

# NMUN•NY 2018

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25 – 29 MARCH 2018

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment  
Assembly (UNEA)



## Conference B

## Committee Name (UNEA)

### Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Maxwell Lacey
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Jasym Mireles Venegas
<b>Chair</b>	Anisa Ricci
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Raneem Soliman

### Agenda

- I. The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life
- II. Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development
- III. Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems in Urban Areas

### Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEA/1/1	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	132 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 7 abstentions
UNEA/1/2	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	130 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 8 abstentions
UNEA/1/3	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	137 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 3 abstentions
UNEA/1/4	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/5	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/6	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	139 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 3 abstentions
UNEA/1/7	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	133 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 9 abstentions
UNEA/1/8	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/9	The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life	125 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 14 abstentions

## Summary Report

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

- I. Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems in Urban Areas
- II. Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development
- III. The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

The session was attended by representatives of 142 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda in the order III, II, I, initiating session with discussion on the topic of “The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life.” On Monday, delegates began discussing the selected topic by forming 18 working blocs, each composed of multiple Member States. As the evening progressed, multiple delegates from different blocs took the initiative to collaborate with one another in order to bring their ideas together to form stronger, unified working papers. By the end of the day, the atmosphere in the committee was increasingly positive as delegates remained determined to produce inclusive work that was reflective of the values of the United Nations. By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 11 working papers covering a wide range of subtopics, ranging from improving the response to emergency oil spills, to the development of the blue economy, to the proper allocation of resources to reduce marine pollution. After receiving two rounds of edits by the end of Tuesday, the number of papers on the floor was reduced to nine, demonstrating once again the spirit of cooperation and inclusivity of UNEA.

On Wednesday, nine draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which contained amendments. The committee adopted nine resolutions following voting procedure, three of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including sustainable waste management, the reduction of the usage of single-use plastics, and the alleviation of hypoxic dead zones. Overall, the work produced throughout this week reflected the creativity, determination, and ambition that UNEA delegates possess.



**Code:** UNEA/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Environmental Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environmental Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Reiterating* Part VII of the *United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea* (1982), which declares “Member  
4 States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment” through measures that prevent, reduce,  
5 and control pollution in the oceans,  
6  
7 *Recalling* that coastal Member States rely upon tourism to support their economies, which is negatively impacted by  
8 the destruction of coral reefs, which are home to countless marine species,  
9  
10 *Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 14, which encourages Member States to promote “efforts to conserve and  
11 sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development,”  
12  
13 *Remembering* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/11 (2016), which emphasizes that the prevention  
14 and environmentally sound management of waste is key to the long-term success of combating marine pollution,  
15  
16 *Re-emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 69/245 (2014), and its role in expanding the contributions made by  
17 Member States towards marine scientific research,  
18  
19 *Recalling* that UNEA resolution 3/20 (2017) emphasizes that it is essential to ensure waste management and  
20 minimizing marine litter to ensure clean living environments for both humans and animals,  
21  
22 *Recognizing* the effectiveness of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating cross-sectoral approaches to waste  
23 water management that engage the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and multilateral  
24 institutions while working with all levels of government,  
25  
26 *Deeply impressed* by the success of the Mediterranean Trust Fund in creating a regional, multilateral effort in  
27 funding projects that protect and conserve marine life in the Mediterranean and their implementation of marine  
28 protected areas,  
29  
30 *Recalling* the World Wildlife Fund’s report, *Financing Marine Conservation*, which highlights different ways local  
31 industries, such as tourism, can contribute to marine preservation and conservation,  
32  
33 *Congratulating* the work done by Sandwatch, a global observatory based on citizen science that analyzes the  
34 changing environments of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in aiding with the study and assessment of the  
35 marine environment in under-resourced areas,  
36  
37 *Alarmed* by Chapter Three of the World Bank’s Urban Development Series Knowledge Papers, which states that the  
38 world’s municipal waste generation is expected to rise to 2.2 billion tons annually by 2025,  
39  
40 *Emphasizing* the sentiments expressed in Section 6.6 of the Framework Document of the Global Partnership on  
41 Waste Management (GPWM), specifically the need for an established central trust fund for the GPWM in order to  
42 assist Member States in achieving sustainable solid waste management and creating transparency on the local,  
43 national, and international level,  
44  
45 *Aware of the fact* that, according to the *Shanghai Manual: A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st*  
46 *Century*, Least Developed Countries (LDC) and SIDS suffer from a financial deficit and are unable to implement  
47 sustainable waste management strategies due to the high costs of such programs,  
48

