



Documentation of the work of the **United Nations
Environment Assembly (UNEA)** NMUN simulation*



Radical empathy,
—
Peace reimagined

NMUN•NY 2023
Conference B
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United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14
2. Addressing Climate-Fragility Risks

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
UNEA/1/1	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	71-3-18
UNEA/1/2	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	63-10-19
UNEA/1/3	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	65-10-17
UNEA/1/4	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	66-6-20

UNEA/1/5	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	64-8-20
UNEA/1/6	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	53-16-23
UNEA/1/7	Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14	62-9-21

Summary Report

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

- I. Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14
- II. Addressing Climate-Fragility Risks

The session was attended by representatives of 83 Member States and 1 Observer.

On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 12 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including sustainable fishing, the protection of oceans, river ecosystems and other bodies of water, addressing plastic waste, and research, education, and transparency initiatives. The atmosphere was collaborative and focused on substantive solutions. By Wednesday morning, several proposals began the process of merging their working papers. By Wednesday evening, ten working papers merged into five proposals.

On Thursday afternoon, seven draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had one friendly amendment each. The committee adopted seven resolutions following voting procedure, all by a recorded vote and a simple majority. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including, the creation of a Blue Advisory Board, the creation of domestic environmental agenda within Member States, strengthening of the Climate Risk and Early Warning System, and the creation of an Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Electronic Data and Monitoring System.

A willingness to collaborate and compromise, consensus building, international cooperation regardless of political differences, an inclusion of all Member States, radical empathy was illustrated by the body throughout the conference and in the eventual passing of the resolutions.



Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the 1982 *United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea* as a precedent for international cooperation for environmental progress,

Reaffirming its commitment to achieving the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water),

Recognizing the importance of climate action to keep global temperatures from rising above the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold set in the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

Further recognizing the integral role of the ocean and other waterways in regulating climate,

Supporting United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14, "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument," adopted in 2022, which seeks to pursue a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution,

Noting with approval the efficiency and equitability seen within the structure of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC),

Noting with concern that Our World in Data reports 90% of all ocean plastic pollution originates from 10 key rivers,

Disturbed by the presence of 51 trillion particles of microplastics in the Earth's oceans and their adverse impact on both marine and human health,

Acknowledging the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) finding that humans cause 80% of marine pollution,

Bearing in mind the role that greenhouse gas emissions play in ocean warming and coral reef bleaching,

Concerned with the lack of knowledge of the negative effects of microplastics and pollution in areas that are greatly affected by these issues, such as nations in the Indian and Pacific Oceans,

Profoundly concerned that the United Nations (UN) has found the number of dead zones in the ocean has increased by more than 450 between 1969 and 2008,

Cognizant that the United States Environment Protection Agency has found that temperatures of global bodies of water are rising at an annual rate of 0.08 degrees Celsius per decade,

Emphasizing the value of implementing an educational framework concerning the use of hydropower and the execution of pollution reduction,

Taking note that 8 out of 10 people who lack basic drinking water service live in rural areas, and about half of them live in the least developed countries (LDCs),

Observing the increase of eutrophication and acidification of the world's oceans as the levels of pollution and carbon dioxide rise,

Stressing the importance of education concerning bodies of water in all Member States, specifically focusing on aiding developing nations,

Reaffirms the necessity of sustainable water management at all levels, as reiterated in UNEA resolution 5/4, "Sustainable lake management",

Noting the current success of Europe's Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the need to expand the system to a global level,

Reiterating the significance of implementing an educational framework to facilitate the sharing of research and technology directed towards benefiting Member States currently working towards the improvement of various bodies of water,

Believing that a renewed directive toward education concerning practices involving marine ecosystems is imperative in constructing a sustainable future,

Guided by the *Lisbon Declaration's* (2022) call to empower the voices of women and indigenous populations and recognize them as vital to conserving the health and well-being of our marine resources,

Fully alarmed that levels of sea degradation present unique implications for women and indigenous peoples' economic and social developments as outlined by the *United Nations World Ocean Assessment* (2021),

Further acknowledging the success of the nonprofit organization Ocean Cleanup and their utilization of floating barriers that act as artificial coastlines by using the natural wind and waves to capture plastic litter,

Calling attention to climate-sensitive rural fishing communities which face heightened vulnerabilities in the face of the degradation of the ocean,

Convinced that the periodic transfer of aquatic science researchers and data analysts between Member States is necessary for promoting transparency and cooperation,

Reconfirming the 1997 *United Nations Watercourses Convention* (UNWC) as a guideline to pave the way for multilateral engagement to forge cooperation and water diplomacy over transboundary resources and water management,

Underscoring the benefits of incorporating the research of non-governmental organizations to inform the international community,

Acknowledging the success of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic information, which fosters the mutual collection and sharing of data to mitigate the impact of climate change-related disasters,

Aware of the 5,465 satellites currently in orbit, according to Statistica as of March 2023, with the ability to share critical meteorological data to Member States passing below orbit that currently do not centralize and share the early warning meteorological data,

1. *Introduces* the creation and implementation, starting in 2025, within UNEP of the "Blue" Advisory Board (BAB) that is funded by the UNEP's Environment Fund as a successor and

managed by the Environmental Policy Implementation (DCPI) division of UNEP, to continue to uphold the values of the expiring UNEA *Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025* and assist the international community in safeguarding the environment from future harm by:

- a. Creating a rotating board, based on equitable geographical distribution, of existing and new UNEP individual experts from varying backgrounds that are:
 - i. Managed and overseen by the UNEP Environmental Policy Implementation (DCPI);
 - ii. Representative of each of the global regions and is comprised of 13 seats for African States, 13 seats for Asia-Pacific States, 8 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 7 seats for Western European and other States, 6 seats for Eastern European States;
 - iii. Selected by a lottery drawing of nominated experts within the varying regions and then Member States within UNEA to elect board members from this pool;
 - iv. Limited to a 3-year term as a member of the board and can only be re-elected once;
 - v. Encouraged to follow the standards and ideals of the BAB, with the exception of being in a state of emergency due to armed conflict or natural disaster, by providing incentives for the Member States of the representing board members in the form of tax exclusions, tax credits, preferential tax rates, or deferral of tax liability provided by a new tax equalization fund that will be established as a subsidiary within the UNEP's Environment Fund;
- b. Reviewing current and future national legislation being put forth by Member States that regards the environment to ensure that it is not detrimental to the environment by requesting that the Member States make appropriate amendments to the legislation;
- c. Encouraging large corporations to pursue waste disposal procedures that are up to the international standards put forth by the UN Department of Field Support's *Waste Management Policy for UN Field Missions* such as the 2018 Waste Management Policy;
- d. Striving to gradually phase out the utilization of single-use plastic;
- e. Embedding three pillars of ideals include Mitigating Marine Waste, "Blue" Legislation, and, Human Rights;
- f. Creating a subgroup, the Gender and Indigenous People's Advisory Group (GIPAG) will consist of women, indigenous peoples, and individuals from rural areas that are:
 - i. Elected by the Member States who were nominated by UNEA and who are experts in gender and indigenous issues from these vulnerable populations to sit on the board, which consists of an equitable geographical distribution of 6 seats for African States, 6 seats for Asia-Pacific States, 4 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 3 seats for Western European and other States, 3 seats for Eastern European States;
 - ii. Limited to a 3-year term as a member of the board and can only be re-elected once;

- iii. Responsible for reviewing current and future legislation that regards the environment using their nuanced perspectives and skills on the sustainable management of marine resources and the preservation of our oceans;
2. *Designates* the establishment of a Conference Preparatory Committee by the Major Groups Facilitating Committee and under the UNEP to begin discussions between larger and more developed Member States to implement policies to incentivize the collection of waterborne plastics;
3. *Draws attention* to the importance of promoting policy briefings through establishing and researching policies that would promote states responses to sustainable fishing tactics by:
 - a. Providing sufficient background information on the issue of sustainable fishing tactics, with direct attention to rural coastal communities;
 - b. Understanding the importance of developing and building upon research to help combat non-sustainable fishing tactics;
 - c. Building upon and emphasizing the national standards regarding fishing practices already in place;
4. *Further suggests* the continued implementation of proven practices to clean oceans and rivers, such as “bubble barriers,” plastic tubes filled with air that push trash out of rivers, and “floating barrier” cleanup projects;
5. *Invites* Member States to join the 1997 UNWC and further expand ideas relating to water diplomacy and management to:
 - a. Fit the needs of present and future goals relating to mitigating climate change-related disasters;
 - b. Use transboundary water resources equitably and efficiently;
 - c. Ensure sustainable water management by establishing:
 - i. Infrastructure designed to maximize water efficiency and usage;
 - ii. Clean energy sources that utilize renewable resources;
6. *Motivates* Member States to create domestic agendas which collect and distribute environmental, economic, and health data with other Member States concerning:
 - a. Present bacterial and/or plastic pollutants that have the ability to cause an array of harmful diseases affecting global health;
 - b. Sustainable water management such as solar desalination and smart irrigation systems for water efficiency and control;
 - c. Energy systems utilizing water as a renewable source;
7. *Endorses* the *International Hydropower Association* report (2022), as hydropower will be the leading source of renewable energy to:
 - a. Respond to the growing need to develop new channels and sources of sustainable energy to encourage self-sufficiency in light of current geopolitical concerns;

