



Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution through Sustainable Consumption and Production

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
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3 *Highlighting* the importance of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, targeting marine plastic pollution
4 *in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*
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6 *Recognizing* SDG 14.1, which aims to significantly prevent and reduce marine pollution by 2050,
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8 *Acknowledging* SDG 12.5, aiming to reduce waste generation through recycling and prevention by 2030,
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10 *Noting with concern* Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone
11 *has a right to an adequate standard of living and health, which is actively violated by marine plastic*
12 *pollution,*
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14 *Recalling* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) resolution from UNEA-4 “Addressing
15 *Single-use Plastic Products Pollution,” that addresses the prevalence of single-use plastic pollution and*
16 *the increasing necessity to tackle it at a global level,*
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18 *Taking note* of the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2018 research on the huge volume of
19 *plastic waste in the world’s water,*
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21 *Taking into account* the need for developing a circular economy which produces no waste by recycling
22 *and reusing plastic to promote more sustainable consumption,*
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24 *Acknowledging* the disparities between Member States’ monetary resources and potential amounts of
25 *funding that can be allocated towards marine plastic pollution,*
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27 *Calling attention to* the UNEP report that eight million tons of plastic waste are dumped into our oceans
28 *every year,*
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30 *Recalling* the research that the UNEP produced in 2018 that advocated for the circular thinking approach
31 *to reduce plastic pollution,*
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33 *Reaffirming* the importance of research on the development of environmentally sustainable plastics,
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35 *Emphasizing* that in recent years, there has been between 60 and 90 million metric tons of mismanaged
36 *waste that has been improperly disposed of into the environment by all Member States,*
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38 *Stressing* the difficulty of enforcing a one-size-fits-all multilateral approach at the level of individual
39 *Member States due to regional geographic differences,*
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41 *Further taking note* of the effectiveness of the regional Strategic Action Program to Address Land-based
42 *pollution in the Mediterranean that reduced the level of harmful pollutants by an average of 95% from*
43 *2003-2015,*
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45 *Recalling* the UNEP resolution on “Marine litter and micro-plastics,” which encouraged the collaboration
46 *between governments, private corporations, and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs),*
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48 *Recognizing* the lack of access to plastic disposal locations in developing Member States,

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Keeping in mind the increased need for cooperation between governments and corporations to sustainably produce plastic,

Drawing attention to the use of incentive programs to motivate individuals and corporate actors to participate in recycling initiatives,

Noticing the lack of a system that promotes the recycling of plastics in multinational businesses on a large scale,

Realizing the absence of a worldwide economic parity,

1. *Further invites* United Nations (UN) agencies, such as the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly, to provide education to children in elementary schools and developing countries, who are the future of our world, to understand the huge impacts of plastic on the environment;
2. *Strongly suggests* implementing education on plastic and its impact on the environment as a compulsory lesson and:
 - a. Further recommends the use of an Earth Day initiative to enforce sustainable consumption among communities by inviting them to the task of reducing the carbon footprint they have through:
 - i. Reducing their carbon footprint by educating the public at shopping complexes and helping teach them to thrift clothes, instead of buying new and using reusable materials;
 - ii. Helping students create paper bins to create a hands-on experience to teach them how to practically use them for their homes;
 - b. Recommends Member States to team up with academic institutions to allow for hands on learning and education initiatives;
3. *Considers* different administrative solutions in curbing plastic menaces such as:
 - a. Regulation of production and consumption;
 - b. Eco-designs increasing demands for recycled plastic;
 - c. Labeling plastic product packaging with recycling information to help consumers dispose of it in the right way;
 - d. Improving waste collection systems and prioritization of recycling;
 - e. Use of bio-based and biodegradable plastics;
 - f. Improvement in recyclability of e-waste;
4. *Invites* the private sector to participate in regional workshops to further elaborate methods of reducing the harmful effects of plastics and to research viable alternatives to plastic, while encouraging Member States to restrict foreign direct investments in sectors if it determines that they significantly promote and contribute to marine pollution;
5. *Encourages* the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Program, which would constitute as a guideline and aid Member States on the regional level by bolstering capacity-building measures through:

- 105 a. Providing precise definitions for plastic waste and chemicals;
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107 b. Aiding in the development of waste management systems;
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- 109 6. *Encourages* Member States to participate in global conferences, such as the United Nations Ocean
110 Conference;
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- 112 7. *Advises* Member States to encourage the private sector in creating and using environmentally friendly
113 materials by awarding monetary incentives, such as tax breaks and refunds for switching from single
114 use plastic items to more sustainable materials;
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- 116 8. *Recommends* the design of regional UN models that allows the targeting of specific areas for Member
117 States to facilitate and support plastic cleanup based upon their location and gross domestic product
118 scale to account for the differences in Member States' capacity and/or capabilities to reduce dead
119 zones in waterways by:
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- 121 a. Encouraging distinctive implementations for each region that would specifically benefit their
122 culture and geography;
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- 124 b. Including local businesses, such as chain hotels, chain restaurants, and merchants, in being
125 held accountable for the plastic footprint they produce;
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- 127 9. *Requests* private organizations and companies to adhere to new methods of sustainable
128 consumption and production through:
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- 130 a. Innovative designs of plastic packaging;
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- 132 b. NGO technologies to collect plastic materials from large bodies of water for the production
133 and consumption of new goods;
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- 135 10. *Recommends* that Member States incentivize private sectors to adhere to sustainable production and
136 consumption methods by providing credits and tax reductions, or exemptions;
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- 138 11. *Urges* Member States' governments to cooperate with and educate the private sectors on the harmful
139 effects of plastic pollution, to implement environmental protection while promoting economic
140 development;
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- 142 12. *Strives* to promote programs that specifically cater to the differing needs of a global environment,
143 specifically implementing more gradual policies in economically disadvantaged Member States to
144 ensure overall success in global initiatives;
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- 146 13. *Encourages* the initiation of a vertical economic coalition by the implementation of a worldwide
147 economic model that favors efficiency and in which land-based plastic use is reduced or eliminated
148 through reuse and purposeful cycling of resources;
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- 150 14. *Requests* the implementation of a plastic credit for international business, modelled by the existing
151 Kyoto Protocol carbon credit trading; incentivizing multinational businesses to closely work with
152 recycling institutions to reuse plastics instead of producing as many new plastics; and encouraging a
153 life cycle of plastics rather than a life span, allowing for materials to have a guaranteed second life;
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- 155 15. *Recommends* working with value chain partners and industry associations to explore different
156 packaging solutions to reduce plastic usage, facilitate recycling, and develop new approaches to
157 eliminate plastic waste;
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- 159 16. *Encourages* the collection of reusable plastics by increasing the number of plastic disposal locations
160 available to citizens with Social Plastic Collection Credits funded collector rewards increasing the
161 collection volumes and improving the livelihoods of Collectors and their families;
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- 163 17. *Recommends* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives add topics for consideration to their
164 agenda, including:
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- 166 a. Monitoring the progress of Member States based on each state's use of the Global
167 Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund to:
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 - 169 i. Support governments in meeting standards; and allow effective prioritization and
170 dissemination of financial resources;
 - 171 ii. Make reports and recommendations based off a review and data collection on an
172 individual Member State basis;
 - 173 b. Aiding Member States through the transition process of reducing plastic pollution by:
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 - 175 i. Properly advising Member States based on the progress report elaborated by the
176 present subcommittee;
 - 177 ii. Developing action plans based on the needs and economic capabilities of the
178 Member State's most/more efficient distribution of resources and technology to
179 develop;
 - 180 iii. Holding an annual conference devoted to reporting progress in specific regions and
181 nations regarding marine plastic pollution through a standardized grading system;
 - 182 c. Recommending Member States to implement environmental impact analysis at a three-year
183 rate, assessing environmental regulatory and enforcement procedures;
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- 185 18. *Further invites* Member States to cooperate with UNEA in implementing Strategic Action Programs
186 regionally to address plastic pollution by:
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- 188 a. Harmonizing industry regulations on a regional basis to achieve sustainable methods of
189 plastic production;
 - 190 b. Assisting cooperating Member States through an exchange of technical and logistical support
191 in developing sustainable waste management operations;
 - 192 c. Identifying a set of indicators to regularly assess implementation of strategic action;
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- 198 19. *Recognizes* the importance of research in the search for a permanent preventative solution by:
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- 200 a. Utilizing the resources of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine
201 Environmental Protection;
 - 202 b. Sharing information between research universities responsible for the technological
203 innovation and the production of biodegradable plastics;
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- 206 20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt a circular economic framework to address all aspects of a
207 plastic pollution by:
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- 209 a. Defining circular economy as a model establishing a more focused care of plastic pollution at
210 every stage of a plastics lifecycle: production, consumption, and waste management;
 - 211 b. Reducing the production of plastic products through alternatives such as:
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- i. Further inviting Member States to commit to eliminating the use and production of single-use plastics by:
 - 1. Promoting alternatives to the single use plastics, such as but not limited to cigarette butts, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, food wrappers, plastic grocery bags, plastic lids, straws and stirrers, glass beverage bottles, and foam takeaway containers;
 - 2. Acknowledging the growing trend of ‘work-arounds’ to existing plastic production processes, such as the production of thicker plastic bags;
 - 3. Establishing stricter limitations in the evaluation of plastic production to correctly address these workarounds;
 - ii. Offering alternatives both for the producers and circulators of single-use plastics as exemplified by:
 - 1. Producing biodegradable products using plant-based materials, such as alternatives to plastic;
 - 2. Producing alternative, long lifespan products in conjunction with voluntary reduction, such as refillable water bottles, reusable shopping bags, and biodegradable straws, to combine mitigation of plastic production with a general cultural shift in consumption;
 - 3. Voluntary agreements established between public and private entities, like collaborations in New Zealand who have used this method to create substantive change in a short period of time that led to more long-term change;
 - iii. Encouraging countries to take initiatives under their own power to further influence international culture of plastic pollution through reducing the export of non-biodegradable plastics from developed nations to developing nations;
- c. Promoting active consumption through social awareness and public coercion through:
- i. Establishing school curriculums with embedded messaging beginning at a young age;
 - ii. Encouraging the formation of regional social movements such as the “Bye Bye Plastic Bags” initiative that used public pressure to establish change within their nation;
21. *Encourages* Member States to establish job opportunities in developing Member States through the adoption of waste management infrastructure contributed by developed nations such as:
- a. Creating a radical shift in the culture of waste management philosophy to encourage multilateral collaboration by way of establishing infrastructure for proper waste management in developing nations;
 - b. Acknowledging the need to establish transportation infrastructure, as well to effectively create this culture of waste management;
 - c. Urging Member States’ governments to invest money in universities and institutes to research to find out or create a new type of bacteria that can digest plastic naturally;
 - d. Emphasizing Member States to adopt healthy and sustainable practices within the public, such as cleanup programs that encourage long term monitoring.