- 49 1. *Recommends* that The Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM) establish a central trust fund,  
50 entitled the *Blue Water Cooperation Fund (BWCF)*, to be overseen by the GPWM steering committee, in order  
51 to:  
52
- 53 a. Provide Member States and communities with the planning assistance necessary to create sustainable  
54 waste management programs;
  - 55
  - 56 b. Analyze impacts and collect data on the effectiveness of projects funded through BWCF grants;
  - 57
  - 58 c. Promote private contributions and welcome Member States, NGOs, and other stakeholders to invest in  
59 the BWCF to further environmental investment partnerships with important stakeholders;
  - 60
- 61 2. *Encourages* that those who receive funds and planning assistance create an annual report to submit to the  
62 steering committee of the GPWM detailing the progress and implementation of projects in order to ensure  
63 accountability for the use of funds;  
64
- 65 3. *Calls* upon the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and expand the World Ocean Assessment,  
66 in order to collect data on the individual status of Member States and the ecological and biological benefits of  
67 their marine species so as to assess the necessary types of funding developing Member States need in order to  
68 integrate low-cost efficient solutions into waste management solutions, including:  
69
- 70 a. Assessing the current situation of marine ecosystems within each Member State, by referring back to  
71 the World Ocean Assessment which outlines the diversity of issues each region faces due to the  
72 multitude of factors that contribute to marine pollution;
  - 73
  - 74 b. Analyzing the different types of pollution,
  - 75
  - 76 c. Researching the legal, administrative, social and political costs of these projects within each Member  
77 State and providing recommendations for the appropriate financing methods, highlighting the fact that  
78 each case is unique;
  - 79
- 80 4. *Asks* Member States to create a marine zoning plan, in order to be able to determine which actors are engaged  
81 within a given coastal area and better manage the use of those ecosystems by:  
82
- 83 a. Holistically understanding coastal use;
  - 84
  - 85 b. Outlining the location of marine zones, respecting the sovereign rights and decision-making processes  
86 of each Member State;
  - 87
  - 88 c. Utilizing Green List Standards to measure and target the areas most impacted by marine pollution and  
89 fund them;
  - 90
- 91 5. *Encourages* Member States to increase national contributions to sustainable projects, including:  
92
- 93 a. Transforming current plastic waste, including lost fishing nets in global waters, into reusable  
94 resources;
  - 95
  - 96 b. Providing fiscal benefits to civilians and companies who transform their agriculture into more global,  
97 greener opportunities;
  - 98
  - 99 c. Providing financial assistance to small businesses whose mission is to restore oceans, mitigate climate  
100 change, and create jobs in the field of sustainable development;
  - 101
- 102 6. *Recognizes* the need for increased funding and resource allocation to provide support for those Member States  
103 which are affected most by marine pollution, with a particular emphasis on those in the South-East Asian  
104 region;

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106 7. *Suggests* multinational corporations assist Member States in providing financial incentives for waste  
107 management conservation;

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109 8. *Encourages* Member States to utilize domestic tourism industries as ways to fund projects for preserving marine  
110 life.



**Code:** UNEA/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 *Concerned* with the detrimental effects that oil spills have on ecosystems and on international trophic levels,

4  
5 *Observing* that our bodies of water are an essential part to the Earth's atmospheric processes and are currently at risk  
6 of oil spill pollution,

7  
8 *Taking into account* the first response efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
9 and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) with regard to oil spill disasters,

10  
11 *Considering* that Art. 1 (4) of the *Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) defines contamination of the marine  
12 environment as the introduction by humans, directly or indirectly, of foreign substances into the marine  
13 environment,

14  
15 *Referring to The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* adopted in 2001 by the United  
16 Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the prevention of damage to submerged  
17 heritage,

18  
19 *Approving* of the impressive innovations made towards new techniques, approaches, and materials used to improve  
20 the responsible cleanup of oil spills,

21  
22 *Noting with deep concern* that there are damaging methodologies being used for cleaning up oil spills such as on site  
23 burning, dispersants, and chemical detergents,

24  
25 *Acknowledging* that there is insufficient data to provide reliable assessments of the state of marine ecosystems to  
26 respond to oil spills in the oceans accordingly,

27  
28 *Encouraging* Member States to delegate responsibilities among all global, regional, national and  
29 provincial stakeholders involved in the process of cleaning bodies of water,

30  
31 *Keeping in mind* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which details sustainable management and the protection  
32 of marine and coastal ecosystems, to avoid second-hand impacts on biodiversity such as coral bleaching, reduction  
33 of marine plants growth and an increasingly loss of marine mammals,

- 34  
35 1. *Calls upon* the international community to establish an international action plan focusing on sustainable  
36 response, recovery and reconstruction that uses the guidelines proposed by the Third United Nations  
37 Environmental Assembly (UNEA) on marine and soil pollution, specifically those regarding oil spill response  
38 in bodies of water;
- 39  
40 2. *Recognizes* the role and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the process of sustainable response to oil  
41 disasters and recommends a focus on the cooperation and sharing of resources among the different Member  
42 States at an international level;
- 43  
44 3. *Encourages* the use of critical types of benchmark data for oil spill response, as stated by The National  
45 Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, to gather information in an official standardized document  
46 such as date and time of the incident, position of vessel or platform, nature of the incident, ecosystems affected  
47 and weather and sea conditions;
- 48

