Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Assembly NMUN Simulation*

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23 – 29 November 2025

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans
2. Reaffirming Legal Protections and Rights of Natural Protected Areas

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
UNEA/1/1	Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans	41 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstentions
UNEA/1/2	Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans	36 in favor, 5 against, 2 abstentions
UNEA/1/3	Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans	39 in favor, 1 against, 3 abstentions

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Summary Report

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

1. Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans
2. Reaffirming Legal Protections and Rights of Natural Protected Areas

The session was attended by representatives of 43 Member States and 0 Observers.

On Wednesday morning, the committee adopted the agenda of 1, 2, beginning a discussion on the topic of “Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World’s Oceans.” By Wednesday afternoon, the Dais had received a total of 7 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics, from addressing marine pollution, implementing sustainable fishing practices, strengthening ocean governance, enabling knowledge sharing, and inclusion of Indigenous knowledge systems in the promotion of safe and sustainable use of the world’s oceans. The tone of the committee was collaborative, diplomatic, and productive. Delegates stayed on topic and diligently worked to produce quality working papers. On Thursday, delegates continued working on the proposals in the spirit of collaboration and merged the initial 7 proposals into 3 proposals.

On Friday, 3 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais. One of the draft resolutions had two unfriendly amendments, which were both not incorporated in the draft resolution following voting procedure. The committee adopted 3 resolutions following voting procedure, all of which were adopted by a recorded vote. The resolutions covered a wide array of issues, such as improving the management of marine protected areas, enhancing regional collaboration, scientific research, education, and knowledge exchange for the safe and sustainable use of the world’s oceans, and strengthening measures to prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. After the debate closed on Topic 1, the committee did not have enough time to discuss Topic 2 due to time constraints.

Code: UNEA/1/1
Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly
Topic: Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Guided by the provisions of the 2022 *Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)*, adopted at the 2022 Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) and facilitated through the 2022 *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), and the principles established in the *Paris Agreement* (2015), which noted the significance of the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity,

Aware that issues regarding the world's oceans due to changing climates, biodiversity loss, overfishing, pollution, and ocean acidification, transcend the boundaries of every individual Member State, as oceans account for over 70% of the world,

Acknowledging that the expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is necessary for the preservation of critical marine habitats, and the benefits of cooperation in the establishment of MPAs,

Noting the importance of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals),

Emphasizing the role of the 1982 *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) as the primary legal structure in governing high seas territories,

Respecting that the land on which authors gather in Treaty Six and Treaty Seven Territory is the traditional gathering place for many Indigenous people, who live, work, and play in this land with a centuries-long history, languages, ceremonies, stewardship, and culture,

Recognizing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Ocean Investment Protocol, United Nations Development Programme Sustainable Blue Finance Principles, and the Ocean Literacy Program of the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Conscious of the resource and financial gap between developed and developing nations specifically in technological access and development such as artificial intelligence, which allows for the elimination of human centric analysis, and the need for collective international coordination and capacity building to effectively accelerate ocean action, especially to prevent overfishing and pollution of the world's oceans,

Further recognizing the World Trade Organization (WTO), which emphasizes establishing scientific programs, plastic waste production, and promoting the use of biological resources to minimize illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

Convinced by the role of the *Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction* (BBNJ Agreement) (2023) and other existing international treaties in extending legal protections to the high seas,

Noting the UNEP proposal to establish a permanent Secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement and the interest expressed by the Kingdom of Belgium to host this Secretariat in Brussels,

Recognizing the need of green port technologies, green shipping and fisheries,

Mindful that Member States' Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) rely solely on government collaboration on disseminating information about the releasing of pollutants, leaving a gap of knowledge about environment pressures from industrial plants to many immediate residents and employees,

Acknowledging the need for improved international cooperation in maritime research and open access to scientific data and research papers to simplify ongoing research and to inform civil society on maritime issues,

Recognizing the need for adjusting national maritime spatial planning to global frameworks to ensure effective implementation of global governance,

Bearing in mind the necessity of regional collaboration through Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), which are coastal and ocean zones that are managed by local communities and include modern methods of monitoring, as well as the UNEP Coordinating Bodies on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), that oversees the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan, and the role of Other Effective Conservation Methods (OECM), to address transboundary marine pollution and ecosystem management under SDG 14 (life below water),

Having studied that 35% of all fishing stocks worldwide are now at biologically unsustainable levels, a major increase from 10% in 1974 according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) harming the goals of SDG 14,

Fully alarmed by the statements of FAO in their reports on overfishing, finding over 20% of all fish caught are caught through illegally operated fishing fleets, echoing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) findings of human trafficking linked to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing,

Distressed by the findings in the 2022 report on Global Global Modern Slavery by the International Labor Organization (ILO) of estimates of 128,000 people found to be subjected to human trafficking on illegal fishing fleets,

Concerned that according to the UNEP, military actions are causing disruptions to marine life due to the rampant and unregulated usage of harmful technologies like sonar,

Fully aware that only 0.01% of all protected areas registered with the UNEP-World Database of Protected Areas (UNEP-WDPA) are marine areas which have been actively assessed for their management effectiveness despite existing readily-accessible assessments such as The Nature Conservancy's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and existing rigorous and specific standards (International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green Standard), widening a huge hole in knowledge that is directly necessary for the production of successful global governance,

Noting the need for a Global Acceleration Framework (GAF) to provide technical support for developing countries that do not have the capacity to adequately meet the operational demands of existing and future agreements, which should be followed up by impact analysis for all strategies and programs executed,

Recognizing the Aarhus Convention (2001), which considers local communities' decision-making as the basis of democracy,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), whose mission is to promote evidence-based decision-making for peace, security, and resilience, and which is hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), using geospatial information technologies in combination with satellite imagery to provide a practical framework for collecting the data necessary to support transparent and effective monitoring of protected areas,

Bearing in mind the importance of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (2007) and UNEP, which acknowledges Indigenous People's rights and contributions to coastline and marine ecosystems, as well as their knowledge and stewardship towards bodies of water,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/10 (2019) that highlights the crucial role

Indigenous peoples play in the conservation and sustainable use of our ecosystems and requires collective action at national, regional, and global scales, while empowering local and Indigenous coastal communities to enhance their stewardship, compliance and resilience in relation to the sustainable use of the world's ocean,

1. *Invites* Member States to implement public-private partnerships, including support for MPAs co-management models and the expansion of LMMAs, to develop sustainable fisheries and support small-scale fishers which will:

    a. Propose an initiative that promotes regional collaboration between research institutions, coastal Member States, and private-sector partners to share data, best practices, and technologies for sustainable fisheries management, drawing on examples such as COBSEA;

    b. Recommend the coordination of cross-border training programs for small-scale fishers that enhance capacity in ecosystem-based management, climate adaptation, and monitoring techniques, ensuring knowledge exchange across coastal communities;

    c. Encourage the development of regional value-chains and market initiatives, eco-certification, and sustainable seafood programs, that create fair economic opportunities for small-scale fishers across participating countries;