- b. Decrease world crisis through the continuous improvement in hydropower technology;
 - c. Increase global availability of electricity as demand is predicted to triple by 2023;
- 8. *Encourages* Member States to utilize hydroelectric power through the increased support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and hydropower projects in an effort to decrease Greenhouse Gas emissions and subsequently:
 - a. Provide a positive impact on bodies of water;
 - b. Double clean energy supply and production capacity;
 - c. Directly improving efforts to accomplish SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action);
- 9. *Urges* Member States to adopt new technologies to reduce anthropogenic pollutants of all sizes with an emphasis on implementing:
 - a. Graphene-based filtration systems to capture microscopic pollutants;
 - b. Ferrofluid to collect microplastics;
- 10. *Further urges* the international community to collaborate on research projects and technologies to better remove microplastics from waterways through methods such as:
 - a. Sonic wave filtration systems generate sonic and ultrasonic waves to create pressure that separates microplastics from the ocean;
 - b. Fully autonomous plastic recovery robots which can identify different colors, textures, shapes, and sizes of plastic materials and make it more efficient to separate microplastics from bodies of water;
 - c. Utilization of biological filtration systems, such as bivalves/filter feeders specifically meant to filter out microplastics;
- 11. *Emphasizes* the promotion of education programs for citizens and local governments to be aware of the debilitating effects of microplastics in the body as well as marine life by:
 - a. Encouraging voluntary contributions from Member States to fund such curriculum and foster capacity building as a means to execute these programs;
 - b. Formulating a curriculum that exhibits how improperly disposed of plastic ends up being eaten by thousands of types of marine animals, including the ones humans consume, and on the negative effects on health that come with consuming microplastics such as endocrine disease, autoimmune disease, neurotoxicity, DNA damage, and oxidative stress;
- 12. *Requests* the reconstruction and establishment of education programs by Member States regarding sustainable marine practices by:
 - a. Endorsing the recreation of information covering sustainable marine practices within primary and secondary education curriculums;
 - b. Recommending Member States collaborate with non-governmental organizations to fund and coordinate public seminars pertaining to sustainable practices;

- c. Inviting Member States to form an international program focused on providing contemporary marine education to citizens of developing nations;
- 13. *Calls for* the strengthening of existing relationships by UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) by:
 - a. Offering incentives to developed nations to help provide funding for the creation of education platforms and international conventions by:
 - i. Promoting the global exchange of information and ideas pertaining to bodies of water through adapting and updating Part XIV (Development and Transfer of Marine Technology) of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*;
 - ii. Offering incentives to developed nations to help provide funding for the creation of education platforms;
 - b. Stressing global cooperation based on the 15 multilateral environmental agreements passed by the UNEP;
 - c. Expanding cooperation on the topics of ocean eutrophication and acidification in efforts to:
 - i. Increase accessibility of the Intergovernmental Ocean Carbon Coordination Project for less developed Member States;
 - ii. Support the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network;
 - iii. Expand the Northwest Pacific Action Plan to provide for Member States worldwide;
- 14. *Stresses* readiness to form an international, collaborative research program through UNEP focused on developing equipment and technology to mitigate water pollution and establish a baseline framework for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to benefit by:
 - a. Hosting a conference with fellow Member States in conjunction with the SIDS Partnership Framework where experts can present ideas, discuss research, and offer solutions for current global aquatic issues;
 - b. Targeting SDG 14 in efforts to increase scientific knowledge and improve water quality for SIDS;
 - c. Targeting SDG target 14.7 in efforts to increase economic benefits for SIDS;
- 15. *Desires* the utilization of specialized NGOs by Member States in an effort to educate their population on the importance of water preservation;
- 16. *Encourages* partnerships and an increase in funding between international financial institutions (IFIs), NGOs, and developing Member States to further implement and modernize preventative measures to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases and metals by:
 - a. Improving the quality and/or material of pipes in Member States, straying away from hazardous metals, such as lead and galvanized steel;
 - b. Installing water purifiers and similar sanitation practices to ensure safe drinking water for populations;

- c. Establishing technologies to reduce leaching due to pollutants and waste in bodies of water with an emphasis on phosphate stripping to minimize eutrophication;
- 17. *Implores* Member States to strengthen the Climate Risk & Early Warning System (CREWS) in order to forecast future threats to mitigate the detrimental impacts accounting for 45,000 lives lost each year due to unforeseen meteorological threats through:
 - a. Implementing a Network of First Aid Infrastructure (NOFAI) which will preemptively warn and assist in areas facing or about to face crisis NOFAI;
 - b. Relocating displaced persons due to climate fragility, natural disasters, or waterborne illnesses in crisis shelters preemptively and post;
 - c. Creating awareness that scientific data posits there to be twice as many floods by 2050 worldwide, with early warning systems saving lives, ecosystems, and property;
- 18. *Advocates* that Member States join the global SEIS to mitigate regional and global climate issues through the establishment of collective information channels with no minimum threshold for admittance;
- 19. *Requests* that UNEP implement as a priority the establishment of a global voluntary SEIS to improve transparency and accessibility of environmental data by:
 - a. Integrating existing national and regional systems on a discretionary basis in a single system managed by UNEP;
 - b. Seeking funding for the system through the Environment Fund and collaboration with other environmental organizations such as the Global Environment Facility;
 - c. Collaborating with relevant NGOs who could contribute to and benefit from the shared knowledge;
 - d. Creating a virtual platform to:
 - i. Establish a common resource center with reporting on recent projects and promising technologies;
 - ii. Allow Member States and NGOs to share their chosen environmental data;
 - iii. Empower Member States and NGOs to access knowledge and data relevant to their national or vocational interests through the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) managed by UNEP;
- 20. *Proclaims* systematic grants of international mobility to qualified aquatic researchers and analysts are imperative to a thriving partnership between Member States and suggest implementation through:
 - a. Establishing a sister program to the Short-Term Scientist Exchange Program in which the focus is shifted to aquatic research and the exchange of talent is between both Member States;
 - b. Cooperation between UNEP and the Knowledge Transfer Offices of qualified scholars to determine the eligibility and feasibility of an exchange;
 - c. Exchanging academic personnel while relying upon a fixed-interval schedule decided by participating Member States during UNEA meetings such as the Open-Ended

Committee of Permanent Representatives under the supervision of session organizers;

- d. Recommending national facilitation and leniency of scholars' international mobility in accordance with accepted timetables;
21. *Recommends* that Member States pursue clean energy in an effort to decarbonize and lower greenhouse gas emissions that harm the world's waterways through investing in solar and wind energy, refraining from the use of fossil fuels, and promoting the adoption of emission quotas;
 22. *Welcomes* further work on a binding treaty to end the use of single-use plastic globally;
 23. *Calls upon* fishing industries to make the change to more eco-friendly or biodegradable materials with their fishing equipment that recommends that large fishing corporations that are a part of the fishing industry swap out materials such as lead, rubber, and plastics for biodegradable plastics as well as make equipment that is unable to catch fish if it is discarded;
 24. *Suggests* that UNEP make substantial changes to the fishing industry's policy priority so that the types of equipment and gear they produce can be substituted for ones that will be able to break down more efficiently and be safe for marine life consumption;
 25. *Supports* the continued use of advanced technology for inventory programmes such as those of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and the Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean), aiming at listing and studying underwater marine biotopes, species, and communities to contribute to freshwater and ocean species protections by:
 - a. Mapping underwater marine nature with a particular focus on increasing knowledge about endangered vegetal and animal species and their habitats;
 - b. Implementing the use of long-range autonomous underwater vehicles (LRAUVs) to collect seawater samples to monitor their environmental DNA (eDNA);
 - c. Using unmanned sail drones to map fish populations, with a priority on vulnerable marine environments;
 - d. Utilizing Member State-driven research and analysis technology within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in order to identify dead zones as well as areas at risk of severe marine population decline;
 26. *Decides accordingly* that UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) will research developing alternative environmentally friendly and sustainable bio textiles such as seaweed, fungi, freshwater-based algae, spider, and silkworm silk.



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that the development of research for marine biology and artificial reefs is beneficial,

Taking into account that, according to the United Nations (UN) in 2021, more than 17 million metric tons of plastic entered the world's ocean, making up 85% of marine litter,

Emphasizing the need to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water) while also committed to furthering international cooperation,

Acknowledging the need for a greater focus on the importance of sustainable fisheries which would foster aquaculture while building domestic investments,

Endorsing a greater focus on the importance of sustainable fisheries which would bolster economic growth and job opportunities,

Having considered that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other affected nations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and contribute less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet bear a disproportionate burden of the impacts of climate change due to the lack of resources and funding,

Bearing in mind the need for decreasing the volume of water contamination that threatens marine life and hence threatens human life,

Further emphasizing the importance of research into what causes the acidity of the ocean,

Alarmed by the dangers posed by ocean liners, which are large transportation ships, dumping contaminated water into marine ecosystems,

Deeply concerned by SDG 14's status as the most underfunded of the SDGs,

Conscious that reporting on ocean acidification has nearly doubled from 2021 to 2022,

Concerned with the amount of marine pollution that poses a threat to marine ecosystems,

Cognizant of the Member States working towards reducing maritime microplastics by implementing plastic pacts and circular economies alike,

Expressing the importance of the Climate Risk and Early Warnings System (CREWS) and the Kiwa Initiative in alerting SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of their risk of dangerous climate-related events,

Recognizing the 2019 outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires as well as the call for strengthening South-South Cooperation in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical

Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40),

Observing that coastal marine states are on the brink of climate destruction,

Cognizant of marine conservation education that addresses vulnerable ecosystems through the enhancement of marine technology,

Acknowledging the ocean's absorption of greenhouse gases and the danger it poses to the overall collapse of certain bodies of water if not removed correctly,

Keeping in mind that 95% of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) funds rely on voluntary contributions that are allocated to the Environment Fund, core fund of the UNEP, and earmarked funds,

Taking note of the Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan incorporated into the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution,

Recognizing the challenges faced by developing nations in meeting SDG 14 obligations, such as domestically meeting the need for funding and resources,

Having considered the need to prevent coastal erosion and protecting coastal ecosystems,

Believing all bodies of water are diverse ecosystems that support terrestrial life and are essential in preserving life below water,

Fully aware of the consequences agriculture-based economies pose when excessively using chemical fertilizers; and the subsequent 300 times warming capability nitrogen runoff imposes to bodies of water when compared to carbon dioxide,

Referring to the 350 million metric tons of global plastic waste the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports is perpetuated by Member States annually,

Emphasizing the role programs such as Saudi Arabia's National Fisheries Development Programme (NFDP) have in fostering collaboration among Member States in need of resources and guidance,

Affirming the importance of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing,

Stressing that plastics make up an estimated 80% of all marine pollution, and the role plastics play in marine pollution according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Mindful of the disproportionate amount of plastic waste perpetrated by Member States,

Alarmed that almost 90% of global marine stocks are fully exploited or overfished as reported by the 2017 World Bank SDG Atlas,