- 49 4. *Expresses its appreciation* of the usage of technologies for the previously mentioned database, in accordance  
50 with the Member States capacities and needs, these technologies can include:  
51  
52 a. Measurements of spatial and temporal distributions;  
53  
54 b. Rates of change of marine species populations;  
55  
56 c. Measurements of ice thickness and cover that include meteorological-ocean-ice model systems;  
57  
58 d. Reports of the subsistence use of marine resources regarding fishing, hunting, and cultural activities;  
59  
60 e. High-resolution coastal topography, navigation satellite system, and oil spill monitoring tracer buoys;  
61
- 62 5. *Recommends* that decision processes, such as the Net Environmental Benefits Analysis (NEBA), be used to  
63 achieve the best course of action necessary to reduce environmental impacts of an oil spill with the use of  
64 regulators, resource managers, and scientific experts, to control the release and spread of spills to minimize  
65 damage to ecosystems;  
66
- 67 6. *Invites* further cooperation between OCHA, UNDAC, and Member States to set up On-Sites Operations  
68 Coordination Centres (OSOCC) within 12 to 48 hours after an oil spill to provide an efficient link between  
69 international responders and the Member State(s) affected by the oil spill;  
70
- 71 7. *Suggests* the implementation and systematic usage of eco-responsible clean-up technologies which bring  
72 extracted oil to the shore for resilient management, in accordance with the report, *Towards a Pollution-Free*  
73 *Planet*, and the capabilities of the respective Member States such as but not limited to:  
74  
75 a. Artificial Intelligence robots that separate oil from water by navigating through waters;  
76  
77 b. Skimming techniques that require boats and skimmers to remove oil sitting on the surface;  
78  
79 c. Nano-fibrillated Cellulose Fibers to soak up oil, leaving clean water behind;  
80  
81 d. Sponge mats, made of gathered human or animal hair that naturally absorbs oil from water;  
82
- 83 8. *Discourages* as much as possible, in accordance with the needs and resources of the respective Member States,  
84 the usage of environmentally damaging oil removal techniques such as:  
85  
86 a. On site burning, that emits chemicals including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide among other harmful  
87 hydrocarbons affecting air quality;  
88  
89 b. The release of chemical dispersants directly into the spill, that often mix with the water and affect the  
90 biodiversity of the ecosystems;  
91  
92 c. The usage of hot water to separate the layer of oil, dispersing it around shores and ecosystems without  
93 its extraction;  
94
- 95 9. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to promote sustainable post oil recovery clean-up efforts from bodies of  
96 water by using different types of oil classification to be able to distinguish whether to convert oil into reusable  
97 plastic components, transform oil into pavement, or use bioremediation to breakdown oil, a process that is  
98 chemically degrading polymers utilizing microorganisms;  
99
- 100 10. *Emphasizes* collaboration with marine biologists and oceanographers to tackle the rehabilitation of regionally  
101 specific marine ecology that follows the work of:  
102  
103 a. Oiled Wildlife Care Networks that train care providers, agencies, and academic institutions to rescue  
104 and rehabilitate oiled wildlife;



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- b. The National Marine Life Center that also works to revitalize marine ecology by saving, curing, and releasing marine animals such as sea turtles, dolphins, and seals;
  - c. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that worked with the Unified Command Wildlife Branch on readapting marine mammals after oil spill disasters;
11. *Fully supports* collaboration between Member States, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and civil societies specialized in oil clean-ups, such as the Living Oceans Organization, to ensure the full recovery of an aquatic ecosystem after an oil disaster by:
- a. Making sure that coral reefs are not at risk of coral bleaching or that they undergo affected growth, reproduction or behavior;
  - b. Verifying that the coastlines are not affected by thick layers of oil that may cover animals, plants, rocks or any part of the ecosystems;
  - c. Ensuring that the ocean oxygen level is stabilized and respects the minimal criteria of quality in order to balance the ocean temperature;
12. *Calls attention* to current laws and policies regarding timeline and judgement processes for oil spills to suggest unified international protocols and recommendations such as, but not restricted to:
- a. Providing an unified legislative system permitting requests for oil spill assistance in international waters;
  - b. Coordinating, with relevant agencies, companies and Member States, the elaboration and legislation of given responsibilities to each actor involved in an oil spill to reduce further damage in collective bodies of water;
  - c. Reconstructing and identifying aspects of international and national legislations that could facilitate an efficient response, an accelerated recovery and a resilient reconstruction of marine life.