2. *Requests* Member States, especially those within regional organizations like the European Union, Organization of American States, African Union, Confederation of Independent States, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to meet and discuss the creation of regional committees that meet under the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) that:

    a. Invites these newly formed committees to have a uniquely tailored mandate that is focused on improving oceanic health that will be established on a regional basis to address the oceans around the region;

    b. Requests funding for this program through voluntary donations from Member State and private funders;

    c. Will ensure these committees not have exclusive membership for multiple regions for Member States bordering multiple oceanic regions;

    d. Would integrate already existing treaties into the RSP Framework at the request of respective Member States;

    e. Will be presented by the 2028 UN Oceans Conference;

3. *Recommends* Member States to create or work within already existing regional blocs to establish the “Preservation and Restoration” initiative that will work towards restoring marine ecosystems by:

    a. Strengthening or creating optional transnational pathways for justice for crimes by encouraging increased funding towards relevant national enforcement agencies surrounding harmful maritime activities specifically targeting poaching and marine habitat destruction;

    b. Requesting voluntary donations from Member States and other international organizations;

4. *Invites* Member States to discuss creating Reduced Marine Military Zones through the creation of an optional protocol to UNCLOS to reduce harmful militaries across the oceans;

5. *Further recommends* Member States strengthen cooperation with UNODC and ILO to identify and report cases of human trafficking and environmental exploitation within maritime industries by supporting the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme in enhancing maritime enforcement and legislative frameworks, by utilizing ILO supervisory mechanisms through international and technological partnerships to detect trafficking activities linked to illegal fleets involved in unlawful dumping and overfishing;

6. *Supports* Member States in collaborating with their coastal enforcement agencies to implement programs modeled after the United States-Canada Shiprider initiative on commercial vessels to monitor and deter illegal maritime activity by enabling joint law enforcement presence aboard ships to ensure accountability and by preventing overfishing, unlawful dumping, human trafficking, and other illicit practices and human rights violations occurring within the maritime industry;

7. *Further suggests* that UNEP and relevant treaty bodies, including the BBNJ Agreement, expand in order to create a GAF for Member States to:

    a. Operationalize Universal Technical and Environmental Standards;

    b. Harmonise global implementation efforts, establishing clear rules for sustainable practices across cross-border marine developments including ports and shipping infrastructure;

    c. Evaluate environmental and economic impacts of proposed projects before approval, with particular attention and support for developing countries through technical support and capacity building;

8. *Transmits* hope that Member States in regions create Worldwide Allocation for Viable Ecosystems (WAVEs) making voluntary contributions by Member States and UNEP to set fishing limit quotas according to a regional economic needs;

9. *Recommends* the strengthening of global ocean governance through the effective implementation of UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement with a UNEP permanent secretariat located in Brussels, highlighting the importance of active managing and monitoring, especially by recognizing the mandate of UNOSAT, operating under the UNITAR as the official provider of satellite imagery analysis and geospatial intelligence for the United Nations system, through the following measurements by:

    a. Establishing Marine Protected Area Certificates and collaborating with private and academic experts to assess NPA efficacy;

    b. Working together with the UNOSAT framework, offering an AI-driven satellite monitoring by explicitly training machine learning algorithms on recognizing stated criteria to ensure that monitoring and analyzing efforts have a solid data foundation;

    c. Using AI-systems to evaluate the mentioned data faster, more precise and cost efficient by using automatic detection of illegal fishing based on vessel movements patterns, early detection of coral stress, precise evaluation of MPA limits, detection of plastic accumulation and trend analyzes in general;

    d. Requesting a quality certificate by indicating size, management plans, biodiversity data, conservation measures, budget and staff;

e. Requesting UNOSAT and mentioned experts evaluate satellite data every 3 to 6 months to analyze coastal changes,illegal activities, forest/mangrove loss, coral bleaching, oil spills or pollution events and changes in habitat quality;

10. *Recommends* the Member States to align their National Maritime Spatial Plans to match the above mentioned global frameworks by:

    a. Embedding global goals directly into their National Maritime Spatial Plan legislation;

    b. Introducing a revision period of five to ten years to adjust the National Maritime Spatial Plans when global frameworks are updated;

    c. Adapting the guide values in the National Maritime Spatial Plans to international standardized criteria and recognized indicators like SDG 14 and the *Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework*;

11. *Encourages* Member States to ratify the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* of expansion and effective management of MPAs to 30% global ocean protection by 2030;

12. *Supports* Member States' voluntary contribution of funds towards the goal of upholding the role of OECMs and their administrators in the designation and protection of MPAs by:

    a. Monitoring the means by which national OECMs are funded and operated;

    b. Increasing communicatory and institutional links between OECMs, MPAs, and Member States;

    c. Following BBNJ guidelines in constructing communicatory pathways between regional bodies and relevant stakeholders;

13. *Recommends* Member States to the further application of the Ocean Literacy Programme of UNESCO-IOC and to strengthen their national educational programs in order to promote the safe, responsible and sustainable use of the world's oceans by:

    a. Integrating conservation and ocean-literacy content as well as regional Indigenous knowledge into school curricular;

    b. Mobilizing youth for creating innovative solutions to overcome maritime issues by dedicated campaigns and awards for them;

    c. Proposing to use UNESCO's Global Youth Grant Scheme to fund educational youth programs regarding the preservation of the world's oceans and promote support future scholars;

14. *Further recommends* Member States to consider creating public awareness through the support of national frameworks to understand the severity of climate change on marine life with the support of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which will:

    a. Address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and seaforestation, specifically protecting and promoting of the usage of kelp forest plants which is an important mechanism in fighting against climate change;

    b. Reduce the production of plastic waste through the Planet Over Plastic (POP) Campaign which prioritizes SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production);

15. *Advises* UNEP to form a worldwide dialogue of Indigenous Peoples recognized by Member States for an advisory board of good stewardship, also:

a. Acknowledging that Indigenous peoples have always maintained actions to sustain the respective environments they live in;

b. Offering a platform for exchange between Indigenous youth and scientists sponsored voluntarily by regions, ministries, foundations, associations or universities on topics like sustainable ocean management, pollution mitigations and climate change;

16. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with public and private financial institutions, to integrate the UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles into their national ocean economic development and financial investment strategies;

17. *Invites* Member States to use blue bonds as a trustworthy way to fund projects that clean waterways, support coastal communities, and create a more stable and sustainable ocean economy by:

    a. Recognizing that Member States need the financial backing to complete ocean bases projects;

    b. Understanding that coastal communities rely on healthy marine environments for their livelihoods, safety, and cultural traditions;

    c. Realizing that blue bonds offer and provide a simple and trustworthy way for countries to invest in cleaner oceans and a more stable future for everyone;

18. *Suggests* the cultivation of a financing collaboration hub to bring potential funders from various corporations to a bi-annual conference (every two years) called the Global Blue Partnership Hub (GBPH) that fosters collaboration and brings about Public Private Partnerships by:

    a. Holding the conference in Geneva, Switzerland with a variety of private sector companies and agencies;

    b. Bringing about a matching system allowing public private partnerships by having the corporations bring together their collective interests and funding from voluntary Member States;

    c. Cultivating a review on the current status of funds and the allocation of the budget for the next 2 years;