Recognizing the imperative need to create committees to oversee and ensure the continuation, in an all-encompassing fashion, of all clauses in past, present, future, and political aspects,

Recalling the Black Sea is the only sea in the EU for which no regional strategy has been adopted, meaning our current efforts will not be enough to mitigate the deterioration of the Black Sea,

Taking note of the Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan incorporated into the into the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution,

Concerned with the lack of sovereignty instigating military conflicts in Black and Azov Sea,

Distressed by lack of management and sustainable practices occurring in the Black and Azov Sea region further being exacerbated by conflict,

Anxious about the preservation of the fragile ecosystems of coastal mangroves forests and coral reefs as they aid in shoreline protection and nurseries for biodiversity,

Applauding the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2022-2025 that streamlines the conservation and sustainable use of oceans into policies and programs, harmonize methodologies for tracking progress, and foster an integrated response to combat ecological degradation,

1. *Urges* the creation of regional subsidiary bodies, which would implement, increase, and develop research and marine technology through:
 - a. Funding both research and artificial reefs from UNEP;
 - b. Implementing the modernization of fishing vessels in large bodies of water by requiring the latest sustainable equipment, implementing rod-and-reel fishing to decrease the number of endangered species, and installing tracking devices to prevent overfishing in coexistence with the environment;
2. *Further urges* strengthening international efforts to sustain marine protected areas, ensuring sustainable usage by the population in its territorial waters, protecting the biodiversity of the oceans, and ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources by:
 - a. Administering the use of smart fisheries;
 - b. Considering a more efficient route for transport and cargo ships;
 - c. Promoting the further awareness and implementation of the goals of the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity for Marine Conservation* (1992) on a regional and local level;
3. *Welcomes* a speaker series in which each Member State will be empowered to engage with challenges and accomplishments within their respective nations to connect SDG 14 and 7 (affordable and clean energy);
4. *Promoting* inclusivity and international cooperation through funding, technology, and dialogue through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foundations, such as Greenpeace and others, that will be allocated toward less developed states who are more at risk and require assistance to address the health of their waters;
5. *Recommends* the assessment of the individual needs of each participating Member State, the health national aquaculture and how it pertains to the amount of aid they require;
6. *Calling for* potential funding by willing NGOs that can be recognized through their positive work on the climate crisis;
7. *Further recommends* all Member States increase funding and technical support to SIDS in achieving SDG 14 by promoting sustainable fisheries, protecting marine environments, reducing plastic and chemical pollution, and addressing climate change impacts;
8. *Focuses* on the expansion of CREWS and the Kiwa Initiative, which would emphasize technological advancements and research on warning SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDC) in areas of increased risk of climate-related events by:

- a. Advocating for increased contribution by other developed Member States;
 - b. Expanding research to create a faster and more accurate alert system in order to keep citizens safe during times of natural disasters;
 - c. Updating the Standard Operating Procedure and focusing on the education of specialists;
9. *Calls for* the implementation, under the precedent of UNEP *Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025*, of an international partnership body, to be known as the Global Climate Solutions Cooperative (GCSC), wherein developed nations strengthen partnerships with developing nations to increase access to technology, funding, and other mitigation measures in order to strengthen action on SDG 14, which shall include initiatives such as:
 - a. The creation of an international database of viable solutions accessible to all countries;
 - b. Using NGOs to help implement new technologies in underdeveloped countries;
 - c. Financially supporting underdeveloped countries for the purpose of implementing sustainability technology and building and repairing sustainability infrastructure;
 - d. Granting underdeveloped nations experts and resources from more developed nations and these developed nations may choose how many developing countries to work with at a given time and their respective commitment levels;
 - e. Promoting South-South cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to empower less developed nations implementing technical cooperation schemes with other less developed nations;
10. *Encourages* Member States to prohibit IUU fishing by:
 - a. Implementing a shared fishing data network compiled of fishing vessel positions to prohibit transshipment and fish;
 - b. Developing and introducing machine learning-powered algorithms that detect transshipment, vessels entering restricted areas, and vessels turning off electronic monitoring and signals;
 - c. Raising the number of restrictive nature reserve zones;
11. *Stresses* the importance of Member States working multilaterally together towards reducing maritime pollution of all types by entering plastic pacts, implementing circular economies, and phasing out single use plastics;
12. *Calls for* the creation of four subsidiary committees that will individually but cohesively work towards improving SDG 14 progress, with those committees being:
 - a. The Past Pollution Reduction Committee will focus on combating the elimination of pollution that has been emitted throughout the world already by reducing pollution within the ocean;
 - b. The Present Pollution Reduction Committee will focus on the education and research of aspects of ocean pollution, specifically marine technology, and funding both

research and artificial reefs from the UNEP as well as research for a collaborative database for all Member States;

- c. The Future Pollution Prevention Committee whose focus is on the reduction of future pollution from all applicable parties;
 - d. The International Environmental Legislative Leadership Committee will subsequently follow all the Past, Present, and Future committees and their work with legislation to ensure their work is not done in vain and is protected;
13. *Calls for* professional opportunities on an international level for Member States with developing unsustainable fisheries and those with developed sustainable fisheries to provide hands-on research opportunities;
14. *Recommends* UNEA establish the independent multilateral VeriAID group, which will serve to review and prevent foreign aid from being mismanaged much like the OECD by:
 - a. Conducting research and verification efforts led by UNEP to ensure that a Member State's aid is used for its proper intention through;
 - b. Ensuring money from UNEP fund banks is allocated to NGOs and activist groups;
 - c. Building a team comprised of UN experts appointed by the Executive Director of UNEP who shall work alongside Member States to verify the proper use of foreign aid but not be obliged to publish such data to public entities;
 - d. Establishing ad-hoc monthly committees with Member States regarding the distribution and use of bilateral aid;
 - e. Engaging with the contributing Member State and the recipient of foreign aid with the help of the 23 Member States that serve as reviewers of bilateral aid under the Development Assistance Committee (DAC);
15. *Invites* Member States dependent on the Black Sea to collaborate on the formation of a regional strategic action plan for the Black Sea by:
 - a. Recommending the utilization of the inter-governmental frameworks the Regional Seas Strategic Directions outline in order to address the degradation of the Black Sea on a regional level;
 - b. Urging Member States to recognize and respect the sovereignty of Black and Azov Sea and to abstain from actions that could instigate military or diplomatic conflicts;
 - c. Planning to ensure that access to waterways remains a priority during periods of conflict;
16. *Emphasizes* the role technology has in locating and removing greenhouse gas pockets in the ocean by:
 - a. Initiating more research into air guns that produce seismic waves in their ability to detect greenhouse gas pockets;
 - b. Encouraging more research into removing greenhouse gases from the ocean and replacing it with alkaline water to safely remove the gases from the waters;

17. *Calls for* the establishment of an international partnership body to be known as the Global Climate Solutions Cooperative (GCSC) wherein developed nations will work with developing nations to increase access to technology, funding, and other mitigation measures in order to strengthen action on SDG 14, developed nations may choose how many developing nations to partner with and their level of commitment at any given time;
18. *Emphasizes* the importance of furthering research into nano-filter technologies as an instrument to reduce plastic pollution within the ocean;
19. *Urges* the joint development of a project aimed at reducing the pollution already present in the form of offshore plastic accumulation zones by jointly by:
 - a. Establishing international standards that govern the technical and financial aspects of removal;
 - b. Undertaking research initiatives, such as the use of drones and specialized vessels, to identify and remove plastic accumulations;
 - c. Developing education and awareness initiatives to raise society's awareness of the issue of offshore plastic accumulations;
 - d. Encouraging Member States to work multilaterally towards reducing maritime pollution by utilizing entering plastic pacts, implementing circular economies, and phasing out single-use plastics;
20. *Calls for* stricter nitrogen runoff limits into freshwater systems such as rivers, lakes, water aquifers, wetlands, and irrigation systems especially rivers leading into oceans in order to prevent further destruction of water-based habitats by agricultural processes;
21. *Encourages* all Member States, under the precedent set by the UNEP, to implement actions to decrease reliance on single-use plastics by further incentivizing the development and production of more sustainable materials by:
 - a. Creating nation-specific recommendations for annual goals to reduce the use of plastic products provided by the commission on science and technology for development (UNCTAD);
 - b. Creating legislation for single-use plastic producers that requires their contribution to sustainable disposal practices in the cities they operate in;
 - c. Suggesting the creation of domestic incentives to encourage the production of sustainable plastic alternatives;
22. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to take action to prevent the erosion of coastlines by:
 - a. Monitoring levels of erosion along coastlines through shoreline mapping;
 - b. Preserving the fragile ecosystem of coastal mangrove forests and coral reefs to preserve their ability to minimize damage caused by storms and large waves through the use of buffer zones such as fencing;
23. *Establishes* a plastic-credit system through the UNEP that is funded by the UNEP Environment Fund and monitored by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) with the goal of encouraging larger, more developed Member States to go out and clean up maritime plastics with:

- a. The incentive of each 100 kilograms of plastic collected by Member States will warrant rewards in the form of cash compensation from the UNEP Environment Fund;
 - b. Multilateral approaches and programs that mitigate the plastic litter in the ocean such as the Parley Global Cleanup Network;
24. *Invites* Member States dependent on the Black Sea to collaborate on the formation of a regional strategic action plan for the Black Sea by:
 - a. Ensuring sustainable management of Black and Azov Sea natural resources and marine life as reflected in the *UN Convention of the Law and Sea* (1982);
 - b. Establishing a healthy dialogue for all Member States in pursuit of the preservation of sovereignty and self-determination to achieve the goals of this resolution;
 - c. Installing the utilization of intergovernmental frameworks that the Regional Seas Strategic Directions outline to address the degradation of the Black Sea on a regional level;
25. *Further recommends* all Member States which have an agriculture-based economy reduce the use of chemicals fertilizers in farming at the local, national, and international level to minimize the number of harmful substances entering our waterways via run-off by:
 - a. Increasing the use of cow manure across Member States in order to substitute synthetic fertilizers;
 - b. Imploring Member States to form composting stations across farmlands for easy access to rich and organic fertilizer;
26. *Reiterates* that the SDG 14 indicator report cite sewage as a driver for eutrophication and the need for sustainable and efficient sewage infrastructure that may:
 - a. Advance pre-existing infrastructure for sewage system plants by ensuring a steady flow of electricity, an improvement on water contamination, adherence to safety regulations and protocols, and foundational structures are secure;
 - b. Institute preventative measures to ensure that sewage contamination into bodies of water is limited;
 - c. Establish a series of check-ins to ensure the safety and efficiency of sewage plants with a tangential accountability mechanism that sets penalties for nations that fail to meet standards;
27. *Suggests* the utilization of funds from UNEP funds in order to:
 - a. Prioritize coastal states who are predisposed to collapsed ecosystems;
 - b. Provide aid for the implementation of domestic legislation in order to restrict illegal activities which could in turn increase a Member State's GDP;
 - c. Help provide smooth transitions for more renewable resources;
28. *Calls for* the establishment of further governmental educational programs to:
 - a. Foster awareness of how detrimental irresponsible maritime practices negatively

affect not only the immediate environment but the entire world;