**Code:** UNEA/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Recognizing* the sovereignty of all Member States as stated in Article 2 (1) of the *Charter of the United Nations*  
4 (1945),  
5  
6 *Noting* the *London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other*  
7 *Matter* (1972) which states the harmful effects of illegal dumping of toxic waste on marine environments,  
8  
9 *Acknowledging* that litter threatens marine life through entanglement and suffocation as mentioned  
10 in The UN Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-  
11 Based Activities (1995),  
12  
13 *Bearing in mind* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17, as adopted in General  
14 Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015),  
15  
16 *Aware of* the fact that debris in the oceans is harmful to marine life and global populations, and highlighting the  
17 importance of measures and regulations necessary to approach sustainable development goals,  
18  
19 *Concerned* with the practices of burning waste and fossil fuels as a form of disposal and energy, which release  
20 pollutants into the atmosphere and subsequently into bodies of water in the form of acid rain,  
21  
22 *Deeply concerned* by the dangers brought forward by the lack of management of pollutants within inland water  
23 sources, and consequently the impact of these on marine life,  
24  
25 *Cognizant* of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of 2016, which provides support to  
26 sustainable development, including advances on transparency, public participation, and accountability,  
27  
28 *Acknowledging* and upholding the *United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea* (1982) and its efforts regarding  
29 interaction maritime shipping laws,  
30  
31 *Emphasizing* the *International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation* (1990) and  
32 its focus on the importance of oil spill combating exercises in preparing countries for this level of oil clean up,  
33  
34 *Re-emphasizing* the necessity of global partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve  
35 aquaculture health and stability within Member States through land activities,  
36  
37 *Recognizes* the damage done to marine ecosystems in rivers, lakes, oceans and other various bodies of water due to  
38 both agricultural and chemical runoff, and emphasizes the impact that urban ecosystems and other green initiatives  
39 will have on waste management,  
40  
41 *Guided* by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and  
42 its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (ICO-UNESCO) that establishes programs to promote marine  
43 research, which ensures better management of the oceans and large aquatic streams,  
44  
45 *Aware* of the urgent need to take action to reduce the human impact on marine environment by industries,  
46  
47 *Realizing* the severe negative impact that single use items such as plastic cutlery and disposable water bottles have  
48 on the condition of our bodies of water and the life found within them,  
49

50 *Recognizing* barriers along coastal areas and land infrastructures that promote prevention of ecological degradation  
51 due to natural disasters pertaining to and affecting marine life,  
52  
53 *Underlining* the importance of investing in innovative environmental solutions through social and educational  
54 programs such as the Clean Seas Campaign, which aims to reduce marine litter and to increase global awareness,  
55 and partnerships such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), which gathers governments, NGOs and  
56 civil groups to address the issue of land-sourced marine litter,  
57  
58 *Taking into account* section 65 of the *New Urban Agenda* (2016), endorsed by General Assembly resolution 71/256,  
59 which commits to facilitating sustainable management of natural resources in cities and human settlements to protect  
60 and improve urban ecosystems and environmental services,  
61  
62 *Calling attention* to the fact that natural disasters lead to excessive amounts of waste debris into the oceans,  
63  
64 *Bearing in mind* that data sharing may be hindered by inadequate observation facilities, especially in areas where  
65 there is a lack of information sharing capacity,  
66  
67 *Recognizing* the success of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) in identifying the  
68 correlation between access to economic resources and environmental reparations and the importance of prioritizing  
69 their significance to appropriately allocate resources,  
70  
71 *Noting* in addition the success of action plans by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) such as the  
72 *Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Marine and Coastal Environments* (1985)  
73 and the *Mediterranean Sea Action Plan* (MAP) (1975),  
74  
75 1. *Encourages* Member States to increase their recycling efforts, as recycling poses a sustainable solution to waste  
76 management, by:  
77  
78 a. Improving the process of collecting and processing materials and repurposing them as reusable  
79 products among consumers;  
80  
81 b. Cooperating with local civil society organizations and NGOs to increase the presence and the  
82 effectiveness of plastic recovery facilities located in relevant Member States;  
83  
84 c. Implementing and providing conferences that allow Member States to collaborate on topics related to  
85 reducing, recycling and reusing, as well as sharing ideas and knowledge to increase the understanding  
86 of the impact of pollution on marine life;  
87  
88 2. *Encourages* Member States to expand preservation efforts relating to marine life through the promotion of  
89 planning tools, such as barriers along coasts to ensure that regions located near bodies of water are protected  
90 from natural as well as man-made ecological damage;  
91  
92 3. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Programme to collaborate with all able and willing Member  
93 States to create and improve existing recover facilities to sort, clean and process recyclables to create materials  
94 that can be used in the manufacturing of sustainable goods;  
95  
96 4. *Encourages* the cooperation of relevant agencies for the purpose of creating wastewater treatment projects,  
97 especially in regards to irrigation, in order to prevent untreated water from going directly into water supplies;  
98  
99 5. *Supports* the expansion of UNEP's development of the Reducing Dependence on POPs and Other Agro-  
100 chemicals Project, which aids in eliminating water pollution beyond the Niger and Senegal rivers by removing  
101 pesticides in agriculture and by developing water sanitation guidelines;  
102  
103 6. *Encourages* Member States' national governments to work toward creating more cohesive  
104 legal frameworks, policies, and environmental regulations to reduce point pollution on waste disposal into water  
105 sources such as rivers, lakes, streams and oceans in order to prevent further damage to marine ecosystems;