19. *Requests* UNEP to establish the Global Ocean Governance Coordination within the Knowledge Repository database which will allow for equitable distribution and contribution of knowledge encompassing:

    a. Voluntary annual reports of Member States carbon emission outputs to encourage accountability regarding individual nation’s carbon footprints and motivate the reduction of carbon emissions;

    b. The prioritization of knowledge from each Member State’s Indigenous communities for the collection while:

        i. Prioritizing community-led stewardship while integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge into fisheries management, coastal monitoring, and MPA co-governance;

ii. Emphasizing the need for community workshops connecting scientists, youth, and Indigenous leaders to share information while supporting localized early-warning and adaptation initiatives using traditional practices;

20. *Invites* Member States to strengthen scientific technologies between coastal and landlocked Member States by increasing satellite use and systematic placement paired with artificial intelligence to better understand where issues occur to centralize resource allocation by:

    a. Increasing access to developed Artificial Intelligence technologies to combine logical progress with scientific research;

    b. Advancing existing machine learning algorithms in Member States whose research groups already focus on mathematical data science;

    c. Encouraging Member States to collaborate with NGOs such as Earth05 that establishes technological access in primarily underprivileged, Indigenous, and women-led communities that furthers solutions combating the global water crisis;

21. *Encourages* the promotion and sharing of scientific research by fostering collaboration with national and international scientific institutions through an open source platform to enhance research for research groups specializing in maritime research by:

    a. Merging the Ocean Data Information System (ODIS), and the Ocean Infohub Project and expanding it to include open accessible research papers;

    b. Ensuring that national and international research groups and umbrella organizations make their research papers openly accessible;

22. *Further encourages* the accessibility of education and information of civil society through an accessible platform with current scientific research about marine issues by:

    a. Expanding the Ocean Infohub Project to include an open accessible news and information subsection to concretely address and educate for civil society;

    b. Requesting national and international research groups and umbrella organizations to make sure that current research works include abstracts understandable and accessible to civil society;

23. *Recommends* national and international research centers to establish a scientific program with a focus on advancing on sustainable fisheries, green port technologies and green shipping;

24. *Encourages* Member States to utilize impact analysis for any strategy or project aimed at protecting the oceans, created by individual States in order to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of strategies to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems, by:

    a. Conducting impact analysis at the halfway point and adjusting the action plan according to the findings;

    b. Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures and pilot projects that are being implemented;

    c. Utilizing insights and recommendations of experts on the specific topic;

25. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen non-profit organizations such as Ocean Wise by*:*

a. Inviting Indigenous Peoples to share their knowledge with all Member States and to guideline a safe and sustainable use of the World's oceans by:

    i. Supporting Indigenous communities in collecting data on marine biodiversity and plastic pollution, integrating it into coastal management plans;

    ii. Welcoming the establishment of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) under the UNFCCC, encouraging its expansion to facilitate knowledge exchange, integrating Indigenous and traditional learning into global efforts to protect marine ecosystems and enhance climate resilience;

b. Encouraging Member States to collaborate with private organizations to share the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) to maintain a national environmental database;

26. *Calls for* the production and implementation of a standardized effectiveness tracking metric through UNEP by combining METT standards with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Green Standard, which would provide data on current policy about all Member States that would inform future governance and would be used in and during:

    a. The official registration of marine protected areas by Member States;

    b. The inception of projects, non-governmental or multinational, that would directly influence flora and fauna within marine protected areas;

    c. The progression of projects that would directly influence flora and fauna within marine protected areas;

    d. Standard intervals that may align with plan submissions that are already required for parties to several conventions including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

Code: UNEA/1/2
Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly
Topic: Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Respecting that the land on which authors gather in Treaty Six and Treaty Seven Territory is the traditional gathering place for many Indigenous people, who live, work, and play in this land with a centuries-long history, languages, ceremonies, stewardship, and culture,

Guided by the 2022 *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (GBF) goal of conserving at least 30% of marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030,

Reaffirming commitments under the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developmen*t, officially adopted in 2015, specifically those related to water and marine resources such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 (clean water and sanitation), 13 (climate action) and 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land), which together emphasize the importance of preserving ocean biodiversity and the sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources,

Reiterating the authority of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal foundation for maritime zones, fisheries regulation, state of duties of stewardship, integrated management of coastal and marine areas, pollution, climate change, and environmental issues,

Commending the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme in promoting marine environmental protection and its findings that the ocean covers 72% of the Earth's surface, while only 8.4% of marine areas are currently protected, which is significantly below the global target of 30%,

Recognizing the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Center (UNEP-WCMC) to synthesize, analyze, and share data that bridges the gap between science and policy through data tracking,

Acknowledging the Mangrove Forest Change Report (2023) by UNEP, which analyzes the potential consequences of the role of mangroves in combating climate change through the sequestration of carbon,

Taking into consideration the 1981 Abidjan Convention, which strengthens the regional cooperation legal framework for the preservation and management of marine and coastal environments to improve data sharing and coordinated enforcement against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing,

Viewing with apprehension that while four billion people are facing the risk of water scarcity, desalination is only one way to solve this problem, as approximately 1.5 litres of contaminated water are generated through the use of the desalination process, reducing its capabilities,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 72/249 (2017) establishing the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources,

Noting the development of substantive environmental objects and standards such as no-take marine protected areas, which prevent the extraction of resources from reserved territory and allow for the passive renewal of high-risk species and habitats, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Green Standard, providing strict criteria for successful management,

Having examined the 2019 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) “Rotten Fish” guide, which addresses corruption in the fisheries sector while suggesting measures to prevent and reduce it,
Conscious of the contributions of the United Nations Biodiversity Lab (UNBL) and the effective work done by the UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) which have provided data on biodiversity loss, climate change, and sustainable development, and the sharing of environmental technology,

Taking into account the 2021 UNEP Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which make up around 8% of the world’s oceans, highlights how MPAs prevent overfishing and ocean exploitation by directly limiting harmful usage of marine ecosystems,

Aware of the few preexisting regionally-based MPA management associations, such as the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum, established by the 1997 Caribbean Environment Program of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the 2024 Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems project,

Recognizing the vital role coastal regions play in the global economy, the United Nations Environment Programme report states that these regions are home to 3 billion people, with only 15% considered in a natural state due to anthropogenic climate change and development,

Deeply concerned by the economic burdens of top-down environmental policy and the billions of dollars of economic impacts caused by IUU fishing on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), defined by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs as “low income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development,” whose government revenue, jobs, and food security is compromised,

Understanding the 2008 Primer on Payments for Ecosystem Services, a system where exploiters of natural ecosystems financially compensate stakeholders who steward those same ecosystems,

Believing the 2021 *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity*’s finding that ecologically significant areas, such as coral reefs, kelp forests, and deep-sea canyons, are necessary to the continuation of global marine life,