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution through Sustainable Plastic Production and Consumption

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

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3 *Recalling* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing Goal 12, to
4 ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, in order to create a better and more sustainable
5 world for future generations,

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7 *Recognizing* the importance of SDG target 12.1, reached at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable
8 Development, which focused on a 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and
9 Production in reining in plastic pollution's influence on oceans, as well as achieving inclusive and circular
10 economies,

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12 *Aware* of the significance of youth as one of the active participants and principal players in achieving the
13 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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15 *Emphasizing* the need to create eco-friendly citizens, people who are aware of potential environmental
16 impact,

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18 *Recognizing* the imbalance of resources existing between developed and less-developed Member States
19 and the disproportionate effects of marine plastic pollution on these less-developed States,

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21 *Considering* the viability of materials, such as acrylic styrene acrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, and
22 polycarbonate, for use in housing construction due to their anti-aging and insulative properties, as well as
23 resilience against natural disasters,

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25 *Alarmed* by the prompt action needed to lend help to people living in natural environment areas, on which
26 they heavily depend,

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28 *Strongly emphasizing* the grave consequences of the unintentional ingestion of micro-plastics by aquatic
29 life, several of which carry invasive species of barnacles and algae capable of infecting foreign
30 ecosystems,

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32 *Realizing* that education programs are an important part to developing and developed Member States,

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34 *Commending* the popularized impact of previous social media outlooks, including One Uplift on
35 sustainable practices,

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37 *Recognizing* the creation of the World Bank Group's initiative, Pro-Blue, a multi-donor trust fund that
38 supports healthy and productive oceans by tackling marine pollution, managing fisheries, and fostering
39 the sustainable growth of coastal economies,

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41 *Considering* the impact that micro-plastics and plastic production has on agriculture for not only water
42 adjacent Member States but landlocked ones as well,

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44 1. *Endorses* ending the production of single-use plastics by 2050 by using exclusively biodegradable
45 materials to produce single-use commodities, through:

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47 a. Ensuring developing Member States feel more comfortable switching to biodegradable
48 alternatives;

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- b. Encouraging universities and research institutions in more developed Member States to partner with universities and research institutions in less-developed Member States to further research and develop naturally-based biodegradable plastics:
 - i. With materials such as starch, shrimp shells, and other compostable materials;
 - ii. By encouraging the use of plant-based products, such as cassava starch and other alternatives, to make grocery bags, cutlery, and food containers that leave zero waste;
 - 2. *Supports* the research and infrastructure development of means to remove impurities, garbage, and plastics, including microplastics, from waterways and bodies of water globally before flowing into the ocean through:
 - a. Implementing filter infrastructures in the rivers of developing Member States that will work to prevent plastic from entering into oceans or other bodies of water;
 - b. Recommending the collection of taxes on pollutive corporations by Member State and local governments to support the funding of such research;
 - c. Encouraging of research into membrane bioreactors (MBR), which were effective at removing high levels of microplastic;
 - 3. *Advocates* for the research and development of plastic alternatives for the purpose of the fashion industry, packaging, and medication;
 - 4. *Recommends* investing in technologies and processes that convert plastic into fuel sources which:
 - a. Rapidly turns plastic waste into valuable products by producing hot, highly energetic electrons;
 - b. Requires less energy than traditional plasma technologies, which can be sourced from renewable energy sources;
 - c. Converts plastics into other materials such as hydrogen, methane, ethylene, and hydrocarbons, many of which can be used as a fuel source as well;
 - 5. *Promotes* research into the use of bacteria to decompose plastics in a sustainable and potentially efficient way of managing plastic pollution;
 - 6. *Encourages* further research into the use of plastic materials to establish new housing structures and roofing, by:
 - a. Recycling of plastic materials, such as acrylic styrene acrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, and polycarbonate;
 - b. Implementing reusable plastics that do not emit harmful fumes to build affordable houses for low-income communities;
 - c. Supporting the sustainable disposal of quickly biodegradable plastics through:
 - i. The establishment of state-level compost systems using flexible funding from the UNEA Environment Fund, which will provide widespread access to compost collection facilities for individuals in local communities;
 - ii. The widespread production of plastics that can be melted and disposed of without leaking carcinogens, microplastics, and other toxic materials into the environment;