- b. Develop an inclusive community capable of carrying out discourse regarding sustainable waste management;
 - c. Foster tangible incentives for volunteers to better understand how their own fishing habits affect the greater ecosystem;
 - d. Enhance national education in marine science, especially for coastal marine communities by implementing governmental programs to educate the community as well as add educational programs to the school curriculum;
 - e. Offer workshops on marine science and conservation, in exchange, fishers get tax exemption and it will raise awareness of marine conservation as well as support the economy of small businesses;
29. *Requests* that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) creates further educational initiatives towards Sustainable and Zero-Waste Fishery, Aquaculture, and Farming for people involved in fishery and agriculture by:
- a. Assisting Member States in gaining access to education resources for fishers and aquaculture farmers;
 - b. Implementing funding through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), willing Member States, and NGOs, such as other FAO programs under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
 - c. Focusing on farmers and agricultural workers of Member States and informing them about the dangers of eutrophication as well as its effects on water systems through sustainable methods of farming, such as no-till, agroforestry, and permaculture design.



Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Emphasizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirming the commitment to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development as stated in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water),

Noting with concern that the global community is not on track to achieve the various targets of SDG 14 including the reduction of marine pollution by 2025, increasing scientific knowledge, developing of research capacity, and transferring marine technology,

Affirming the support for tighter regulations and enforcement regarding illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing,

Calling attention to growing eutrophication in coastal regions as a result of nutrient runoff,

Emphasizing the need for support and funding of infrastructure for developing and small island nation states (SIDS),

Alarmed that, according to the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2021), more than 636,000 tons of ship waste per year threaten our marine environments, particularly in developing nations,

Reaffirming the report on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to make efforts towards preventing, stopping, and reversing the degradation of the environment,

Cognizant of the Protocol on Water and Health sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization (WHO), which promotes the sustainable use of transboundary water resources and the reduction of water-related diseases,

Understanding the need for oil-based economies to diversify beyond industries related to the extraction of fossil fuels as part of the global effort to improve the quality of the world's oceans and opportunities present within the realms of aquaculture,

Encouraged by the international cooperation from the *Glasgow Climate Pact* of 2021 to address climate change and its negative effects, such as the rising global average temperature which will lead to further water scarcity,

Guided by the *Minamata Convention on Mercury* (2013) and its guidelines to regulate the production and handling of mercury wastes to prevent their transference into marine environments,

Fully aware that the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) provides the legal order of marine sources consumption, sets out the rights and responsibilities of states in their use of marine resources, and calls for the need for more sustainable fishing practices,

Reaffirming the mission of promoting international cooperation to coordinate programs in research services and capacity building by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of building international scientific research institutions,

Acknowledging that United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) resolution 4/9 (2019), "Addressing single-use plastics products pollution (SUPP)" encourages the discovery and application of alternatives to single-use plastics,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/8 (2022), "Science-policy panel to contribute further the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution", which created an ad hoc open-ended working group with the ambition of completing its purpose by the end of 2024,

Noting with satisfaction the regional initiative in the Middle East, the Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas (ROPME), and the programs that focus on tracking regional marine life,

Cognizant of the effects of ocean acidification, the effects of a reduction in the pH of the ocean over a long period of time caused by an increase of carbon dioxide in the water,

Disturbed that according to the UNEP monitoring the amount of plastic will raise to 1100 million tons by 2050, affecting the well-being of marine diversity,

Highlighting that the current global economy is structured to promote overconsumption and production and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by the pollution, plastic waste, and the negative economic effects that result,

Acknowledging Member States' commitment to the *Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution* (1972) and the *London Protocol* (2006), as well as the *Lisbon Declaration* (2022), which commits to helping SIDS, creating blue economies, establishing sustainable fisheries, and reducing plastic pollution and other marine pollutants,

Stressing the disproportionate vulnerability faced by SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the dependency on aquatic-based resources and emphasizing their necessary and irreplaceable voice in achieving SDG 14,

Recalling the Governing Council of UNEP's successful adoption of the Tunza Youth Strategy in 2003 and 2008, active until 2013, which developed activities in the areas of capacity building, environmental awareness, and information exchange through programs such as the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference, Tunza Youth Advisory Council, Tunza Junior Board, and quarterly Tunza magazine,

Recognizing the importance of including landlocked countries in all areas, including, but not limited to, scientific advances such as regional cooperation to promote marine conservation efforts in neighboring countries and joining regional initiatives to conserve marine biodiversity such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association,

Reminding that the variable circumstances of developing countries should be considered when discussing and implementing monetary contributions and policies,

1. *Advises* UNEP to implement an international Zero Waste Project, similar to the Zero Waste Blue Project by the Republic of Türkiye, and to oversee the aid provided to developing Member States in the implementation of this program, which includes, but is not limited to providing Zero Waste Systems to hospitals, universities, marinas, hotels, municipalities, and more and providing support for the recipient in the determination of a Zero Waste Team as well as determining the collection infrastructure;

2. *Decides* that the science-policy panel created by the UNEA resolution 5/8 should adopt additional primary functions by:
 - a. Facilitating information-sharing with countries related to marine ecosystem sustainability including the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques to monitor, minimize and mitigate pollution in marine environments and research programs for gathering data on the current status of climate change and marine biodiversity to maintain an up-to-date database of marine life;
 - b. Allowing Member States to appoint esteemed marine and chemical researchers to collaborate on improving understanding of the impact mercury waste and other industrial wastes have on global water sources;
 - c. Facilitating information-sharing between members to increase collaboration for preventing oil spills through data-sharing, specifically through increasing remote sensing using satellite and airborne images over oil-spill risk marine areas to provide early warning systems, allowing for Member States to pool together satellite resources with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Real Aperture Radar (RAR) capabilities and analysis and results to be distributed in real-time so that emergency environmental actions can swiftly take place to lower the scale of potential disasters;
 - d. Ensuring that information is made available to all Member States without restrictions, including the developmental harm that exposure to waste material imposes on aquatic life; and advising citizens on methods that could potentially help their contribution overall;
3. *Encourages* expanding upon already existing technologies such as System 001, bubble barriers, reverse osmosis filters, seabins, trash wheels, and rain gardens;
4. *Calls upon* developed nations to aid SIDS in achieving SDG 14 through:
 - a. Providing sustainable infrastructure updates and increased access through the Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS);
 - b. Researching and developing microgrid systems that permit SIDS to function with both energy and food-based autonomy to further allow their development while utilizing heightened protections from both climate disasters and prolonged food droughts, relying on their own microgrid for energy and food sustainability;
 - c. Developing sustainable fishing projects that prevent water degradation by sharing educational resources with rural communities to foster a greater understanding of the importance of maintaining marine ecosystems on a local scale;
 - d. Allocating a 2% annual increase on current levels of funding by developed states towards these initiatives;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to build upon the Tunza Youth Strategy framework to develop global and regional initiatives, activities, and networks for school-aged children in SIDS and LDCs to actively participate in the sustainable development of marine and ocean resources and receive education relating to the importance of SDG 14;
6. *Recommends* the promotion of sustainable fishing practices and the bolstering of aquaculture, particularly for Middle Eastern economies through the establishment of fish hatcheries and the promotion of new food processing techniques by both the public and private sectors, in order to:

- a. Diversify opportunities for employment beyond oil production and other non-renewable energy industries;
 - b. Foster greater efforts to support food insecurity, income generation, and employment for communities living along coastal, lacustrine, and riverine areas at the regional level;
7. *Emphasizes* the need for UNEP to implement a triage economic framework in the division of funding and the implementation of blue economy programs to ensure economies most in need are prioritized for implementation of projects through the direction of funding to ensure developing states can participate in sustainable practices;
8. *Advises* Member States to strengthen existing methods of reporting progress on SDG 14, such as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), to ensure all Member States are transparent about steps taken to meet goals set forth by previously established frameworks regarding ocean maintenance and provide incentives based on country GDP and progress on initiatives to maintain healthy bodies of water based on previous reporting;
9. *Welcomes* an international vehicle registration program (IVRP), in which Member States will voluntarily contribute their respective maritime vehicle registries to UNEP, thereby sharing these nationwide registries in order to better regulate IUU fishing practices, establish a more robust system of accountability in fishing practices, and enabling Member States to increase individual protections against IUU fishing and create more vital communication between regional loci via their individual governmental regulatory bodies;
10. *Fully supports* strengthening international fishing regulations to prevent overfishing and the degradation and harm of other marine species through the financial support of the UNEP Environment Fund so as to promote sustainable fishing regulations;
11. *Recommends* Member States strengthen vegetation around coastal areas by laying vegetation on sloping planted areas to act as a strainer for excess nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants before they reach marine environments, lowering the potential risks eutrophication poses without damaging native flora, granting coastal communities further safeguards against environmental runoff;
12. *Urges* the further enforcement of sustainable ship recycling and building practices set out by the *Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships* (2009) to mitigate pollution to marine environments and support port and trade-reliant economies by:
 - a. Utilizing such recycled materials for initiatives in developing nations or SIDS;
 - b. Creating a comprehensive support system for Member States without the economic means and regional environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to follow such policies;
 - c. Adhering to pre-existing International Maritime Organization (IMO) policies on proper ship-breaking regulations to continue enforcement and promote accountability based on regional economic and environmental needs;
 - d. Ensuring accountability for proper ship-breaking practices by consistently discussing and featuring the work of IMO, Marine Environment Protection Committee (MPEC), and the NGO Shipbreaking Platform within UNEA meetings to consolidate information, foster clarity, and ultimately promote more efficient ship-breaking technologies;