Noting with concern the estimate found by United Nations Trade and Development that carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions ranged 73 and 159 million tons annually during the previous decade, and acknowledging the role that underregulated fishing vessel emissions and unsustainable nautical technology has had to rising levels of CO_2 in the atmosphere, contributing to ocean acidification, glacial melt, rising sea levels, and extensive marine biodiversity loss,

Acknowledging the importance of effective waste management programs to mitigate the 11 million metric tons of plastic pollution that enter our ocean annually, such as UNEP resolution 5/14 (2022),

Affirming the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, a comprehensive international agreement developed by the International Maritime Organization to create global regulations addressing and finding solutions to various types of pollution through a series of annexes,

Understanding the crucial role that Indigenous Peoples play in protecting and preserving global marine ecosystems, as outlined by UNEP’s Defenders Policy,

Declaring that climate action must not only be ecologically sound, but inclusive and equitable for all peoples, including Indigenous Populations and seek to incorporate the principles of the 2007 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in decisions, practice and policy,

Conscious of the 2026 *Marine Genetic Framework* (MGR), which was developed to establish a system for the sharing of benefits made from marine genetic resources found in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), providing guidelines for transparency, Indigenous input, and the support of conservation,

Bearing in mind the importance of inclusion of local communities in the multilateral floor for cooperation, like the International Work Group of Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) as well as work done by the Coastal Restoration Society with Indigenous peoples in restoration efforts, to strengthen international initiatives like Ocean Action Panels, pushing forward the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

1. *Directs* the UNEP-FI to pursue partnerships with intergovernmental financial organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Multilateral Development Banks, to facilitate debt-for-climate swaps that allow Member States, particularly LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to reduce international debt obligations in exchange for direct investment in maritime and ecological initiatives, and invites Member States to use blue bonds as a trustworthy way to fund projects that clean waterways, support coastal communities, and create a more stable and sustainable ocean economy;

2. *Recommends* the Green Climate Fund to reallocate its funding to meet the 2011 goal of 50% funding allocation to LDCs, acknowledging their greater need for resources to invest in clean energy infrastructure and climate adaptation programs;

3. *Suggests* Member States and relevant bodies under the UNEP-FI, through voluntary contributions from willing Member States, to expand funding of Blue Finance Initiatives and ecosystem-based adaptations with a particular focus on enhancing the accessibility and predictability of funding for LDCs and SIDS insofar as marine conservation, sustainable blue-economy development, long-term ocean resilience, and/or restoration of coastal ecosystems to adapt to adverse effects of climate change;

4. *Express its hope* other Member States will consider adopting agreements similar to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement in order to strengthen sustainable fisheries management and combat IUU fishing at the national level;

5. *Further recommends* Member States to reduce marine pollution and maintain environmental stability and the balance of coastal regions by:

    a. Strengthening national fisheries legislation and enforcement mechanisms to ensure sustainable resource management;

    b. Developing legal frameworks for cross-border cooperation in fisheries control;

    c. Creating programs to monitor fisheries on commercial fishing vessels including electronic reporting and onboard observers;

6. *Considers* the need for enhancement of cost effective technologies, patrols and inspections to be increased, and transparency and data sharing to be improved through:

    a. Strengthening cost-effective technologies to track fishing activities and identify suspicious behaviour including the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems, satellite data, and artificial intelligence;

    b. Implementing the *Agreement on Port State Measures* to reduce the incentive of such vessels to continue to operate while it also blocks fishery products derived from IUU fishing from reaching national and international markets;

    c. Improving transparency and data sharing by implementing market related measures and certification schemes, like the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability, to ensure only legally sourced seafood enters the trade market, cutting off the economic incentives for illegal fishers;

7. *Recommends* Member States collaborate with leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local fish producers to facilitate Fishery Improvement Projects that assist local fisheries achieve the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Blue Label with a particular focus on:

    a. Promoting the use of t-floats, circle hooks, and best-handling practices to reduce bycatch of endangered marine species;

    b. Engaging peak industry bodies to develop updated regional stock assessments of prevalent fish populations;

    c. Improving data collection systems on-board and in-port through digital tracing systems that utilises electronic logbooks and onboard cameras;

    d. Welcoming on board observers to facilitate in situ data collection;

    e. Biological analyses of fish populations to ascertain fecundity, reproduction, age, growth, and trophic ecology;

    f. Incentivizing fishing methods with reduced negative impacts on marine environments, such as selective fishing methods, gear marking, and responsible disposal policies of derelict gear the expansion of the MSC blue fish label tag;

    g. Enforcing management and regulation efforts to ensure conservational fishing protocols such as catch quotas, debris reduction, and employing habitat conscious management of fishing operations;

8. *Encourages* Member States to prioritize maritime decarbonization by funding research, development, and implementation of sustainable, blue nautical technologies and policies related to fishing vessels and practices by:

    a. Implementing or strengthening regulations on vessel fuel emissions;

    b. Further creating and enforcing the Emission Control Areas, designated maritime zones with stricter controls to minimize airborne emissions;

    c. Investing in further research and testing of vessels powered by alternative fuels such as methanol, biofuels, natural gas, and hydrogen;

    d. Investing, researching and implementing blue nautical technology such as Wind-Assisted Ship Propulsion (WASP), hybridization of vessel power, full battery electrification, emissions reductions technologies;

9. *Introduces* annual meetings between the UNEP Ecosystem Division and the International Desalination and Reuse Association (IDRA) to discuss best practices for desalination projects and methods by using the Environmental Impact Assessment from the BBNJ Agreement for:

    a. Sharing techniques and data to highlight and understand Member States are carrying out desalination;

    b. Spreading practical methods to introduce desalination technologies to regions in need through IDRA to arrange introducing desalination basis;

    c. Reporting how much contaminated water has been discharged into the sea through desalination to best protect coral, fish spawning ground, and biodiversity;

10. *Invites* all Member States to attend the newly created annual Coastal Resilience Conference located in Shiraoi, Japan, to promote Indigenous and local community knowledge sharing related to best practices of coastal resilience, elevate traditional knowledge, strengthen Indigenous-led governance models, integrate culturally-rooted stewardship into global ocean policy, and resist climate change to:

    a. Present expert opinions and affected people groups to better relate practices and challenges;

    b. Incorporate advancing technologies as they relate to artificial intelligence, drone monitoring, and public reporting;

    c. Discuss the establishment of the Coastal Resilience Account to be implemented when needed by UNEP;

11. *Endorses* Member States and Indigenous Peoples to attend the UN Oceans Conference in 2026 and share best practices along with innovative solutions to pollution in our oceans by:

    a. Engaging in a dialogue surrounding innovative ocean technology that emphasizes the role of clean energy in reducing pollution and mitigating the negative impacts of climate change;

    b. Incorporating the traditional ecological knowledge of Indigenous people on a panel at the UN Oceans Conference where they may share potential responses to climate change and pollution in our oceans;

    c. Promoting international research collaboration efforts working towards the discovery and development of alternative fuel sources, biodegradable maritime equipment, and Wind Assisted Propulsion;

    d. Developing strategies for environmentally conscious maritime infrastructure such as shore power, fueling infrastructure for liquified natural gas or hydrotreated vegetable oil, and eco-dredging facilities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to engage in multilateral action, including:

    a. Information sharing networks for the intent of sharing best practices, Indigenous knowledge, action plans and strategies for combatting climate change;

    b. Formal agreements between Member States creating international frameworks and standards, as well as devising region specific plans of best action;

    c. The expansion of UNEP marine summits like the UN Ocean Conference and collaborative forums such as the UNEP innovation forum by establishing more focus on marine innovation and environmental issues;

    d. Collective problem solving through the expansion of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme to include more opportunities for local leaders to collaborate on regional marine issues, similar to the Mediterranean Action;