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- iii. Investing in technologies and processes that convert plastic into fuel sources, such as the Cold Plasma Pyrolysis process, which:
 - 1. Rapidly turn plastic waste into valuable products by producing hot, highly energetic electrons to break down the chemical bonds of plastics;
 - 2. Combines conventional heating and cold plasma;
 - 3. Requires less energy than traditional plasma technologies, which can be sourced from renewable energy sources;
 - 4. Converts plastics into other materials such as hydrogen, methane, ethylene, and hydrocarbons, many of which can be used as a fuel source;
 - 5. Costs sixty-seven million dollars, to be funded through voluntary contributions and the UNEA Environment Fund;
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7. *Calls upon* Member States to implement plastic-removing technologies and processes in oceans and rivers globally through the "Ocean Cleanup Initiative" and adopt its ideas and techniques in order to remove plastics and micro-plastics from the oceans and rivers, respectively, including:
- a. Through the floater buoyancy system, which collects garbage from plastics patches by flowing with the current and implementing an anchor in order to efficiently capture the plastic, with a suggested cost for such technology as three hundred twenty million over the course of ten years, and the cost each year serving as thirty-two million to clean up fifty percent of the garbage patch;
 - b. Through the Interceptor clean up machine boat, which is solar powered, operates twenty-four/seven, and can capture and extract fifty thousand kilograms per day, costing about seven-hundred-thousand euros (seven hundred seventy-five thousand and six hundred dollars) as of October 2019;
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8. *Affirms* that Member States should collaborate to encourage the recycling of plastic materials, such as acrylic styrene acrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, and polycarbonate, to establish new housing structures and roofing, through:
- a. Reusing plastics that do not emit harmful fumes to build affordable houses for low-income communities, adapting the ideas from the EcoDomum initiative;
 - b. Reusing nontoxic plastics and melting them in order to build crystalized panels to build walls;
 - c. Partnering with JD Composites to work toward a common goal of creating a line of architectural structures, such as house siding, decking, and even boats, that are made of 100% recycled materials;
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9. *Encourages* Member States to adopt programs on environmental awareness and plastic pollution by imposing standardized curriculums for primary education and extracurricular courses to provide hands-on experience:
- a. Through which students will be informed about the importance of the usage and recycling of plastics;
 - b. Focusing on proper recycling techniques, the dangers of plastic pollution, and the benefits of proper recycling;
 - c. By promoting the use of biodegradable alternatives;
 - d. That will consist of a one-week study period for each topic;
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- 160 10. *Strongly urges* the collaboration of Member States with non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
161 such as the World Wide Fund and the Plastic Pollution Coalition, with UN bodies, such as the United
162 Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Academic Impact to adopt region-wide awareness
163 campaigns to spread, educate, and urge citizens to become eco-friendly by:
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165 a. Spreading awareness through posting eco-friendly advertisements in communities and
166 through social media that inform citizens on the responsible uses of plastic and combat social
167 stigmas;
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169 b. Encouraging the partnership between NGOs and government in establishing local public
170 events that promote the repurposing of plastic waste;
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172 c. Organizing traveling public events that promote the repurposing of plastic waste from landfills
173 in less-developed countries, such as the “Liter of Light” project which makes lightbulbs out of
174 plastic bottles in less-developed states;
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- 176 11. *Urges* Member States to set up more educational projects in primary schools and secondary schools,
177 aiming at instructing youth on practical and feasible solutions to reduce the usage of single-use
178 plastic products, as well as popularizing the merits and benefits of employing recycling and
179 environmentally friendly materials and renewable resources by:
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181 a. Making best use of social media platforms to spread awareness to prevent pressing marine
182 plastic pollution and engage more youth and volunteers to participate in such campaigns;
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184 b. Holding Zero Plastic Festivals sponsored and conducted by the local community and initiating
185 Bring Your Own Container activities, within which visitors are offered nuts, fruits, cookies, and
186 their own containers with the purpose of reducing single-use cups and bottles, as well as
187 awakening local people’s awareness;
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- 189 12. *Requests* that Member States work together with UNEP and UNESCO to obtain an international fund
190 towards the continued strengthening and creation of innovative solutions to combat marine plastic
191 pollution that comes from consumption and production:
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193 a. Through which Member States wishing to receive funding must present a specific plan
194 outlining their intentions for the funding to UNEA;
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196 b. That recommends discussion within UNEA annual conferences to track the progress of and
197 allow for the flow of information within the specified Member States to ensure the proper use
198 of funding;
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- 200 13. *Recommends* that Member States educate multi-national corporations, including the tourism
201 industries, shipping companies, and restaurant industries, on the impacts of plastic pollution;
202 international organizations are encouraged to provide reputational incentives, such as a seal
203 signifying their achievements for industries that reduce their plastic, and include:
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205 a. Incentivizes for Member States to switch to the cassava starch based biodegradable
206 alternative or other biodegradable plastics products from plastic materials such as shopping
207 bags, cutlery, straws, and food containers which is a 100% waste free usage;
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209 b. Residents as consultants or directors of community-based sustainable projects, hence
210 placing them at them at the forefront of the discussion on marine plastic consumption;
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- 212 14. *Encourages* Member States to implement a system to hold corporations accountable for the plastic
213 waste produced by creating a monetary incentive to enforce responsible production, recommending:
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- 215 a. A green tax on corporations that utilize or produce single-use plastics to be called the “Plas-
216 Tax,” paired with a tax break for corporations that utilize biodegradable and reusable plastics
217 that would promote the usage of environmentally friendly products rather than single use
218 plastics, such as:
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- 220 i. The “Plas-tax”, which would be based around the grading scale found within the third
221 clause, with the rates of the tax set as each participating Member State sees fit;
222 ii. Member States receiving a tax break for being in the more sustainable sections of the
223 grading scale proposed within the sixteenth operative clause to promote the usage of
224 single-use plastic alternatives;
225 iii. The redistribution of collected taxes for further research and development of
226 sustainable consumption and production practices;
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- 228 b. Financial incentives to fishermen who collect plastic waste and bring it to set collection
229 locations to promote the removal of plastic waste from the world’s oceans by creating a
230 system of payment for fisherman for collecting plastic waste within the oceans, to be financed
231 with current UNEA flexible funds;
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- 233 15. *Affirms* the effectiveness of Germany’s Green Dot system as a way to maintain a circular economy
234 and encourage citizens to return plastics to the economy rather than disposing of plastics after use,
235 specifically:
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- 237 a. Encouraging and establishing plastic packaging retrieval programs that allows a reward to
238 both the producers and consumers of plastics when plastic packaging products return to its
239 origin for reuse;
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- 241 b. Supporting the idea that participating Member States pay a certain tariff into the UNEA
242 budget for every weighted unit of plastic that is not recycled;
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- 244 16. *Requests* that the General Assembly consider the addition of an international committee formed of
245 NGOs to specifically gather and assess analytical data of plastic waste production and single use
246 plastics to:
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- 248 a. Participate in transparent operations to collect data on plastic production, consumption, and
249 waste of international corporations;
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- 251 b. Create a grading system that ranks corporations in how environmentally friendly or harmful
252 they are ranging from red (extremely harmful), orange (moderately harmful), yellow
253 (moderately sustainable), and green (sustainable) that will be updated annually;
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- 255 c. Utilize existing think tanks and independent watchdog organizations to aid in data collection
256 on waste from major corporations;
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- 258 17. *Utilizing* National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC), a United Nations created Organization to
259 execute environmental policy, to work with companies to understand their own environmental issues
260 and impacts, entailing:
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- 262 a. The NCPC training companies on how to integrate production and consumption issues into
263 their practices;
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- 265 b. Following of the conclusion of the committee NCPC training courses that will be offered in
266 various Member States;
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- 268 c. NCPC assistance in creating sustainable product design in corporations;
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270 d. NCPC reporting at the annual forum held by the committee formed in operative clause
271 sixteen and providing overviews on country's environmental impact;
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273 18. *Invites* Member States to reconvene and revisit the issue of preventing marine plastic pollution.



Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution Through Sustainable Consumption and Production

- 1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Recalling* the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals 6, 12, 13, and 14, which highlight the need to protect
4 our oceans and seas from plastic pollution,
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6 *Recognizing* General Assembly resolution 66/288, *The Future We Want*, (2012) which highlights the fact
7 that this issue could strongly affect not only humanity but also every ecosystem in the world at a micro
8 and macro scale,
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10 *Highlighting* the importance of knowledge amongst Member States of all population sizes and
11 geographical locations, especially with regards to technology and research and their roles in problem
12 solving, in compliance with International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ),
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14 *Understanding* the need to develop funding mechanisms for changes and efforts in plastic waste pollution
15 prevention, especially in developing countries and lesser-developed countries,
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17 *Having studied* the methods non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Plastic Oceans, use to
18 incorporate multimedia based education into the classroom,
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20 *Having engaged* students about plastic pollution and ocean conservation through discussions,
21 brainstorming, and activities to create a powerful learning experience,
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23 *Recalling* the *Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Program of Action for the*
24 *Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* (2012), which reaffirms the gravity of the
25 situation regarding the pollution of the Earth's marine environments by plastic and the necessity to
26 establish a global partnership,
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28 *Noting with deep concern* a 2015 study stating eight million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every
29 year, going against the IIWQ and contributing to the destruction of biodiversity,
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31 *Emphasizing* the importance of environmental education in all Member States,
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33 *Taking into consideration* the fact that extremely poor communities are the most likely to suffer from
34 plastic pollution,
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36 *Having studied* the Plastic Banks Canadian NGO initiative, which provides currency in exchange for
37 plastic in Member States such as Haiti and Indonesia,
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39 *Having witnessed* the success of the International Organized Crime databases that deal with drug and
40 human trafficking by sharing of key research and technology between Member States,
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42 *Repeating* the "Three Rs of the Environment" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) as an innovative and required
43 way of consumption to protect oceans and seas from plastic pollution and to develop circular plastic
44 economies, wherein sustainable technology and production alongside a shift to consumption of
45 bioplastics and recycled plastics are prioritized,
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47 1. *Encourages* the implementation of a Transferring Resources Urgently Stopping Trash (TRUST)
48 Initiative, which:

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- 50 a. Expresses the belief that all Member States create a new legally binding international
- 51 agreement to reduce marine plastic pollution by focusing on infrastructure and education like
- 52 that of the Mediterranean Action Plan in the UN Environment Programme (UNEP);
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- 54 b. Invites developed Member States (Sending Member States) to share technology and
- 55 research across borders to help improve waste management for lesser-developed countries
- 56 (Receiving Member States) similar to the IIWQ or World Water Quality Alliance under UNEP
- 57 by having the Sending Member States:
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- 59 i. Provide solutions and services on dealing with pollution to Receiving Member States;
- 60 ii. Share technological infrastructure, to enable the Receiving Member States to
- 61 manage operations, provide jobs, and provide any further sustainable consumption
- 62 and production assistance in relation with infrastructure;
- 63
- 64 c. Suggests any profits made from this joint venture will be split between the Sending Member
- 65 State and the Receiving Member State by terms agreed upon by both prior to the venture, as
- 66 a gesture of respect towards the sovereignty of the participant nations, ideally the developing
- 67 state will receive the majority of the funds to reinvest into its environmental initiatives;
- 68
- 69 d. Strongly recommends that, within a negotiated timeframe following the implementation of the
- 70 technology/infrastructure, the Sending Member State will leave and any benefits from joint
- 71 venture will stay in the Receiving Member State;
- 72
- 73 2. *Recommends* Member States use database systems to record or share the status of success within
- 74 the Receiving Member State available in their native language on the amount of plastic recycled and
- 75 collected, including information on:
- 76
- 77 a. Plastic alternatives, plastic clean up incentives, and waste management prototypes;
- 78
- 79 b. Blueprints and budgets available to share with building waste management centers;
- 80
- 81 c. Bacteria, mushrooms, and other ways to eliminate plastic in our world;
- 82
- 83 3. *Encourages* Member States to recycle and use the newly-established waste management and
- 84 recycling infrastructure;
- 85
- 86 4. *Suggests* sustainable and efficient methods of waste management through the implementation of:
- 87
- 88 a. Waste management and recycling centers in all developed Member States, allowing for
- 89 efficient methods of plastic waste reduction;
- 90
- 91 b. Programs for waste cleanup and reuse in Member States that develop large quantities of
- 92 plastic waste;
- 93
- 94 5. *Suggests* that developed Member States establish green recycling units in lesser-developed
- 95 countries, providing inhabitants with safe and healthy jobs;
- 96
- 97 6. *Promotes* the formation of "Plastic Banks," specifically reflecting the style of Canada's Plastic Bank
- 98 initiative, as a model of sustainable consumption in Lesser Developed Countries that will:
- 99
- 100 a. Incentivize recycling;
- 101
- 102 b. Generate income;
- 103
- 104 c. Create new recycling infrastructure;