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7. *Invites* UN-Oceans to further establish their information sharing practices with Member States in order to provide better means to manage industrial waste for the purpose of preventing illegal dumping of waste directly or indirectly into oceans and other large bodies of water;
  8. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to incorporate environmentally friendly systems that will help remove debris from our oceans, such as regional variation of UNEP's North Sea prototype;
  9. *Further invites* all able and willing Member States to work in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in order to implement pollution preparedness and response integrated system plans into their national policies for the purpose of preparation for pollution-related disasters, such as but not limited to oil spills, in order to halt their effects on marine ecosystems;
  10. *Supports* actions that could be taken by NGOs which will allow collective collaboration between all different Member States regionally and internationally to seek to harmonize forest and aquatic policy and ecosystem management to decrease illegal dumping practices of commercial business industries and promote strengthened wildlife preservation;
  11. *Encourages* the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), under the jurisdiction of UNESCO, to expand its information sharing practices in order to collect data on all relevant bodies of water, especially in landlocked Member States, in order to allow all Member States to have access to the data collected in regard to marine pollution;
  12. *Recommends* establishing an international group composed of Member State volunteers that would investigate water quality and usage of potential urban ecosystem developments in accordance to the *New Urban Agenda* (2016);
  13. *Encourages* all Member States to consider their own green initiatives in relation to their developmental status and economic ability, and to accept where possible, the suggestions of the above group;
  14. *Calls upon* UNEP to create a Toolkit for Member States on infrastructure that will provide better information for preparedness for natural disasters to mitigate effects of marine pollution and waste debris in bodies of water by:
    - a. Designing policy strategies and standards to construct infrastructure;
    - b. Monitoring pollution levels in all relevant bodies of water during all stages of natural disasters and accounting for vulnerabilities;
    - c. Encouraging Member States to increase their efforts in sharing technology, data, and strategies that might help nations, especially less developed nations, to reduce water bound debris resulting from natural disasters;
  15. *Recommends* the expansion of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) in more Member States to assist in determining internal financial allocation to reduce marine degradation for purposes such as, but not limited to:
    - a. Assisting Member States in adopting and implementing marine pollution prevention strategies that are relevant to their own prospective policies;
    - b. Compiling a body that gathers the collective experience of various Members States in marine clean-up for the purpose of information sharing towards best practices to establish international consensus;
    - c. Developing appropriate regional approaches to ecosystem and aquatic accounting methodology.



**Code:** UNEA/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 71/312 (2016), which calls for the achievement of Sustainable  
4 Development Goal (SDG) 14 via targeting the sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources while  
5 simultaneously establishing and strengthening transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships,

6  
7 *Aware of* the importance of the sustainable management of natural capital as expressed in United Nations  
8 Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/13 (2016), which in turn includes preventing the spread of pollutants  
9 and hazardous materials to oceanic environment and marine ecosystems,

10  
11 *Acknowledging* the detrimental effects associated with the breakdown of macro and micro-plastics within marine  
12 ecosystems, including the endangerment of marine species due to the ingestion of plastic fragments, as stated in  
13 UNEA resolution 2/11 (2016),

14  
15 *Recalling* the UNEA resolution 2/7 (2016) and expressing deep concern with the significant risks to human health  
16 and the environment that arise from chemical waste mismanagement,

17  
18 *Taking into consideration* UNEA resolution 2/5, “Delivering of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”  
19 (2016), which supports international organizations, conferences, and non-governmental organizations, among other  
20 relevant actors and stakeholders, currently participating in multilateral cooperation to achieve the SDGs, particularly  
21 SDG 14,

22  
23 *Appreciating* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Economics and Trade Branch (ETB)  
24 in enhancing the capacity of governments, businesses, and civil society to properly integrate environmental  
25 considerations into economic, trade, and financial policies for developed and developing countries,