13. *Advises* UNEP to create and facilitate the Plastic Pollution Reduction Program (PPRP) overseen by a panel of representatives, requiring at least one representative from each major regional area to be active on the committee at all times, with the PPRP aiming to help regulate plastic waste management globally by:

a. Diverting plastic pollution from the ocean by strengthening access to recycling programs on land and recommending policies that minimize the overall use of single-use plastics;

b. Building education materials and introducing volunteering activities about the harms of single-use plastics that can be distributed to schools and community centers in nations that adopt the PPRP;

c. Aiding nations in developing nation-specific waste management strategies;

d. Using both private and government funding from voluntary Member States donations to maximize outreach ability, as well as increasing accessibility of waste management knowledge through the PPRP;

14. *Encourages* all Member States to adapt and implement UNODC e-learning modules on IUU fishing into national programs in order to strengthen awareness, prevention and enforcement capacity against illegal fishing, by:

    a. Supporting the translation and technical adaptation of the UNODC e-learning materials to ensure accessibility for coastal and Indigenous communities;

    b. Including both scholastic curricula and extracurricular educational initiatives, such as workshops, conferences and public awareness programmes in collaboration with NGOs;

    c. Providing professional development for maritime and fisheries authorities in collaboration with the UNEP and relevant United Nations agencies;

15. *Urges* Member States to use mechanisms for international cooperation similar to the MGR (2026), which provides:

    a. Requirements for transparency and accountability;

    b. Technological transfers emphasizing data sharing, traditional knowledge advancements, and the facilitation of access;

16. *Endorses* the use of a human rights-based approach through means such as the *Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (1998) when combating the climate crisis, emphasizing human rights in the process of identification, development, evaluation, and implementation of policies and programmes and incorporating people's welfare into policy through the intentional implementation of human rights in all policy and practice, aided by:

    a. Analyzing capacity gaps that prevent rights holders from accessing their rights;

    b. Addressing inequalities by identifying all relevant stakeholders in future decisions;

    c. Empowering marginalized groups through encouragement in having an active role in environmental governance by recognizing access to information in decision making;

    d. Encouraging and enabling participation in all forms of environmental governance;

    e. Including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in all decisions, resolutions and agreements;

    f. Monitoring the progress in achieving the above goals;

g. Adopting a holistic lens to achieve sustainable and inclusive outcomes;

17. *Invites* the UNBL to expand ocean-specific global data with relevant United Nations agencies and research institutes and create the sub-organization BlueNet in order to create a central early-warning system that consolidates real-time data on pollution, biodiversity, climate hazards, and maritime activity in order to ensure equitable access to information and analytical tools for all Member States, especially LDCs and SIDS, which will:

    a. Strengthen the conservation of Indigenous knowledge and sharing best ocean practices that can lead to expanding more Marine Protected Areas by establishing collaboration between Indigenous communities, scientific researchers, and Member States through digital knowledge and community led mapping initiatives implemented by UN Global Impacts mapping the ocean initiative;

    b. Create annual reports of fish stock numbers from Member States in order to strengthen overall fish stock data;

    c. Investigate and share best practices for mangrove conservation, including Indigenous and local knowledge on mangrove protection, and integrating information from current existing satellite systems, coastal monitoring stations, and scientific institutions to provide a clearer picture of emerging marine risks;

    d. Quantify and analyze effectiveness of coastal protection through both artificial and natural strategies in different geographical contexts;

    e. Compile quarterly reports on pollution levels, changes or loss of biodiversity, and climate-related ocean phenomena from Member States and relevant United Nations bodies, classified by degree of early-warning danger;

    f. Offer technical guidance and training, especially for LDCs and SIDS to ensure all Member States use early-warning information in national planning and response efforts;

18. *Suggests* all Member States to integrate Marine Spatial Planning into national development strategies, such as:

    a. Including the use of Marine Spatial Planning to improve resource allocation and stakeholder coordination;

    b. Spreading Marine Spatial Planning as a tool to improve sustainable resource allocation, reduce conflicts among ocean users, and strengthen governance of marine ecosystems;

19. *Expresses support for* the expansion of regional agreements and programmes through:

    a. Expanding the UNEP-WCMC to include additional data to support Member States in protected area enforcement, zoning, ecological monitoring, and strengthening MPA connectivity across the world’s maritime basins for the purposes of reducing the implementation gap;

    b. Increasing involvement of Member States in the UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme to create the space for further participation in the Programme’s Conventions and Action Plans;

c. Extending regional frameworks to larger global ecosystems, such as the tropical southeast and the tropical southwest, connecting Member States in similar ecoregions but with different styles of policy to produce broader and more targeted management strategy;

d. Building regional coalitions, which would more efficiently address local geographic niches, in the manner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems project;

20. *Emphasizes* specifying an international policy framework based upon Indigenous knowledge systems and experts in ecological research to incorporate sustainable coastal practices within global legal systems through the UNCLOS by:

    a. Directing the UNEP Secretariat to maintain documentation of these frameworks;

    b. Incorporating findings into the United Nations guidelines for integrated management of coastal and marine areas;

    c. Focusing on knowledge from Indigenous peoples living in coastal communities and on Small Island Developing States;

    d. Allowing developed states to bilaterally partner with LDCs in order to pursue efforts to enhance capacity in maritime initiatives;

21. *Invites* the UNEP's CTCN to facilitate the sharing of water treatment technologies amongst Member States, in order to tackle both plastic and chemical pollution and their runoff;

22. *Suggests* UNEP to establish and oversee an interdisciplinary expert advisory and research group made up of a variety of professionals including economists from the UNEP Finance Initiative, Indigenous knowledge keepers, and marine evaluators from UNEP-WCMC called the Strategic Economic Assessment for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Development (SEABED) to:

    a. Assess synergistic interventions, like sustainable aquaculture and eco-tourism, that restore biodiversity and offer coastal economic opportunities;

    b. Facilitate discussion between experts and traditional knowledge keepers from different geological and environmental backgrounds through an extension of the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP;

    c. Meet and discuss the establishment of a practical set of measures to integrate marine ecosystem restoration with the sustainable development of blue economies;

    d. Move the UNEA biannual sessions to convene at an annual summit to report new data, findings, and provide new recommendations to other Member States;

    e. Be implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and funded by the GBF Fund, given their respective expertise and mandates;

23. *Expresses its hope* for Member States to expand community based conservation efforts of MPAs through consultation of Indigenous groups and the signing of conservation agreements that allow for the co-management of MPAs between local governments and Indigenous communities;