- 105
106 d. Provide educational resources to citizens;
107
108 7. *Suggests* that interested Member States could apply to the above programs on a yearly basis to
109 receive funding and mentorship;
110
111 8. *Urges* developed Member States and NGOs to aid in the creation of “Plastic Bank” initiatives across
112 the globe;
113
114 9. *Draws attention to* the importance of education to tackle marine plastic pollution through:
115
116 a. The promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals, by:
117
118 i. The implementation of interactive multimedia campaigns in schools regarding the
119 recycling and reuse of plastic waste;
120 ii. Reducing the consumption of plastic in schools through regulations;
121
122 b. Affirming attention to how and when we educate younger generations of how to properly
123 manage waste and consumption;
124
125 c. Suggesting starting education in science classes from the primary school level onward;
126
127 d. Urging global education through interactive media campaigns and creative cultural projects;
128
129 e. Stressing education plans adaptable for different geographical regions (i.e. landlocked states
130 and coastal areas);
131
132 f. Promoting education and research of safe recycling and disposal methods;
133
134 g. Offering ideas of plastic reuse for art and educational institutions, such as:
135
136 i. Integration of Member States’ bulk plastic waste into architecture or artistic projects;
137 ii. Implementation of plastic recycling and reuse in young educational institutions to
138 promote creativity and education on the usage and reuse of plastic waste;
139 iii. Promotion of collaboration with NGOs and the private sector to encourage active
140 civic engagement, education, and economic opportunities;
141
142 10. *Fully supports* the need to invest in research and development to implement new innovative
143 technologies to develop sustainable plastic and consumption through:
144
145 a. Developing new ways to recycle our plastic waste and re-use it more efficiently, such as:
146
147 i. Utilizing bacteria discovered in 2016 to eliminate plastic waste;
148 ii. Creating new channels to recycle more types of plastic waste;
149
150 b. Implementing processes to produce sustainable plastic, including but not limited to:
151
152 i. Developing green methods to produce bioplastics through sustainable and raw
153 materials;
154 ii. Developing plastic alternatives, such as seaweed plastics and Shriik alternatives;
155
156 11. *Encourages* Member States to implement circular plastic economies to reduce the plastic impact on
157 biodiversity;
158
159 12. *Urges all* Member States to implement a global plan to change consumption and management of
160 plastic products that focuses on:

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169
- a. Controlling international waste trade;
 - b. Protecting lesser and least-developed countries from heavy arrivals of plastic waste from developed Member States;
13. *Supports* Member States' efforts to establish an efficient research framework, similar to the Mediterranean Action Plan of the UNEP, to offer a viable option for lesser-developed countries and to help them continue their economic development without the usage of plastic.



Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution through Sustainable Consumption and Production

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Observing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) set forth by the Member States of the*
4 *United Nations, and recalling Sustainable Development Goals 6, 12, 13, 14, and Principle 1 of the 1992*
5 *Rio Declaration which states that “human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable*
6 *development...they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature”,*

7

8 *Expressing its appreciation for the 2019 G20 Summit and its resulting G20 Implementation Framework for*
9 *Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, which encourages the international private sector to voluntarily engage in*
10 *the advancement of innovative solutions to plastic pollution, such as eco-designed packaging, resource*
11 *efficient business models, and value retention practices, and to develop ways to promote such projects*
12 *through confidence building measures,*

13

14 *Affirming Principles 1, 2, and 7 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration, Paragraph 17.18, Section II, of the*
15 *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Agenda 21, UN Environment resolution on*
16 *Marine Litter and Microplastics, the General Assembly resolution on the Declaration of Principles*
17 *Governing the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor (1970), the Convention on Migratory Species in relation to*
18 *Marine Debris (2011); and the Clean Seas Campaign,*

19

20 *Guided by General Assembly resolution “Oceans and the Law of the Sea” (2015), which reiterates the*
21 *importance of addressing marine pollution, and General Assembly resolution “Entrepreneurship for*
22 *Sustainable Development” (2016), which recognizes that entrepreneurship can help to address*
23 *environmental challenges,*

24

25 *Expressing deep concern that over 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year and that almost 80*
26 *million tons, nearly 25%, end up in our oceans, as well as the fact that less than 10% of all plastics are*
27 *recycled each year,*

28

29 *Acknowledging the impact of marine plastic pollution on every individual regardless of race, gender,*
30 *socioeconomic status, or ideology,*

31

32 *Draws attention to successful past initiatives on a regional and local level,*

33

34 *Noting each Member State’s economic and industrial capabilities, as well as their capacity for*
35 *implementing sustainable solutions based on regional concerns,*

36

37 *Fully aware of the need for financial mitigation and capacity building in least-developed countries (LDCs)*
38 *to completely address waste prevention and plastic pollution without significant damage to developing*
39 *economies,*

40

41 *Reaffirming the effectiveness of closed loop economic systems, a system based on sharing, leasing,*
42 *reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling, which not only keeps waste to a minimum but also enhances*
43 *the security of the supply of raw materials; increased competitiveness; innovation; and jobs, as explained*
44 *by the European Commission,*

45

46 *Noting that citizens within Member States may be unaware of the estimated 46,000 pieces of plastic in for*
47 *every square mile of the ocean, according to the Ocean Crusaders,*

48

49 *Taking into account* that the 2017 Ocean Conference, which highlighted the significant amount of marine
50 plastic litter that comes from fishing and shipping vessels, including abandoned fishing nets by fishermen,
51 and other plastic debris left by shipping vessels,
52