- 26  
27 1. *Endorses* the establishment of Public Private Partnerships in order to share information on best practices  
28 concerning the mitigation and elimination of unsustainable chemical waste management;
- 29  
30 2. *Encourages* Member States to incentivize multinational corporations (MNCs) and small businesses in the  
31 creation of eco-friendly infrastructure by:
- 32
- 33 a. Expanding the “Plastic Bank” initiative endorsed by the United Nations Framework on the Convention  
34 of Climate Change (UNFCCC) and various Member States, which allows MNCs to buy and repurpose  
35 plastic and plastic goods collected by individuals;
  - 36  
37 b. Encouraging the continued progress towards SDG 14.1 and efforts to reduce marine debris pollution;
  - 38  
39 c. Supporting acceptable biodegradable materials instead of plastic goods in order to best benefit  
40 consumers and the environment at large;
  - 41  
42 d. Encouraging the public sector to adopt this initiative and move towards purchasing and utilizing  
43 sustainable goods and energy sources;
  - 44
- 45 3. *Supports* the inclusion, where applicable and available, of local indigenous practices which contribute to  
46 sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment as stated in the *United*  
47 *Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (2007);
- 48

- 49 4. *Calls upon* Member States to place greater emphasis on recognizing sources of toxic components contaminating  
50 rivers, watersheds, continental shelves, and underground streams in relation to previously mapped water bodies  
51 to best identify the direction and spread of pollution originating from inland sources;  
52
- 53 5. *Recommends* the enactment of minimally-disruptive treatment efforts in waterways to prevent further pollution  
54 from contaminating all bodies of water, including the strategic placement of tree barriers to serve as long-term  
55 buffers between polluted and non-polluted regions or environmentally-beneficial genetically modified  
56 organisms to counteract the spread of water-based pollutants;  
57
- 58 6. *Endorses* the improvement and expansion of current cycle-based waste management programs in an effort to  
59 best curtail carbon emissions, chemical runoff, and the adverse effects associated with urban pollution;  
60
- 61 7. *Encourages* countries to strengthen multilateral regulations on emissions and develop infrastructures for  
62 alternative fuels based upon recommendations made within ETB reviews of marine economic activity.



**Code:** UNEA/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Guided by the Charter of the United Nations (UN) (1945), Article 1, which seeks to achieve international co-*  
4 *operation in solving international problems,*  
5  
6 *Acknowledging the importance of knowledge-sharing regarding municipal and industrial waste management,*  
7  
8 *Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in setting common anti-pollution goals,*  
9  
10 *Recognizing the use of clean technology in the process of cleaning the ocean and protecting marine life, as supported*  
11 *by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 6, 9, and 14,*  
12  
13 *Emphasizing the impact on marine life of non-point source pollution caused by environmentally unsustainable*  
14 *practices in both rural and urban areas,*  
15  
16 *Noting the importance of supporting less developed Member States set up the administrative and operative basis for*  
17 *building long-term, sustainable and self-financing structures for waste disposal services,*  
18  
19 *Supporting the scientific research of non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and their contribution to*  
20 *diverse information sharing and responsible waste mitigation, particularly in the field of marine automated*  
21 *technologies,*  
22  
23 *Considering the problem of information deficits in the assessment and monitoring of other sources of pollution and*  
24 *their related statistics,*  
25  
26 *Recognizing the potential of economic incentives to positively influence sustainable production and consumption,*  
27  
28 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/312 (2017), and its understanding of the importance of sustainably*  
29 *utilizing the blue economy, promote economic growth and ensure the ability to financially implement international*  
30 *environmental agreements,*  
31  
32 *Reaffirming the Rio Declaration (1992) as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*  
33 *(1994) which states the need to build member states capacity in sustainable development efforts,*  
34  
35 *Recalling the findings of the UN Regional Seas Reports and Study No. 199, Realizing Integrated Regional Oceans*  
36 *Governance, which emphasizes the importance of regional, ecosystem-based, and integrated ocean policies and*  
37 *approaches,*  
38  
39 *Reiterating UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/11 (2016) and its recognition of the presence of plastic*  
40 *and microplastic litter as a rapidly growing issue, which also made efforts to eliminate plastic pollution in seas by*  
41 *2020, and create incentives for green practices,*  
42  
43 *Concerned by the large amount of pollution in the oceans, including the 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic, as indicated*  
44 *by Ocean Health Index,*  
45  
46 *Concerned that 92% of wastewater in developing Member States remains untreated, according to the UN-Water*  
47 *report World Water Development Report 2017,*  
48

49 *Acknowledging* the need for increased sustainability of industries through increased green policies as they are a large  
50 contributor to pollution, particularly marine pollution through unrestrained manufacturing and inadequate waste-  
51 management, as addressed within *Agenda 21* (1992),  
52

53 *Reaffirming* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), as well as SDG 14.8, regarding the use of green  
54 technologies in promoting ocean health and marine biodiversity,  
55

56 *Reaffirming* the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) which contributes to the strengthening of  
57 peace, security, cooperation, and friendly relations among all Member States,  
58