24. *Encourages* Member States to take part in international initiatives focusing on marine conservation that ensure Indigenous voices are heard in the global achievement of the 2030 Agenda through efforts such as:

    a. Aligning principles with the LCIPP to integrate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, values, and practices into ocean-related climate policies and actions;

    b. Taking steps to ensure that cleanup protocols do not disrupt, alter, or damage Indigenous lands and traditions through capacity development and advocacy of IWGIA groups in the effort to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples;

25. *Promotes* the establishment of a task force, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, focused on publishing the most effective MPAs, based on the consideration of all eligible stakeholders by:

    a. Reviewing regionally-comprehensive data, shared monitoring systems, and joint research efforts concerning the stability of local marine ecosystems, like fish stock information, the conclusions of the aforementioned SEABED study, and trophic ecology;

    b. Inviting stakeholders to inclusively advise the task force regarding the potential impact of MPA establishment, such as coastal residents, Indigenous peoples, business interests, and local governments of Member States;

    c. Adapting published MPA recommendations on an annual basis, encouraging stricter enforcement across increasingly endangered regions and encouraging looser enforcement across increasingly stable regions;

    d. Asking Member States to consider aligning their enacted MPA regulations with the task force's recommended MPAs;

    e. Exploring opportunities to increase support for MPA management, enforcement capacity, and ecological restoration initiatives;

    f. Requesting Member States collaborate in enforcing recommended MPAs that constitute multiple individual jurisdictions through previously established region-based advisories.

Code: UNEA/1/3
Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly
Topic: Promotion of Safe and Sustainable Use of the World's Oceans

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Conscious of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), with specific consideration for Article 2, which emphasizes the principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention in relation to a Member States' territorial boundaries and political sovereignty,

Respecting that the land on which authors gather is Treaty Six and Treaty Seven Territory, the traditional gathering places for many Indigenous people, who live, work, and play in this land with centuries-long history, languages, ceremonies, stewardship, and culture,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting the safe and sustainable use of the world's oceans,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in promoting environmental protection and marine conservation across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden,

Emphasizing the fact that there are no recommended standardized guidelines, such as environmental impact assessment system, for assessing the environmental impacts on the marine environment internationally,

Having considered the sufficient steps towards progress made by the A*greement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* (1995) under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to monitor the devastating impact that overfishing has had on the global fish population,

Realizing the effective progress made under the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (GBF) (2022),

Mindful that according to the Internet Society Pulse, 2.6 billion people who are considered "offline," meaning they lack access to adequate internet services, reside primarily in low- and middle-income countries,

Distressed that only 8.5% of the oceans are protected within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and only 17% of rivers are within protected areas according to UNEP as of 2024,

Alarmed that in 2023, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Global Ocean Report observed that only 1.7% of total gross global domestic expenditure on research and development was attributed to sciences of the oceans,

Profoundly concerned that the devastating effects of water contamination caused by damaged infrastructure, chemical waste, military shelling, and damaged sewage treatment plants,

Appreciating the effectiveness of blue carbon ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses, which according to World Ocean Review's report on blue carbon, can sequester 5-30 times more carbon per hectare than terrestrial forests,

Fully aware that the UN Ocean Conference aims to further support immediate action regarding the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans, seas, and marine resources,

Cognizant of the work put forth by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in promoting international cooperation in marine sciences and coastal resource management to facilitate best practices for ocean conservation,

Noting the work put forth by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in researching and assessing the scientific aspects of climate change and its impacts,

Paying tribute to the success of the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) in coordinating multisectoral regional approaches to long-term conservation, protection, and sustainable use of the shared marine ecosystem,

Taking note of any preexisting domestic policy, which strengthens sustainable fishing through anti-Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) enforcement and data-driven resource planning,

Considering that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are disproportionately impacted by sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events,

Recalling the *Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution* (1972) and the *Lisbon Declaration* (2022), which commits to the concept of blue economies, establishing sustainable fisheries and reducing plastic pollution,

Applauding the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) Initiative, responsible for the regulation of five hundred thousand hectares and the protection of important marine species,

Alarmed and concerned by the lack and inaccessibility of financial resources within Member States for investment in ocean-based climate solutions to promote affordability and renewable energy resources, with a gap estimated at $300 billion USD globally according to a 2021 study by the University of British Columbia on the barriers of nations in financing a sustainable maritime economy,

Referring to the progress that has been made in areas of effective and affordable transportation of renewable energy resources, through methods such as the hydrogen pipeline SouthH2 corridor, or the Medlink submarine cable, connecting regions worldwide,

Taking into account that according to UNEP's Drowning in Plastics - Marine Litter and Plastic Waste Vital Graphics (2021) report, over 12 million metric tons of plastic waste annually enters aquatic ecosystems around the world, contributing to the increasing levels of single-use plastics (SUPs) and microplastics which have had harmful impacts on marine ecosystems, human welfare, as well as the overall global economy,

Recognizing the importance of existing regional maritime patrol frameworks, including those developed through the Indian Ocean Rim Association and other cooperative mechanisms, in strengthening cross-border monitoring efforts to safeguard vulnerable marine ecosystems and to support resource-limited or conflict-affected neighboring states,

Further acknowledging progress made towards promoting marine conservation and biodiversity in international waters as well as the role of improving regional monitoring and data exchange through UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and the *Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (BBNJ) (2023),

Appreciating the effectiveness of Maritime Spatial Planning in the management of ocean and coastal based areas,

Deeply alarmed that only one in five countries shares ocean biodiversity knowledge in their classrooms and less than half of the countries have implemented general ocean education into their curriculum, which impedes global progress towards ocean literacy and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water),

Expressing appreciation towards the Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility, and other funds for their efforts in facilitating financial resources towards marine conservation and climate adaptation efforts,

Noting the efforts of UNEP's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA),

Keeping in mind the *United Nations Convention on the Law and Sea* (UNCLOS) (1982), which discusses the provision of safe and sustainable drinking water to all countries funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF), protecting the ocean for economic use with the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and safeguarding the ocean to protect all agricultural commodities and fisheries in relations to World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement,

Taking into account the decline of global fishery sustainability from approximately 90% in 1974, to 62.3% in 2021 with 35.5% of the over 2,000 monitored fish stocks around the world reportedly being fished at unsustainable levels, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs SDGs Report (2025), due to overfishing, pollution, and poor oceanic management,

Encouraged by the technological innovations and advancements made over the last 50 years aimed at protecting the world's oceans, such as tidal energy generators, autonomous underwater vehicles, and desalination platforms, which have contributed to the sustainable use of the oceans,

Mindful of cooperation building upon Coastal Resources Management (CRM) strategies that facilitate information sharing regarding best practices for ocean conservation,

Recognizing that nearly 40% of wastewater remains untreated, underscoring the importance of technology transfer through the Climate Technology Centre and Network, as according to the UN-Water Progress Report on Wastewater Treatment (2024),