13. *Endorses* the revision of the *London Protocol*, with an emphasis on protecting SIDS and less economically developing states by prioritizing the revision of the *London Protocol* at the 6th session of the UNEA;
14. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to support and sponsor SDG 14 in sustainable fisheries practices;
15. *Suggests* that Member States expand and follow the UNEP Clean Seas Campaign through regional and global educational practical sessions for youth about the effect of plastic pollution on ocean life by:
 - a. Encouraging seminars that would be held annually and focus on spreading awareness about the effects of plastic pollution on the marine environment;
 - b. Cooperating with local non-governmental organizations to implement summer cleaning, which will be held for youth to get practical experience in facing and combatting plastic pollution;
 - c. Requesting the UNEP Clean Seas Campaign to cooperate with Member States and global non-governmental organizations to fund workshops;
16. *Encourages* all Member States to cooperate with NGOs to administer single-use plastic alternatives by:
 - a. Advocating for the use of biodegradable single-use plastic alternatives in the moratorium of Persistent Organic Pollutants;
 - b. Recommending Member States and NGOs introduce biodegradable plastic so that all countries may experience a substantial decline in the magnitude of marine and land plastic pollution within their respective environments as well as the oceans as a whole;
17. *Invites* UNEP to facilitate implementation of policies within Member States that aid them in combating plastic pollution by encouraging discussion of reducing, eliminating, and banning single-use plastics and microplastics;
18. *Advocates* for attention to be called to existing programs, initiatives, and frameworks from other UN bodies and committees such as the UNEP Marine Protected Areas Toolbox & Learning Platform, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Ocean Literacy for All toolkit, and UNEP's For People and Planet Program Strategy, (2022 – 2025) including their revisions and updates, and further expanding upon them by:
 - a. Encouraging regional policy dialogues with civil society organizations, NGOs, and intergovernmental organizations to coordinate responses and actions efficiently through UNEP and UNEA sessions;
 - b. Organizing a website to bring attention to new scientific findings to enhance cooperation, such as the interconnectedness between freshwater and oceanic marine life and the impacts of ocean acidification, and policy implications to keep the international community updated, explicitly noting it is created and updated biweekly by the UN Department of Global Communications web services section;
19. *Trusts* that Member States will continue to adapt to challenges to achieve SDG 14 as time goes on.



Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolutions 70/1 “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 71/312 “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call to Action”, 72/249

“Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” and 73/292 “2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development,” which supports a strong implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water) to conserve the oceans and seas and sustainably use marine resources,

Emphasizing the importance of reducing the use of biocide, pharmaceuticals production, hormonally active substances, plastic particles, and other chemical compounds foreign to the biological cycles of matter and natural ecosystems by taking measures at the initial source of pollution and wastewater related technical innovations such as biofuels,

Reiterating the obligation of all United Nations (UN) Member States to build resilient and sustainable infrastructure to cope with the changing climate, as per SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure),

Calling attention to the *Lisbon Convention (2022)* which concerns the lack of innovative actions and support of developing states to combat water pollution effects on humans as well as promoting marine diversity,

Affirming United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions 3/10 “Addressing Water Pollution to Protect and Restore Water Related Ecosystems” (2017) and 4/6 “Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics” (2019) which recognize the harm that marine pollution has done to marine ecosystems and human health, with an emphasis on microplastics,

Emphasizing the importance of marine and non-marine systems, as over 30% of world economies depend on fishing and agriculture, while irreversible damage is being caused to marine ecosystems by unregulated fishing industries, resulting in the destruction of nearly 75% of all tropical reefs,

Realizing that one-third of the world’s assessed fisheries are pushed beyond their biological supply limits due to extreme demands,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable fishing practices in promoting the conservation and management of marine resources in accordance with the United Nations 2016 *Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (PSMA),

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 75/89 “Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement 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, and related instruments” which highlighted the need for

sustainable fishing practices, including the conservation of fish stocks,

Acknowledging Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and its collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in creating universal IDs for major fisheries to streamline seafood supply chains and improve data collection,

Noting with deep concern that 26% of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water according to the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2023*,

Expressing concern over the detrimental impacts of the 30% surge in ocean acidification due to carbon dioxide emissions, which are expected to kill 100,000 marine mammals and 90% of coral reefs by 2050 as reported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),

Alarmed by the fact that, according to The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS), 88% of open ocean samples contain microplastic waste, and trace amounts of industrial chemicals,

Concerned with the carbon dioxide levels, which have risen since 1970 by 90% because of fossil fuels according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

Having devoted attention to the expansion of aquaculture education, as one-third of the world's assessed fisheries are pushed beyond their biological supply limits due to extreme demands,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt and implement responsible fishing practices with regional quotas using selective fishing methods by:
 - a. Establishing regional quotas assigned by Member States with records and statistics throughout the year;
 - b. Suggesting implementing transitional programs oriented towards sustainable fishing methods to support local fishers and communities living off aquaculture;
 - c. Encouraging collaboration with local fisheries to educate local fishers on modern and improved methods, such as longlining, usage of circle hooks instead of the more common j-hooks, and trawling nets equipped with anti-bycatch mechanisms;
 - d. Endorsing Member States to implement current international policies regarding marine pollution and overfishing on local and regional levels;
2. *Suggests* the FAO work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to specify regional guidelines, prevent overfishing, and encourage sustainable use of aquaculture by:
 - a. Implementing regional guidelines on the following six regions: Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Mediterranean and Middle East, Asia, Americas;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to follow the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, which includes policy coherence, capacity development, implementation support and monitoring, sustainable resource, management, and other topics that FAO and UNEP consider vital;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to cease all subsidies to industrial fisheries in order to reduce overcapacity and overfishing;

3. *Endorses* the strengthening of the concepts that underlie the international blue economy to hold Member States accountable for their activities related to marine and non-marine food systems and practices through:
 - a. Increasing funding for the UNEP Blue Economy program, which aims to strengthen local fishing economies and combat overfishing by encouraging Member States, non-governmental organizations, and private sectors to collaborate;
 - b. Controlled fishing practices as it affects natural processes and coral reefs as they play an important role in global ecosystems outlined in General Assembly resolution 71/312, "Our ocean, our future: call for action";
 - c. Encouraging Member States to criminalize fishing in exploited and endangered fishing regions;
 - d. Establishing economic incentivization that allows for funding from regional organizations as well as subsidies for repopulation programs in cases of overfishing;
 - e. Educating local fisheries and communities on sustainable fishing practices and encouraging the overall growth in the economy;
4. *Invites* Member States, with the help of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as other relevant organizations, to develop and implement marine environment monitoring systems that can monitor water quality and ensure the sustainable use of marine resources;
5. *Encourages* the support of existing ship and sustainable fishing traceability organizations in collaboration with national governments and non-governmental organizations to oversee imported and exported coastal goods and marine presence by:
 - a. Emphasizing the importance of traceability groups, such as the Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability and similar organizations, which will be invited to collaborate with the global community in an effort to regulate the use of prohibited equipment and tracking the implementation of sustainable fishing practices;
 - b. Incentivizing registered small organizations to begin expansion efforts in collaboration with national industries;
6. *Recommends* Member States to establish Limited Fishing Zones (LFZ) where:
 - a. Commercial fishing activities could be conducted only upon receiving a permit in order to allow fish stocks to renew themselves;
 - b. Commercial fishing activities would be prohibited entirely to ensure the proper renewal of fish stocks and guarantee the protection of the said nursery habitats;
7. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen marine conservations by increasing domestic marine protected areas to meet the minimum SDG 14 target by expanding to 10% nationally and encouraging for global expansion to 30% by 2030;
8. *Requests* that the international community agree to implement prompt accountability treaties to prevent and reduce overfishing by:

- a. Taking into consideration revisions and updating the United Nations 2016 *Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (PSMA);
 - b. Endorsing the efforts of the General Assembly resolution 75/89, “Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement 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, and related instruments,” regarding the adoption of the 2020 sustainable fisheries in relation to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;
9. *Calls for* the expansion of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) marine programs to diversify existing frameworks to generate positive economic, social, and environmental developments by:
 - a. Expanding programs such as Supporting Small-Scale Fisheries (SFP), Sustainable Fish Value Chains for Small Island Developing States (SVC4SIDS), and Smart Aquaculture Biosecurity (SAB) to include other developing nations to further expand the development, innovation, and fishing segments by collaborating with fishing communities and stakeholders;
 - b. Establishing a participatory process in which Member States work with international experts to upgrade strategy and management in the public and private sectors;
10. *Supports* the revival and protection of reefs as a part of its role in protecting fish populations by:
 - a. Reusing materials to act as a frame for coral to grow on, such as discarded bed frames;
 - b. Recommending the implementation of Marine Protected Areas over these reefs as well as mangrove forests to serve as a nursery habitat with eventual spillover populations;
 - c. Working with local coastal communities for the implementation of the aforementioned subclauses;
11. *Reminds* all Member States of the Conduct of Responsible Fishing (CRF) regarding the unsustainable industrial scale fishing practices by certain Member States in or close to the exclusive economic zone of other Member States through:
 - a. Prohibiting illegal fishing activities as stated in point 8.1.1 of the CRF, by fishing boats sailing under the flag of a foreign nation in the exclusive economic zone of another Member State;
 - b. Reiterating the ecologically and economically negative impact of unsustainable fishing activities by foreign nations close to the exclusive economic zones of other Member States;
12. *Further invites* increasing the investment in marine research and conservation to support the sustainable use of marine resources by:

- a. Encouraging national governments to provide funding for initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable fishing practices and enforcing regulations;
 - b. Inviting organizations such as FAO and UNEP to provide financial support in the promotion of sustainable fishing practices;
 - c. Emphasizing the key role of non-governmental organizations such as the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and the World Wildlife Fund, which advocate for sustainable fishing practices and enforcing regulations;
13. *Emphasizing* the need to provide safe, sustainable drinking water for countries with less capacity to achieve this by:
 - a. Developing water treatment plants that produce clean drinking water;
 - b. Encouraging Member States and cargo ship companies to volunteer cargo fleets to UNEP to deliver fresh and clean water to countries in need;
14. Requests a biennial report by the UNEP Executive Director in collaboration with Member States in which:
 - a. Information in regard to endangered species in order to better preserve them and give them a chance to regenerate themselves naturally is provided;
 - b. Information is provided on the effectiveness of decommissioning programs for fishing vessels is holistically assessed through various aspects including but not limited to economic impact, social impact, and the number of decommissioned vessels;
15. *Recommends* that Member States promote the collection of data on fish species to track key data on seafood products that could include how the product is caught, which species are caught, logging the caught product, and the methods of capture;
16. *Draws attention to* harmful effects of sewage pollution on our oceans and human health, and plans to:
 - a. Recognize the impact sewage drains in highly populated areas tend to contribute to the contamination of bodies of water, life underwater, and health on land by emphasizing building upon Waste Containment Initiatives;
 - b. Acknowledge the need for Radioactive Waste Management systems to purify resource water, methods include Sample collection for chemical treatment and filtration systems for decontamination/purification of waste water;
 - c. Highlight constructed wetland technology for wastewater treatment due to the high buffer capacity for hydraulic and organic load fluctuations to regulate ammonia nitrogen concentrations and secondary treatment for blackwater, greywater, and stormwater;
17. *Encourages* Member States with the capacity to develop and implement policies and strategies to promote the sustainable production and use of biofuels that will contribute to lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to decrease ocean pollution and acidification, considering environmental, social, and economic considerations by:
 - a. Investing in biomass conversion infrastructures to help transition out of fossil energy,

and in hopes to prevent future oil spills;

- b. Requesting expertise from the Global Bioenergy Partnership, Enertech, and the Global Environment Education Partnership to help aid in the transition to cost-effective biomass and biofuel deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent;
 - c. Recommending the establishment of regulatory guidelines to support the transport of biofuels, including the development of standards for biofuel quality, safety, and environmental performance;
 - d. Building upon the International Energy Agency Biofuel report to continue to set the standards for biofuel policies and alleviate agricultural runoff that pollutes the oceans;
18. *Suggests* that fellow Member States organize the cross-regional cooperation frameworks of research initiatives and joint monitoring of pollution in the oceans and seas to:
- a. Aid developing countries that suffer from water pollution and aqua degradation annually to show recent results of the research on the publicly accessible and joint website and be updated by the Heads of Regional research that would consist of Sponsoring Member States;
 - b. Organize reporting on the solutions for further action to eliminate water pollution through the annual conference;
 - c. Request regional and international non-governmental agencies (NGOs) in cooperation with the Member States to ensure that developing countries would be provided with research assistance from Sponsor Member States' research institutes if needed;
19. *Recommends* the implementation and adherence to sustainable fishing practices by implementing actions such as consistent surveillance and enforcement of fishing limits and penalties for any illegal fishing activities;
20. *Requests* Member States with the capacity to invest in developing nations to transition to sustainable forms of energy such as hydroelectric to counter the rise of ocean acidification;
21. *Supports* the implementation of educational workshops for students and youth focusing on studying the marine environment to combat water pollution and achieve SDG 14 by:
- a. Implementing obligatory seminars and workshops into school curriculum within secondary schools and high educational institutions to build upon the Youth and Education Alliance Program;
 - b. Being organized through NGOs and local volunteers, as well as including the clean up of waters of local waterways from pollution;
 - c. Calling upon professionals who are already engaged in the marine industry, such as UNEP experts and researchers from high educational institutions that are focused on studying water pollution and marine biodiversity;
 - d. Forming an Advisory Board made by existing UNEP Research Advisories to oversee the seminars' curriculum and workshops by research institutes globally to spread universal awareness about water pollution;

- e. Expanding the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, which is managed by UNEP and the International Labor Organization to prepare the youth through workforce development programs such as seasonal internships and apprenticeships integrated with the institutional curriculum in hopes of the youth pursuing jobs in the marine industry from the partners involved in the seminars curriculum development;
22. *Further recommends* the expansion of the United Nations Ocean Conference to a conference that occurs biannually to:
- a. Bring in a speaker series from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to share their experiences and provide a vocal platform for finding solutions;
 - b. Include more scientific research in the conference to show the impact of climate change through scientific evidence;
 - c. Be overseen by the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has a goal of restoring life underwater;
 - d. Request that funding be provided through the Marine Preservation Association, which has had a successful history in funding environmental programs;
23. *Emphasizing* the necessity for safe, sustainable drinking water for Member States with less capacity of fresh and safe drinking water by:
- a. Urging the development of water treatment plants to produce clean drinking water;
 - b. Educating Member States with programs such as desalination programs to develop clean and sustainable water for its population;
24. *Endorses* sustainable fisheries by strengthening local fishing and tourism practices by:
- a. Increasing funding for the UNEP Blue Economy program which aims to strengthen local fishing economies and combat overfishing via encouraging increased funding from Member States, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations;
 - b. Educating local fisheries and communities on sustainable fishing practices encourages growth in the economy as a whole by recommending the expansion of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) which recognizes and promotes reliable fish farming practices through the collaboration of scientists, conservation groups and seafood producers, and retailers;
25. *Encourages* sustainable tourism in coastal and ocean regions for the purpose of enhancing aforementioned concerns, which are imperative to establish sustainable tourism in its coastal and marine zones through the creation of vital infrastructures and the promotion of eco-friendly tourism.



Code: UNEA/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations (1945) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Noting with deep concern the issue of excess nutrients on the coastline countries from socio-economic and agricultural activity,

Concerned by the projected 40% increase in the usage of chemical fertilizers by 2030 according to the World Economic Forum's *The Net-Zero Industry Tracker* report (2022),

Determined to help mitigate the harm that pollution does to marine life to ensure the preservation of coral reefs and our ocean, seeing as approximately 90% of the heat generated by rising emissions is absorbed by our ocean,

Acknowledging the need for an infrastructure of recycling and sanitation centers within developing countries, as 3 billion people lack access to controlled waste disposal facilities, according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Reaffirming the need to protect people and marine life from toxic chemicals in potable and non-potable water addressed in the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm convention agreements,

Noting with concern the significant environmental impact that military conflicts cause on sustainable water policies, such as access to economic, technological, and resources in the Black, Baltic, and Azov Sea region,

Paying tribute to the achievement of the 2023 UN Water Conference and other agendas regarding water resources and the use of water management in all regions around the world,

Distressed by the impact of unregulated, illegal fishing and resource exploitation has made to declining marine populations and increases in pollution to large bodies of water,

Having considered further the financial and technological constraints which have hindered efforts by developing countries to combat aquatic degradation,

Noting with deep concern that 26% of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water according to the *UN World Water Development Report 2023*,

Understanding the lack of adequate knowledge that people have of the negative health effects of the daily consumption of microplastics,

Expressing its grave concerns about the negative effects of climate change, which exacerbate the difficulties faced by Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) as stated in the General Assembly resolution 69/15 (2014), "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway",

Recognizing the challenges faced by SIDS in achieving SDG 14 (life below water),

Appreciating the efforts made by SIDS for their commitment to the *Barbados Programme of Action* (1994) and the *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation* (2005),

1. *Suggests* sending experts from marine science-focused institutions, such as the Nippon Foundation Fellowship Program and their host institutions, to research opportunities for Member States who need investments and infrastructure improvements by:
 - a. Repairing and maintaining existing infrastructure, building the necessary infrastructure for sanitation and recycling centers within countries without them;
 - b. Further developing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure;
 - c. Allocating water resources for countries in dire need;
 - d. Assigning the financial resources by the results of the initial research process;
 - e. Pushing for desalination research to reduce costs of the current processes and increase freshwater production;
2. *Encourages* Member States to implement national policies that reinforce conservation drainage practices at local, national, regional, and international levels by:
 - a. Implementing subsurface drainage that removes excess water from the root zone through an open drain or buried pipe drains;
 - b. Ensuring a year of ground cover to prevent periods of bare ground on farm fields, therefore, preventing nutrient loss into waterways;
 - c. Suggesting the use of plant buffers to prevent nutrient loss by absorbing and filtering out nutrients before it reaches bodies of water;
3. *Endorses* building recycling and sanitation centers within developing countries, with the encouragement of collaboration to work with the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank;
4. *Strongly advises* that Member States support the development of renewable energy sources in order to increase the preservation of marine life;
5. *Believes in* cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which provides assistance to Member States all throughout the world by facilitating dialogue and acts as a forum for advancing the wider adaptation and utilization of sustainable energy;
6. *Urges* cooperation between Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to begin diverting resources towards the construction of resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects, such as sea walls, porous asphalt/concrete, and levees;
7. *Calling for* the development of a joint plan for the furthering of SDG 14 in the Member States around the Black, Baltic, and Azov Sea region by:
 - a. Prioritizing measures to address the environmental impact of military conflicts in these areas by:
 - i. Prioritizing evaluating and achieving cooperation in minimizing the impacts of ocean acidification;