59 *Acknowledging* the work of the Global Environmental Facility mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action  
60 (GEF) in providing resources to transboundary water systems,  
61

62 *Recognizing* the significant role of General Assembly resolution 66/20 (2011), which calls on states to cooperate  
63 regionally and sub-regionally to implement joint prevention and recovery programs for marine debris,  
64

- 65 1. *Recommends* all willing and able Member States implement a cyclical economy regarding plastic waste  
66 management on a national level by implementing instruments such as an economic disincentive on certain  
67 single-use materials and a deposit on cans and plastic bottles;  
68
- 69 2. *Recommends* the creation of local, national, and international environmental campaigns to foster a society of  
70 sustainability by creating problem-specific campaigns such as reducing single-use plastic;  
71
- 72 3. *Encourages* the creation of a marine waste management forum within the Oceans Conference, with the specific  
73 focus of enlisting the public and private sectors as well as relevant stakeholders in addressing SDG 14.1 which  
74 seeks to significantly reduce all types of marine pollutions, emphasizing the importance of data collection and  
75 involving institutions leading in this field, such as the Ocean Frontier Institute;  
76
- 77 4. *Suggests* Member States enact policies to limit the use and improper disposal of harmful plastics such as  
78 polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) by promoting the manufacturing of biodegradable  
79 materials;  
80
- 81 5. *Calls for* the establishment of regional and internationally composed committees under the auspices of the UN  
82 Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Partnership on Waste Management to assist Member States with need  
83 for capacity building to improve their waste management services and infrastructure planning by:  
84
  - 85 a. Providing guidelines for effective implementation of the identified goals, and providing regular follow-  
86 up and reports on the progress of their implementation;  
87
  - 88 b. Including land-use planning and specifically, coastal-zone management plans for the construction of  
89 new infrastructure;  
90
  - 91 c. Promoting partnerships based on the model of plastic manufacturing associations, which focus on the  
92 converting and recycling of plastic debris, and the use of extended producer responsibility on  
93 packaging products;  
94
- 95 6. *Encourages* Member States to use the International Union for Conserving Nature (IUCN) Green List Standards  
96 in all of their UNEP Protected Areas, and to continue to support Aichi Target 11 through expanding their goals  
97 for the percentage of UNEP Protected Areas from 10 percent by 2020 to 25 percent by 2030 through actions  
98 such as:  
99
  - 100 a. Continuing to maintain the UNEP Protected Areas under their current protective status until 2030;  
101
  - 102 b. Empowering Member States to choose the location of and creating new Protected Areas;  
103



- 104 c. Prioritizing bioremediation within the Protected Areas of these ecosystems from the damages caused  
105 by agricultural and plastic waste;  
106
- 107 7. *Recommends* UNEP to form a working group called the Ideas and Practices Sharing Forum, to:  
108
- 109 a. Allow for the transfer of clean sustainable technologies between more economically developed and  
110 less economically developed Member States;  
111
- 112 b. Oversee the holding of a biennial forum in which delegates from Member States are encouraged to  
113 display advancements made in clean sustainable technologies to fellow Member States;  
114
- 115 8. *Calls upon* Member States to promote the creation and use of green technologies, in order to shift towards a  
116 scenario where future generations can live in harmony with the environment by:  
117
- 118 a. Investing and incentivizing innovations and recycling automated technologies for marine  
119 sustainability;  
120
- 121 b. Facilitating green entrepreneurship and encouragement within the private sector in solving challenges  
122 related to improving the health of oceans.



**Code:** UNEA/1/6

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

---

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 *Keeping in mind* Article 55 of *Charter of the United Nations* (UN) (1945) that promotes cooperation to work  
4 towards solutions relating to the economy and health,

5  
6 *Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) (1982) which outlines rules and  
7 regulations that Member States are to follow with regard to the sea, specifically emphasizing the responsibility of  
8 keeping the oceans free from plastic debris,

9  
10 *Recognizing* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of  
11 oceans, specifically regarding the second-hand impacts of marine debris, such as plastics which threatens all forms  
12 of planet and animal life,

13  
14 *Fully aware* of the beneficial nature of international collaboration to achieve SDG 17, which aims to strengthen the  
15 means of global partnership for sustainable development,

16  
17 *Fully aware* of the benefits of readily available, high-quality data collaboration concerning plastic marine pollution  
18 aligned with SDG 17, in order to ensure accountability for the implantation of the United Nations' *2030 Agenda for*  
19 *Sustainable Development* (2015),

20  
21 *Acknowledging* the societal impact of public engagement in national and regional policy building initiatives  
22 mentioned in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/11 (2016), including policies relating to  
23 micro and macro plastics polluting marine life,