1. *Recommends* Member States to expand and accelerate the designation of MPAs and OECMs through respective government policies and informed by Maritime Spatial Planning, and Member States with major rivers within their borders to increase protected areas to prevent further pollution of major waterways that flow into the oceans;

2. *Suggests* Member States adopt intergovernmental transboundary marine protection initiatives in key biodiversity hotspots, drawing inspiration from the structures and functions of organizations such as CMAR and the BCC, to coordinate regional standards for sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation by:

    a. Undertaking collaborative, targeted research programs to develop innovative technologies and methods for managing shared resources;

    b. Pursuing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions, and the private sector to identify and advance blue economy opportunities within Member States;

    c. Conducting comprehensive pollution tracking, including monitoring of plastic leakage, chemical contaminants, oil spills, and nutrient run-off, to support early detection and intervention efforts;

    d. Facilitating real-time data sharing among Member States in order to strengthen transparency, coordination, and rapid decision-making;

    e. Strengthening regional early-warning systems by developing common protocols for responding to marine hazards such as harmful algae blooms, coral bleaching events, extreme weather impacts, and pollution incidents;

    f. Supporting regional capacity-building through training programs, technical workshops, and the provision of monitoring equipment to Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS;

3. *Recommends* Member States, in collaboration with UNEP and PERSGA, to expand the use of accessible marine monitoring technologies to improve documentation and understanding of marine challenges by:

a. Engaging with MARPOL to utilize satellite imaging to focus on detecting and tracking oil spills, illegal discharges, and coastal degradation in real time;

b. Developing shared digital data platforms that enable countries, especially in developing and conflict-affected states, to upload, access, and compare environmental data;

c. Conducting standardized biodiversity assessments of coral reef health, plastic pollution levels, vulnerable species, migratory patterns, and ecosystem resilience to ensure consistent and comparable reports across regions, to provide an evidential base for effective conservation management globally;

d. Collaborating with relevant scientific organizations, such as IOC, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the World Meteorological Organization, to provide technical expertise, specifically to LDCs for the above proposals;

4. *Encourages* the development of a Sustainable Environmental Action for Clean Unified Regional Ecosystems (SEA-CURE), a Member State led program aimed at reducing marine pollution by:

    a. Establishing regional cooperation hubs, known as SEA-CURE Hubs, where Member States can voluntarily share monitoring data, best practices, and pollution-control technologies in order to pilot innovative actions that are implemented, monitored, and evaluated collaboratively by encouraging multilateral cooperation among participating Member States;

    b. Recommending Member States to strengthen national legal frameworks against illegal dumping from shipping containers;

    c. Organizing joint regional patrols to combat illegal dumping and shipping waste that will be:

        i. Directed and monitored collaboratively by Member States at SEA-CURE Hubs, relying on the voluntary participation of Member States to fulfill both patrol and monitoring requirements based on their national legal frameworks;

        ii. Evaluated through annual Maritime Pollution Reports drafted at each regional SEA-CURE Hub with data voluntarily shared by participating Member States to regularly measure decreases in maritime pollution indicators such as reduced plastic density and oil spill frequency;

    d. Creating a Global Pollution Response Fund to cover the operating and program costs of SEA-CURE Hubs, supported by voluntary contributions from Member States, as well as donations from relevant non-governmental organizations;

5. *Directs* the Executive Director of UNEP to standardize the varying international guidelines used by Member States, such as the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, the Health Impact Assessment, and the Environmental Impact Assessment system in the BBNJ treaty, specifically into one framework;

6. *Suggests* that Member States advance comprehensive post-disaster marine restoration planning that aligns with the standardized reporting practices set out in UNEP's PDNA by:

a. Using the PDNA framework as a guiding principle and the response methodologies refined through UNEP's Regional Seas Programme to strengthen coherent, data-driven restoration strategies;

b. Deepening engagement with regional partners, nationally recognized Indigenous communities, and organizations to ensure more coordination across all forms of ecological crises coastal and marine environment;

c. Establishing clear, guidance-based rapid-response procedures for national disaster-response authorities that outline protocols for assessments, containment, mitigation, and early restoration actions in the event of marine emergencies such as oil spills, toxic discharges, severe weather events, and acute biodiversity loss;

d. Developing complementary guidelines for how Member States may deliver technical, logistical, and environmental assistance to affected Member States, ensuring timely and coordinated international support following marine disasters;

7. *Encourages* Member States to establish and incorporate blue carbon accounting in their Nationally Determined Contributions in alignment with standards as put forth by IPCC by investing in and further developing data analysis systems to track the carbon storage in Member States' blue carbon ecosystems and routinely calculate net emissions reduction;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to integrate blue carbon ecosystems in their future National Biodiversity Strategies in alignment with the GBF by:

    a. Dedicating specific sections of said strategies to record blue carbon ecosystems extent and boundaries;

    b. Reporting the expected carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and erosion benefits of their implementation;

9. *Directs* the Executive Director of UNEP to lead the creation of an online Blue Technology Exchange Platform, known as BLUE-TECH, developed and monitored by UNEP to ensure eco-friendly maritime technologies are accessible, affordable, and adaptable for all Member States by:

    a. Providing a digital platform where Member States can share and pilot innovations such as oil spill cleanup drones, biodegradable plastics, low-emission ship engines, and desalination systems;

    b. Fostering partnerships between developed countries and LDC to facilitate joint pilot projects to test scalable, low-cost marine technologies;

    c. Utilizing voluntary Member State donations to create earmarked funds for this special project, as well as voluntary contributions from participating Member States, and private maritime industries;

    d. Conducting annual UNEP Blue-Tech Exhibitions that allow Member States to showcase current innovations and advancements founded within their country, as well as collaborate on the global implementation of said technologies;

10. *Directs* UNEP's Climate Technology Centre and Network to facilitate the sharing of water treatment technologies amongst Member States, in order to tackle both plastic and chemical pollution and their runoff;

11. *Recognizes* the need for increased awareness to existing UNEP data and technology transfer systems, with a call to share more resources related to public reporting and technological advancements within artificial intelligence through:

    a. Incorporating expert knowledge from leading countries in technological and data-based advancements and ensuring LDC remain at the forefront of the initiative's progress;

    b. Asking able Member States and United Nations governing bodies for voluntary financial support to provide the ability to adequately and efficiently share advancements;

    c. Actively engaging with LDC's to shorten the technological gap and to ensure ethical and sustainable use of technologies immediately;

    d. Calling for Member States' continued attendance of the UN Ocean Conference to share best practices related to climate change, as well as new technological and data-based advancements, encouraging active engagement, collaboration, particularly between LDCs and developed countries;

12. *Advises* Member States collaboration through annual workshops and seminars under the umbrella of relevant international bodies, such as the IOC and CRM, to enhance sustainable conservation by:

    a. Inviting the IOC to expand its technical assistance programs to coastal and SID nations by providing specialized data interpretation systems;

    b. Asking for existing international support through CRM to organize annual workshops and seminars to facilitate the sharing of technical and scientific geospatial data, building upon existing frameworks;

    c. Requesting a particular focus on incumbent UNEP systems such as World Environment Situation Room to promote SDG 10 (Reducing Inequalities) through multilingual platforms to produce best practices;

    d. Promoting inclusive participation of recognized marginalized coastal Indigenous communities in global environmental decision-making workshops;