- ii. Ensuring the sustainable use and management of the economic capability in the Black, Baltic, and Azov Sea region and natural resources through implementing international law as reflected in the *United Nations Convention of the Law and Sea* (1982) (UNCLOS);
 - iii. Advising for the increase of scientific knowledge cooperation and research capability as indicated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission which stipulates guidelines on the transfer of marine technology;
 - iv. Endorsing efforts by regional nations and non-governmental organizations to mediate negotiations that allow for environmental cleanup and restoration of marine habitats damaged by conflicts like the Azov, Baltic, and Black Sea;
 - b. Engaging all parties in the region through dialogue in order to achieve a common agenda of preservation of cultural, economic, and sovereignty for the benefit of the region and the progress of the SDG 14 agenda;
8. *Encourages* Member States to take the necessary steps as laid out in SDG 14 to protect the world's oceans from overfishing by:
- a. Increasing Marine Protected Areas specifically in international waters by continuing the work of Part XII of the UNCLOS;
 - b. Suggesting Member States work with local and regional non-governmental organizations to:
 - i. Find and implement the most effective means of maintaining local deep-sea life similar to cooperation such as that seen in the EU Deep Sea Access Regulations;
 - ii. Establish educational platforms for informing local communities on the damage caused by overfishing;
 - c. Creating a traceability system in order to maintain end-to-end transparency with the goal of promoting sustainable fishing practices with the help of organizations such as Trace Register, Vericatch, and Wholechain to facilitate international collaboration;
 - d. Intensifying the enforcement of laws that protect aquatic life from unregulated overfishing and other environmentally damaging practices, particularly those relating to the illegal discarding of fishing equipment that can pose a serious threat to aquatic life;
 - e. Recommending that the fishing industry attempt to create fishing equipment that is unable to ensnare more fish after being improperly discarded;
 - f. Encouraging the upholding of regulations and laws even in times of conflict to allow for the continuation of international regulations on fishing and ocean activities to limiting of environmental damage;
9. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish an annual conference between SIDS, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Green Climate Fund, and other stakeholders to expand financial support to SIDS;
10. *Requests* the General Assembly consider reconvening the International Conference on Small Islands Developing States to assess progress and identify further actions that needed to be taken;

11. *Calls on* UNEP to prioritize resource allocation for Member States' specific environmental initiatives as necessary in order to:
 - a. Increase investments for developing countries to implement pre-existing environmental policies and/or Nationally Determined Contributions locally;
 - b. Improve transparency between contributors and investors and the Member States receiving the resources by requesting that donating Member States and other contributors voluntarily state the purpose of their contributions;
 - c. Inspire developing nations to establish and implement environmental policies without fear stemming from lack of support;
12. *Requests* collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund for further studies on the possibility of the debt-for-climate swaps scheme and its implementation with the objective of providing conditional forgivable financial loans to the SIDS by multilateral development banks, such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund, in exchange for SIDS' investments into their national climate resilience programme or as from the *Barbados Programme of Action* (1994) and the *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation* (2005);
13. *Recommends* increasing artificial intelligence and monitoring advancement on coral bleaching by:
 - a. Recognizing the General Peacebuilding Fund aiding in projects with \$63.4 million and further:
 - i. Urges the use of economic advantages to further new discoveries of image recognition software;
 - ii. Calls on Member States to increase the popularity of virtual worlds and administer it to educational facilities globally for the use of global crisis awareness;
 - b. Suggesting the use of photography developments underwater by:
 - i. Commending the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity raising just \$8 million in the last 14 days for young people eager for SEO tech development;
 - ii. Emphasizing improvements in VRTL, a pioneering VR production and underwater camera technology supported by the Division for Ocean Affairs, the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, and Oceanic Global;
14. *Emphasizing* the necessity for safe, sustainable drinking water for Member States with less capacity for fresh and safe drinking water by:
 - a. Urging the development of water treatment plants to produce clean drinking water;
 - b. Educating Member States with programs such as desalination programs to develop clean and sustainable water for the population;
15. *Endorses* the creation of a social media campaign to help educate citizens about the benefits of sustainable aquaculture by:
 - a. Encouraging the development of a hashtag called the *#ZeroWasteAquaculture* campaign to emphasize the importance of sustainable use of aquatic resources;

- b. Requesting collaboration with organizations such as the Waitt Foundation to help Member States implement this campaign to increase public awareness of this issue in efforts to reduce aquaculture waste;
 - c. Welcoming Member States to implement informational graphics on social media to inform citizens of the harmful effects of microplastics on the human body;
16. *Encourages* Member States to adopt environmentally friendly national policies that support the promotion of sustainable agricultural products with the United Nations Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to fund the transition away from damaging agricultural products like nitrogen and phosphate-based fertilizers, which contribute to ocean eutrophication.



Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Seeking the commitment of the international community to strengthen action in conserving and sustainably using our oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development as set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water),

Acknowledging that freshwaters such as rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and water aquifers are equally essential in preserving life below water as they encompass highly diverse ecosystem, are intrinsically connected to the ocean, and supports a wide variety of animals and plants,

Alarmed by the 5.25 trillion pieces of waste polluting the ocean according to National Geographic and affecting Caribbean seas,

Noting that 3 billion people rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods according to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General,

Concerned with current levels of pollution caused by ships at the end of their lives,

Deeply concerned by the overflow of single-use plastics and micro-packaging that end up in the oceans and negatively impact the environment and marine life,

Reaffirming the General Assembly resolution on “Sustainable Fisheries, Underscoring Threats of Sea-Level Rise, Loss of Marine Biodiversity, Marine Debris” of 2022,

Bearing in mind the commitment to creating sustainable policies to reduce the pollution that ends up in our water,

Gravely concerned that 73% of all litter on beaches is plastic and that 91% of plastic is not recycled,

Deeply concerned that no international convention to gather global data for the creation of a Global Marine Waste Reduction Framework currently exists,

Concerned with the 30% increase of acidification in the ocean,

Recalling developments made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that attribute issues such as ocean acidification and ocean warming to increased carbon emissions,

Recognizing the role businesses and the private sector has in the furthering of ocean pollution and the creation of more dead zones, whether by inappropriate dumping of pollutants or by using harmful packaging,

Reaffirming the provisions discussed in General Assembly resolution 75/89, “Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement 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, and related instruments” and its relation to all other annual resolutions created in correspondence to the Implementation of the Provisions of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) (UNCLOS),

Aware of Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS and regarding the implementation of conserving fisheries with respect to individual nations’ concerns,

Alarmed that nearly 80% of the world’s fisheries are already fully exploited, over-exploited, depleted, or in a state of collapse,

Acknowledging previously developed frameworks established to protect water, oceans, and ocean life such as the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (MARPOL) (1973) and more recent frameworks such as the *Water Action Agenda* (2023),

Fully alarmed that currently only 7.1% of the oceans are designated as marine protected areas,

Expressing concern over Member States inability or unwillingness to combat unregulated, unreported, and illegal fishing activities that are responsible for the loss of 11 to 26 million tons of fish every year,

Fully aware that three-quarters of the earth is covered by water and consequently the oceans are one of our most important ecosystems, and, because of that a sustainable administration must be ensured,

Taking into account the threat of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities to marine ecosystems,

Acknowledging the benefits of utilizing new technologies to improve the effectiveness of monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities,

Recognizing the *Ocean Plastic Charter* (2018) towards marine littering adopted by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the European Union,

Recognizing the need for sustainable solutions in a timely manner to ensure success for the next generation,

Reaffirming the commitment to rapidly reduce pollution in oceans and bodies of water as waste such as sewage and plastic are often deposited into marine waters,

Cognizant that the oceans contribute US \$1.5 trillion annually in value-added to the overall economy and around 58.5 million people are employed worldwide in primary fish production,

1. *Calls upon* the Member States to join the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in facilitating a conference that will discuss how freshwater systems such as rivers, lakes, water, aquifers, wetlands, and irrigation systems could be integrated to strengthen action for SDG 14;
2. *Encouraging* all Member States to conserve biodiversity and protect marine and coral ecosystems by:
 - a. Limiting human activity in a variety of areas in the ocean;
 - b. Reducing overfishing and destructive fishing;
 - c. Creating a sustainable source of seafood;

3. *Reminds* all Member States to follow and implement action plans that align with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) *Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025* by:
 - a. Creating a separate project called the Global Ocean Cleaning Initiative that aims to reduce already existing litter in the ocean and further:
 - i. Reduce the availability of single-use plastic;
 - ii. Eliminate the plastic already present in the ocean as a global effort to prevent humans and animals from suffering harm to their health from plastic in the ocean and thus in the food chain;
 - iii. Develop joint strategies to improve waste management in developing countries;
 - iv. Help of non-governmental organizations, raise society's awareness of the urgency of joint and voluntary waste collection actions;
 - b. Increasing awareness and education on marine conservation;
 - c. Supporting research and innovation in preventing marine pollution;
4. *Encourages* further development of a legally binding treaty focused on sustainable fisheries to bolster food security and the ocean economy which should include:
 - a. A collaborative effort from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and fishing communities to provide feasible outlined measures on catch limits, fishing gear restrictions, and the use of fishing methods that minimize degradation;
 - b. An outline for responsible consumption that aids consumers in choosing sustainably harvested goods;
 - c. Support between Member States with sustainable fisheries and those with unsustainable fisheries to provide guidance and educational resources;
5. *Encourages* Member States to allocate adequate funding towards the development of green infrastructure in their respective nations to drastically reduce carbon emissions by:
 - a. Requesting consideration from the World Bank to potentially provide low-interest loans to developing nations for the purpose of building up green infrastructure and transportation mechanisms that will directly decrease carbon emissions;
 - b. Creating a framework that every nation can implement to decarbonize their economies by 2050;
6. *Calls upon* Member States to implement strict regulations as well as fines for large corporations who participate in unsustainable practices that directly harm bodies of water, such as dumping waste into bodies of water and the use of toxic chemicals, to ensure that these practices are prohibited;
7. *Recommends* the creation of a global forum headed in collaboration with UNEP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:

- a. Facilitate data-sharing among Member States in hopes of tracking changes in global fish stocks and their relation to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices;
 - b. Gather data using a variety of electronic sensors, cameras, and other devices that can be installed on fishing vessels through the IUU Electronic Data and Monitoring System (IUUEDMS);
 - c. Establish science-based plans for the Committee on Fisheries;
 - d. Be accessible by all Member States and citizens;
 - e. Use as evidence of progress or failure for future action;
 - f. Be headed by UNEP and have a similar framework to UNEP Deposit Repository, but with specific emphasis on the relationship between global fish stocks and IUU fishing called the IUUEDMS;
 - g. Use programs and hands-on experiences to gather data in areas prone to IUU fishing;
8. *Supports* the creation of an ad-hoc committee to resolve issues concerning the implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS through:
- a. Addressing competing interests of the government and economy, economy and culture, or culture and government;
 - b. Fostering a non-compromising fashion (declares one point of view valid and the opposing invalid);
 - c. Allocating Member States to deliberate, with random selection, including five from African and Asian states, one from Eastern European states, two from Latin American states, two from Western European and other States;
 - d. Allowing the concern to be fully explained and discussed in a thematic manner with the committee and fellow Member States allowed discussing the concern openly;
 - e. Approval of a reasonable exemption for a set duration that satisfies the conflict between government and economy, economy and culture, or culture and government only if:
 - i. Six of the ten members of the ad-hoc committee agree with the exemption;
 - ii. The exemptions do not interfere with the Member State's strengthening of action of SDG 14;
9. *Supports* creating a framework that would ban single-use plastics by 2030 including a framework for both governmental policies and education initiatives;
10. *Recommends* the adoption by member states of sustainable ship recycling practices set out by the *Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships* (2009);

