 107 b. Emphasizes the capacity that these players can and should contribute in UNEP goals to reduce
108 pollution in our oceans;
109
- 110 14. *Suggests* Member States mediate between the contexts of local citizen and global governmental interests
111 through the delegation of federal, regional, and local leaders in collaboration with one another to render
112 opportunities accessible to all motivated citizens;
113
- 114 15. *Encourages* further financial, logistical, and structural cooperation between UNEP and other related bodies
115 including the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council on issues of
116 mutual importance such as pollution in all the world's bodies of water;
117
- 118 16. *Further invites* regional organizations such as OSPAR to approve and expand upon funding projects,
119 specifically those to promote scientific research in oceans in addition to monitoring regional oceans;
120
- 121 17. *Endorses* significant cooperation between national actors as well as UNEP regional actors in working with
122 international corporations and industries in achieving UNEP's goals at the local and regional level:
123
- 124 a. Recommends domestic and local based governments working with international organizations to be
125 mindful of citizen initiatives and to refrain from infringing on citizen rights;
126
- 127 b. Encourages support of unilateral efforts by recognizing and accentuating the actions of UNEP
128 supporting multinationals in achieving environmentally friendly ambitions in all regions of the world;
129
- 130 c. Invites public and private partnerships, such as small business or for profit organisations, to create
131 stronger intersections.