13. *Reinforces* UNEP's Regional Seas Programme to address pollution, ecosystem degradation, prioritising participation of coastal villages in ocean governance, as well as climate adaptation in sensitive regions, such as the Persian Gulf through:

    a. Increasing collaboration with existing regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Eastern Marine Pacific Corridor, leveraging existing networks and forums;

    b. Expanding public-private partnerships with scientific organisations, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions;

    c. Integrating nationally recognized Indigenous populations and local communities through the promotion of transparent and inclusive consultation processes when developing marine policies or allocating coastal resources;

    d. Facilitating the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies through mechanisms such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network to accelerate their deployment;

e. Encouraging Member States to provide monitoring data on land-based pollution sources, marine contaminants, and biodiversity trends to UNEP's Regional Seas Programme;

f. Facilitating technical support for community-led conservation and monitoring programs;

g. Supporting capacity-building efforts and shared protocols, such as the regional oil-spill contingency frameworks developed under the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and the ASEAN Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, to strengthen Member States' preparedness and response to oil spills, wastewater management treatment, and marine pollution through regional partnerships;

14. *Expresses support* for the creation of the Arctic Sustainable Aquatic Fisheries and Environment (ARCTIC-SAFE), a cooperative framework to promote sustainable fishers and protect fragile polar ecosystems as a foundation for other ecologically sensitive regions through:

    a. Launching an ARCTIC-SAFE Polar Research Coalition led by Member States and experts from Arctic and non-Arctic Member States;

    b. Supporting the development of regional and national sustainable fishing quotas and restrictions that will be agreed upon by the consensus of participating Member States against overfishing in fragile ecosystems like the Arctic to restrict the IUU fishing;

    c. Financing voluntary contributions from participating Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations to cover the operating costs of the Polar Research Coalition;

15. *Recommends* existing governmental bodies like UNEP work with individual Member States to establish regional frameworks for project finance for permanence models in order to raise and distribute funds to address marine sustainability considering:

    a. The use of debt-for-nature swaps, blue bonds, and recommended taxes on environmentally harmful commodities like SUPs;

    b. The utilization of UNEP Finance initiative to facilitate increased coordination and communication between Member States, non-governmental organizations, and public-private-partnerships;

    c. That such measures will help alleviate financial pressures from individual Member States and allow for increased specificity in program funding;

16. *Invites* the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and other relevant funds to increase access modality and access to ocean finance for marine conservation and climate adaptation-related initiatives, particularly for SIDS and LDCs, including UNEP's guidance in the coordination and streamlining of application processes;

17. *Calls for* UNEP to prioritize participatory, localized maritime protection and management initiatives and couple them with innovative investment partnerships, collaborating with private financial actors as well as aforementioned existing United Nations funding mechanisms, to ensure long-term sustainability, modelling programs on successful initiatives such as Mangroves For Climate through:

a. Embedding participation by incorporating local and nationally recognized Indigenous communities in shared governance, environmental monitoring, and administration of funding;

b. Collaborating with UNEP to conduct project analysis, highlighting measurable ecological outcomes to link grants with verified ecological benefits;

18. *Invites* Member States to pursue Debt-For-Climate arrangements with financial partners such as the World Bank group, to empower LDCs through reducing debt obligations in exchange for dedicated maritime and ecological investments;

19. *Suggests* the advancement of innovative ocean-based climate solutions like green hydrogen production by national governments and other stakeholders, increasing financial affordability and renewable energy production by using desalinated seawater through:

    a. Exporting clean hydrogen to other areas around the world, through expanding on means such as the SouthH2 corridor, a hydrogen pipeline corridor which already connects North Africa and Europe;

    b. Strengthening renewable electricity capacity and accessibility across regions, drawing on models such as the Medlink submarine cable, aiming at establishing a high-voltage submarine power cable linking all regions;

20. *Welcomes* the creation of the Regeneration and Environmental Evaluation Framework (REEF), an expansion of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, under the FAO, aimed to:

    a. Strengthen global cooperation through research and monitoring regarding fish stocks restoration;

    b. Heighten reporting of illegal and unregulated fishing and data collection regionally to reduce overfishing;

    c. Facilitate sharing of best knowledge and technology practices and transfers between Member States to improve global fishery management;

21. *Desires* Member States to implement practices for safe and sustainable usage of the world's water using UNCLOS by:

    a. Integrating an accountability framework within UNCLOS that can be used by Member States to monitor the discharge of constant pollutants into bodies of water, funded by the GEF;

    b. Ensuring the usage of safeguard practices that can reduce harmful situations which can affect marine ecosystems, partnered with the GWP;

    c. Advancing the WTO on underwater acoustic monitoring and fisheries subsidies to further support economic growth within marine-based business economies;

    d. Inviting, at the discretion of individual Member States and with respect to individual sovereignty, the further ratification, implementation and discussion of the BBNJ Agreement framework;

22. *Encourages* Member States to launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns on sustainable ocean use, highlighting the vital link between healthy marine ecosystems and

human well-being, while also supporting enhanced research initiatives to better understand social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities within ocean-dependent communities by:

a. Supporting coastal communities by establishing programs that ensure sustainable access to food, trade routes, and marine resources while preventing ecosystem degradation;

b. Mobilizing financial support through voluntary contributions from Member States, international development banks, and relevant United Nations agencies to conduct socio-economic research that identifies vulnerabilities within marine-dependent communities and informs the creation of equitable and sustainable policy measures;

c. Encouraging the enhancement of national and regional frameworks aimed at reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated IUU fishing through the adoption of more effective, transparent, and cooperative enforcement practices;

d. Establishing responsible extraction guidelines that regulate resource use, ensure environmental stability, and promote long-term economic sustainability for all Member States;

23. *Suggests* Member States, in cooperation UNEP and relevant regional bodies, to strengthen global marine conservation efforts and accelerating national implementation of marine conservation initiatives among all stakeholders by:

a. Respecting established international frameworks, such as the UNCLOS and the GBF, to advance progress toward SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water);

b. Expanding national MPAs coverage to include ecologically critical habitats such as coral reefs, kelp forests, and deep-sea canyons to safeguard biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience;

c. Encouraging the mobilization of diverse financial resources, including national budget allocations, public-private partnerships, and international environmental funding mechanisms, to support large-scale ecosystem restoration efforts such as habitat rehabilitation and species recovery programs, to ensure long-term marine sustainability;

24. *Strongly supports* the creation of an International Ocean Education Platform by UNEP, to further ocean literacy by providing educational institutions with access to knowledge on how climate change and plastic pollution affect our oceans by:

a. Utilizing information and data provided by UNEP Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution;

b. Integrating ocean-related education into primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions as a low-cost, high-impact solution to promote responsible stewardship of the oceans;

c. Supporting voluntary contributions from Member States willing to advance ocean literacy in classrooms all around the world.