11. *Calls for* the integration of different stakeholders such as research institutions think tanks and NGOs to join efforts to develop a holistic data gathering tool to identify which are the entry points of plastic into the marine ecosystem also including satellite monitoring tools to identify the locations of major plastic flow in the ocean;
12. *Invites* all Member States to join the Ocean Plastic Charter based on a circular economy model of recovery, reuse, and recycling as well as including end-of-life management to prevent plastic waste before it can enter the ocean;
13. *Recommends* Member States consider the implementation of a program for businesses and the private sector of Member States that will offer various monetary incentives for businesses who choose to make their daily functions more environmentally friendly by curbing a percentage of harmful chemicals used or, dependent on the Member State, using environmentally friendly packaging;
14. *Supports* the implementation of a monetary reward program; in forms that are dependent on the Member State, for citizens, startups, corporations, etc. that collect a certain amount of plastic and trash and properly dispose of it;
15. *Encourages* research on the negative impacts of human activities on the oceans, sea, and marine resources along with figuring out solutions to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine biodiversity with solutions such as:
 - a. The establishment of Marine Protected Areas;
 - b. The improvement of sewerage systems and solid waste management;
 - c. Water reclamation and transplantation;
 - d. The re-plantation of corals as well as other endangered marine vegetation;
16. *Recommends* ending overfishing and unregulated fishing of endangered species through:
 - a. The adoption of closed fishing areas such as spawning and nursery areas;
 - b. Applying fishing quotas like setting specific Total Allowable Catches for commercial fish stock;
 - c. Regulating fishing gears such as searching for alternative solutions for driftnet fisheries;
17. *Authorizes* UNEP to gather global data and develop the Global Marine Waste Reduction Framework to create a global standard for reducing all types of marine waste and present it in the upcoming UNEA-6 as a thematic discussion;
18. *Advises* Member States to adopt or develop ecosystem-based fisheries management in order to ensure a sustainable food source for the Member States, sustain fishing populations and mitigate overfishing;
19. *Proposes* to improve coastal infrastructures by regulating coastal development;

20. *Encourages* increased cooperation between regions in monitoring and deploying local and international operations to combat poaching;
21. *Condemns* unregulated fishing and Member States' inadvertent or blatant enabling of unregulated fishing;
22. *Calls upon* Member States to increase the oversight of their waters in hopes of combating unregulated fishing in local waters through the implementation of closed fishing areas, applying fishing quotas, and regulating fishing gears;
23. *Proposes* an international educational action to educate students about the urgency of protecting the oceans from plastic pollution by:
 - a. Introducing an action day in schools called "Children's Oceans Day" which is based on "World Ocean Day" and specifically designed to make students aware of the issue of "plastic pollution" through theoretical and practical work by working out causes, manifestations, and solutions;
 - b. Promoting cooperation between schools and local NGOs to create more actions and inform students about the importance of NGOs;
 - c. Offeromg actions organized by schools in which students actively participate in protecting and cleaning up the oceans on a voluntary basis;
24. *Endorses* the expansion of protected areas and believes in the protection of marine life not only for ecosystems but the Member States' pride and appreciation as well;
25. *Encourages* national recognition of certain areas and educating the public on the necessities of marine life and how pollution and overfishing could impact many populations;
26. *Invites* schools to form clubs or campaigns to better equip and educate the next generation as well as include such topics in subjects and other lessons;
27. *Endorses* a new electronic monitoring system that will:
 - a. Create a variety of electronic sensors, cameras, and other devices that can be installed on fishing vessels to collect data on fishing activities;
 - b. Improve the effectiveness of state control and assisting the Member States in obtaining precise information in order to reduce illicit, unregulated, and unreported fishing and to better manage fishing in real-time;
28. *Requests* for the allocation of resources from the UNEP's Global Earmarked Funds for the purposes of funding initiatives such as:
 - a. IUU Electronic Data and Monitoring System (IUUEDMS);
 - b. Educational Programs;
 - c. Developing the Global Marine Waste Reduction Framework;
 - d. Creation of the Global Ocean Cleaning Initiative.



Code: UNEA/17

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Strengthening Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The United Nations Environmental Assembly,

Disturbed by the lack of sustainable and accountable laws to protect marine life in all its aspects from further devastation in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (life below water),

Alarmed by the 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic waste that are estimated to be in our oceans, where over 15% lands on our beaches and kills more than 100,000 marine mammals, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

Noting with deep concern that according to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) only 9% of plastics are recycled,

Underlining United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14, “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, which calls for the creation of an international instrument to tackle microplastic pollution effectively,

Recognizing that there is a lack of connection between SDG 14 and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) concerning how freshwater flows into ocean environments,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/248, “Ocean and the Law of the Sea”, which expresses concerns about eutrophication – a process by which nutrient runoff from agricultural industries collect in water bodies, causing algal blooms and hypoxia areas – and recognizing with concern that up to 40% of waterways are contaminated with fertilizer runoff,

Acknowledging the willingness of great economic states to supply monetary resources to fund waste management and pollution programs that developing countries are more vulnerable to,

Fully alarmed by the lack of accountability when pledging to global funds, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

Taking into account the General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” for people, planet, and prosperity,

Concerned by Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) ability to establish sustainable energy to protect its species from going extinct,

Taking note that not all the Member States have the ability to achieve the SDGs due to various socioeconomic and geo-political crises,

Looking forward to equipping the youth with skills and knowledge on pressing ocean issues relying on the resources stated in SDG indicator 14.a,

1. *Urges* remaining Members States to sign the *Paris Agreement* (2015) and the *Lisbon Declaration* (2022) to address the importance of social, economic, and environmental inspections systems and further:
 - a. Establish the principles that govern the environmental policy and the basic norms for the regulation of the administration of the environment;

- b. Encourage Member States to build the capacity to enforce these laws by applying accountability measures to prevent environmentally destructive activities;
 - c. Require the installment of recycling systems in plastic plants in order to recycle all waste from production in a sustainable way;
 - d. Follow incentives that support local businesses that choose to either move away from single-use plastics or add a recyclable option in their place of business;
2. *Emphasizes* the need for fellow Member States that have the capacity to establish Zero Waste Projects by:
 - a. Focusing on single-use plastic and marine litter as the one already established in fellow Member States, which dispenses Zero Waste Systems to hospitals, universities, marinas, hotels, municipalities, and essential infrastructure;
 - b. Amplifying projects such as the Plastic Flamingo's initiative to collect and transform plastics into sustainable construction such as schools and community centers;
3. *Suggests* the expansion of the Eco-Rewards Plastic Recycling Pilot, which allows citizens to receive incentives through government subsidies for every 10 kilograms of plastic turned in;
4. *Encourages* the international community to build on prior resolutions and instruments to strengthen global action to remove microplastics and other pollutants from waterways and oceans;
5. *Recommends* a review of SDG target 14.1 to establish a connection between it and SDG target 6.6, regarding protecting freshwater-related ecosystems;
6. *Strongly encourages* all Member States to combat eutrophication by preventing and reversing nutrient pollution by:
 - a. Optimizing nutrient use through:
 - i. Strategic choices of cultivation periods;
 - ii. Adjustments of nutrient quantities to real needs;
 - iii. The recycling of agricultural residues into new fertilization products;
 - iv. Limitation of the amount of nitrogen allowed in fertilizers;
 - v. Creation of instruction labels on fertilizers that warns of the dangers and run-off and misuse;
 - b. Stimulating the use of manure, an organic fertilizer, through local partnerships between crop and livestock farmers;
 - c. Supporting the planting of vegetative buffers strips, which absorb nutrient runoffs, therefore preventing their accumulation in water bodies downstream;
 - d. Allocating national and regional funds and resources towards the education of farmers to promote the usage of less resource-intensive farming techniques, such as no-till farming, agroforestry, permaculture design, and soil building;
 - e. Encouraging further research on the eradication of global dead zones related to eutrophication, in which there is no healthy marine life;

7. *Directs* UNEP to make reformation of treaties supporting coastal Member States and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to achieve the SDGs;
8. *Requests* the creation of an accountability board for the UNEP Environment Fund to:
 - a. Ensure the funds pledged are being paid to UNEP within a reasonable time;
 - b. Ensure funds are accessible and sufficient;
 - c. Ensure more transparency of where and for which projects earmarked funds are being allocated and that funds are used for capacity building and sustainable development, especially in developing nations, for the mitigation of ocean pollution, including chemicals and plastics, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
9. *Urges the* implementation of measures to prevent the extinction of marine species which are threatened by the consequences of non-renewable energy by:
 - a. Directing the UNEP Environment Fund to support the improvement of funding systems that support developing states who are financially incapable of recovering from the consequences of the climate crisis as floods and coral reef bleaching;
 - b. Maximizing the use of renewable energy to help reduce global warming by encouraging Member States to financially support coastal marine communities in shifting away from fossil fuels to solar or hydroelectric energy;
 - c. Creating public policies or laws that dictate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that can be used;
10. *Proposes* to raise awareness on how marine pollution negatively affects multiple water bodies by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to support the development of interactive workshops to educate industries and marine sectors on the importance of ocean conservation;
 - b. Implementing, in current school curriculums, governmental and educational programs tackling plastic waste, eutrophication, and the protection of freshwater-related ecosystems through interactive exercises and short instructional video clips;
11. *Expresses its conviction* to strengthening action to achieve SDG 14.