53 *Underlining* that the efforts to decrease the wide usage of single use plastic products would be best
54 facilitated by emphasizing scientific research to explore eco-friendly, sustainable plastic alternatives, the
55 production of which provides new industrial incentives for nations to decrease plastic consumption,
56

57 *Taking note* that marine litter, as defined by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report
58 *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*, is defined as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material
59 discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment” and can include materials
60 such as microplastics, Styrofoam, plastic packaging, textiles, and microbeads,
61

62 *Emphasizing* the impact of microplastic pollution on marine wildlife and civilization as a whole, as
63 microbeads often end up in products such as toothpaste, face wash, abrasive cleaners, table salt, and tap
64 water,
65

66 *Recognizes* the need for regional groups like the European Union, African Union, the Association of
67 Southeast Asian Nations, the Association of Pacific Nations, and the Association of Latin America, to
68 implement international strategies on a local level based on the regional context of these regional groups,
69

70 *Reaffirming* the *Green Dot* as an internationally recognized, trademarked symbol which indicates that the
71 producer has paid fees to a packaging recovery organization to cover the cost of recycling the packaging,
72

73 *Acknowledging* the importance of initiatives in Green Chemistry, a field that seeks to engineer chemical
74 processes that reduce or eliminate the use of plastics entirely,
75

76 *Noting further* that Green Chemistry strives to find innovative uses for recycled plastics or those
77 developing completely renewable biodegradable bioplastics,
78

79 *Recognizing* the One United Nations Climate Learning Partnership, which has successfully implemented
80 an educational curriculum that educates students on environmentally friendly practices and attitudes,
81

82 *Insists* all Member States to take part in and make commitments to the United Nations Ocean
83 Conference, whose main focus is to conserve and exploit oceanic resources sustainably; this conference
84 is held annually to reduce plastic consumption and prevent plastic packages entering the sea,
85

86 *Further affirming* the *Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of*
87 *Wastes and Other Matters*, which states that, “that the marine environment and the living organisms
88 which it supports are of vital importance to humanity, and all people have an interest in assuring that it is
89 so managed that its quality and resources are not impaired”,
90

91 *Seeking* a sustainable consumption of plastic materials without creating waste, as modeled by the Break
92 Free from Plastic Campaign in conjunction with the Center for International Environment Law at UNEA-4,
93

94 *Considering* the technological advances in the disposal of plastic, including but not limited to the use of
95 plastics as a source of fuel and reusing plastic for common items such as clothes and personal hygiene
96 items,
97

98 *Taking note* of the UNEA resolution on Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution (2015), which
99 encourages Member States to take multifaceted and relative approaches to address single-use plastic
100 products, including establishment of sufficient waste management infrastructure, information sharing and
101 innovation supporting,
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103 1. *Congratulates* Member States on their continued efforts to eliminate the usage of single-use plastics
104 through:

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- a. Developing initiatives that emphasize the development of Green Chemistry;
 - b. Fostering partnerships with fellow Member States;
 2. *Recommends* that Member States promote legislation to eliminate the proliferation of single-use plastics and Styrofoam, and the recycling of textiles and fabrics by 2030 to reaffirm the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through:
 - a. Setting targets for recycled plastic that should be incorporated into all manufactured materials by:
 - i. Basing these standards on both the socio-economic status of the Member State as well as the amount of plastic pollution produced by said Member States, as well as;
 - ii. Working alongside private companies to ensure that standards are met by:
 1. Encouraging Member States to implement incentives for business to comply with established standards;
 2. Urging Member States to develop new governmental agencies tasked with enforcement;
 3. Increasing producer responsibility in the plastics industry through stricter domestic regulations in Member States;
 - b. Adapting current national policies to establish a standard for plastic products to normalize the plastic products;
 - c. Accentuating partnerships with existing NGOs and regional bodies to find suitable biodegradable and compostable plastic products;
 3. *Encourages* Member States to implement programs such as the *Green Dot*, which indicates to consumers that the collection and sorting of packaging waste is financed by producer and retailers;
 4. *Supports* the implementation of Green Chemistry initiatives that:
 - a. Research and develop local strategies to address socio-economic and cultural barriers;
 - b. Implement renewable, biodegradable plastics;
 5. *Applauding* the work of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), in efforts to protect Member States' national waterways by:
 - a. Endorsing the adoption of strategic plans to ensure the protection of Member States waters through;
 - b. Using institutions, such as MARENA, that are responsible for conducting studies to evaluate water quality;
 - c. Implementing efficient rapid response mechanisms in emergency and environmental contingencies;
 - d. Conducting studies to identify and repair environmentally damaged water, as well as creating biodegradable plastics;
 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of education to tackle marine plastic pollution through the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals and One United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership

- 160 through:
- 161
- 162 a. Developing awareness campaigns in schools on recycling and reuse of plastics waste;
- 163
- 164 b. Implementing rules to reduce the use of plastics at schools while educating future
- 165 generations;
- 166
- 167 c. Encouraging that proficiency is defined at national standards but includes the ability to read,
- 168 decode, comprehend, and analyze text in the nation's primary language of instruction, and
- 169 understand advanced concepts, reason, and resolve complex problems;
- 170
- 171 d. Helping provide developing and underdeveloped countries with the necessary resources to
- 172 create technologies to view certain items in the established curriculums and online resources;
- 173
- 174 e. Suggesting that countries with appropriate resources create a series of age appropriate
- 175 podcasts and YouTube videos educating youth on sustainable use of plastic goods, proper
- 176 recycling techniques, and the current crisis at hand;
- 177
- 178 7. *Suggests* that Member States encourage and support the efforts put forth by the Ocean Plastics Lab
- 179 (OPL), by inviting them to their developing countries, communities, and high impact areas of plastic
- 180 consumption and production by:
- 181
- 182 a. Using the resources allocated by the OPL to administer their exhibits that aspire to motivate
- 183 and stimulate citizens within Member States to practice effective recycling habits;
- 184
- 185 b. Receiving potential funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to introduce the OPL
- 186 into their developing cities and high impact areas of plastic consumption;
- 187
- 188 c. Allowing them to potentially inspire legislation to be redirected to nationalize recycling efforts,
- 189 inspiring the greater global community;
- 190
- 191 8. *Recommends* that Member States implement waste collection infrastructures into their oceans and
- 192 rivers by utilizing existing technologies such as:
- 193
- 194 a. Filtration systems for waterways with the goal of preventing future plastic pollution from
- 195 entering international bodies of water;
- 196
- 197 b. Incentivizing recycling of plastic bottles through a deposit refund system;
- 198
- 199 c. Uniting a collection of chain networks to develop a circular economy for the reinsertion of
- 200 plastic in the production process;
- 201
- 202 9. *Further invites* Member States to assess the viability of past projects for use within their own regions,
- 203 including:
- 204
- 205 a. Cassava starch products that could replace plastic products such as grocery bags, cutlery,
- 206 straws, and food containers;
- 207
- 208 b. Further researching and implementing the use of plastics as raw materials to create
- 209 sustainable housing;
- 210
- 211 c. Continued research in bacteria that can feed off and eliminate plastic waste;
- 212
- 213 d. Decarbonization plans which implement an integrated plastic management system, based on
- 214 separation, reuse, reevaluation, and final disposal of plastics;
- 215

- 216 10. *Urges* Member States to focus on innovative scientific solutions for sustainable alternatives and the
217 economic benefits in developing new industries of eco-friendly product production:
218
- 219 a. As demonstrated effectively by a subcommittee of the UNDP, facilitate training and
220 workshops to developing and underdeveloped countries to make the program more
221 accessible;
222
 - 223 b. While stressing the importance of international and intranational coordination in the
224 production of eco-friendly alternatives;
225
 - 226 c. And recognizing that there are Member States for which there is less economic viability in the
227 production of plastic alternatives and encourages international cooperation amongst Member
228 States to localize the production and distribution of eco-friendly alternatives, including the
229 designation of states to develop and export materials;
230
 - 231 d. As well as placing an international emphasis on innovations specifically in sustainable
232 alternatives to plastic products through the implementation of a worldwide information sharing
233 database dedicated to documenting technological advancements in the field of sustainable
234 materials and making this information available for usage in all regions;
235
 - 236 e. That supports cooperation between intranational governments, NGOs, private sector
237 businesses and corporations, and the scientific community to encourage the sharing of
238 knowledge on sustainable materials and production methods that:
239
 - 240 i. Encourages nations to create a reasonable standard for material manufacturers and
241 create incentives to transition into sustainable alternatives to plastics;
 - 242 ii. Suggests Member States implement national networks through organizations and
243 web-based databases in order to facilitate the connection between nongovernmental,
244 private, and governmental organizations;
245
- 246 11. *Recommends* they implement Container Deposit Legislation to promote sustainable consumption by:
247
- 248 a. Requiring a deposit from the consumer prior to the purchase of single-use plastic products;
249
 - 250 b. Providing a refund to the consumer upon return of the product;
251
 - 252 c. Ascertaining consumer returned products and responsibly handling the recycling process;
253
- 254 12. *Urges* Member States to implement a Plastic Reduction Credit Program to promote sustainable
255 production by:
256
- 257 a. Introducing credits to major corporations based on a decreased rate of single-use plastic
258 production;
259
 - 260 b. Instating a 10% minimum yearly reduction goal for corporations to begin earning credits
261 towards a 3% tax deduction;
262
- 263 13. *Endorses* the allocation of funds towards creating, enhancing, and sustaining low cost recycling
264 programs for LDCs with a heavy utilization of discarded waste, including:
265
- 266 a. Development of plastic for nontraditional uses, such as within urban development;
267
 - 268 b. Ensuring a significantly increased percentage of recycled materials that contributes to the
269 production of new materials, as seen in the efforts of the International Solid Waste
270 Association and Swechha;
271

- 272 14. *Emphasizes* the need for increasing the responsibility of plastic producers by:
273
274 a. Levying on individual customers on the quantity of plastic waste being used;
275
276 b. Taxing on industries and businesses on the quantity of polluting plastic waste produced into
277 the environment;
278
- 279 15. *Requests* Member States to take part in campaigns and events to raise people's awareness of
280 preventing hazardous waste and reducing its movement among countries by:
281
282 a. Providing proper training to fishermen about safe fishing practices, and urge them to enhance
283 existing regulations to ensure that there are proper port reception facilities present for the
284 shipping vessels to dispose of their garbage;
285
286 b. Establishing projects to encourage people to switch from using single-use plastic to reusable
287 products;
288
289
- 290 16. *Encourages* Member States to implement closed loop economic systems, which will reduce plastic
291 production and consumption while also innovating the processes of sustainable industry and
292 therefore reducing marine plastic pollution and the cost of production and consumption;
293
- 294 17. *Suggests* all Member States take part in and make commitments in the United Nations Ocean
295 Conference held annually to reduce plastic consumption and prevent plastic packages entering the
296 sea;
297
- 298 18. *Invites* Member States to support coalitions, like the Global Waters Research Coalition, that drive
299 preventative measures and reduces consumption by 2030 with:
300
301 a. Incentive programs that encourage environmentally friendly production;
302
303 b. Education that encourages sustainable consumption;
304
305 c. Suggestions of funds for underdeveloped countries to build programs for more
306 comprehensive waste reduction.