24  
25 *Bearing in mind* the commitment to increased participation of all stakeholders, Member States, and citizens  
26 highlighted in *The Oceans Conference of Action*, to ban single use of plastic products, to recycle plastic, and to  
27 advance coastal cleanup,

28  
29 *Noting* the success of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on contaminated plastic waste by creating  
30 social and economic incentives for its collection and recycling such as the Plastic Bank and Green Coin Initiative,

31  
32 *Accrediting* Member States' commitment to working with the United Nations International Commission on Trade  
33 Law to expand Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) to improve combating pollution with focus on plastic debris in  
34 coastal areas,

35  
36 *Affirming* the importance of economic incentives in changing consumer habits surrounding plastic to reduce  
37 pollutants, as suggested in the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) "Marine Plastic Debris Report" (2016),

38  
39 *Regretting* the harmful effect of microbeads plastics used in industries, such as cosmetics, that end up in water  
40 supplies and marine food chains,

41  
42 *Further recalling* the importance of maintaining Member State accountability about their respective intended  
43 national contributions for the reduction of industrial and commercial plastic waste and mitigating the destructive  
44 impact of current masses plastic on vulnerable species on marine life,

45  
46 1. *Supports* further collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to enhance existing measure in  
47 establishing maritime protected area such as marine sanctuaries, estuarine reserves, ocean parks and marine  
48 wildlife refuges to foster the preservation of biodiversity;

49

- 50 2. *Encourages* Member States to develop conservation and preservation methods of coral reefs, where plastic  
51 pollution is abundant through:  
52
- 53 a. Developing marine zoning methods to map out aquatic regions that will help Member States better  
54 understand which actors are interacting with the marine ecosystems within the marine environments  
55 and identify which regions are most prone to plastic pollution;
  - 56 b. Assessing the feasibility of implementing national policies that are focused on targeting to conserve 10  
57 percent of each coral reef within the Member States' respective territorial waters by 2030;
  - 58 c. Building coral reef nurseries, such as small pockets of marine areas undisturbed by anthropogenic  
59 contact, which provide a unique understanding of biodiverse coral reef environments;
  - 60 d. Joining local initiatives such as the International Coral Reef Initiative, which is an informal partnership  
61 between Member States and the private sector to conserve coral reefs;
  - 62
  - 63
  - 64
  - 65
- 66 3. *Calls* on Member States to be more active in monitoring plastic waste and encourages cooperation with one  
67 another in regard to surrounding territories;  
68
- 69 4. *Suggests* Member States utilize *The Future We Want* (2012) to create a national economic action plans,  
70 specifically incentivizing reusable plastics and the reduction of marine pollutants by:  
71
- 72 a. Using economic deterrents such as subsidies on plastic products, in order to change the human impact  
73 of pollution in the oceans;
  - 74 b. Creating national education campaigns surrounding plastic waste reduction is essential to the success  
75 of policy and to change the consumer habits of society;
  - 76
  - 77 c. Setting annual reduction targets to gradually ban the usage of plastic bags;
  - 78
  - 79 d. Promoting the use of biodegradable plastic alternatives, such as bioplastics made from agricultural  
80 waste;
  - 81
  - 82
- 83 5. *Emphasizes* Member States to implement local programs like the Green Coin Initiative and the Social Plastic  
84 initiative to provide positive incentives for citizens to take an active role in reducing their contribution to the use  
85 of plastics by:  
86
- 87 a. Fostering Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to find economic incentives such as monetary returns or  
88 goods and services that can be received after recycling;
  - 89
  - 90 b. Inviting NGOs, Social Plastic Bank and Green Coin Initiative to participate in the upcoming third  
91 Global Adaptation Network Forum;
  - 92
- 93 6. *Further emphasizes* developed and developing Member States to cooperate to find solutions to oceanic  
94 pollution by:  
95
- 96 a. Exchanging the knowledge and techniques within Member States on best practices relating to plastic  
97 waste management;
  - 98
  - 99 b. Suggesting each Member State to hold bi-annual conferences on by the plastics pollution in oceans in  
100 Member States;
  - 101
- 102 7. *Recommends* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to further support the eradication of non-biodegradable  
103 plastic in order to minimize the amount of plastics in the oceans;  
104

- 105 8. *Suggests* Member States to establish national and regional supervising bodies, tasked with ensuring each  
106 Member States' commitment to enforcing strict regulations on plastic pollution and marine wildlife protection  
107 from plastic waste by:  
108
- 109 a. Maintaining progressive limits and bans on industrial and commercial marine plastic production and  
110 output based on the pollutive capacity of each respective industry;  
111
  - 112 b. Collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to strengthen and provide rural  
113 communities with alternate sources of protein to deter the hunting and poaching of endangered species  
114 of marine life venerable to plastic;  
115
- 116 9. *Recommends* the establishment of regional Civic Public Engagement Offices (CPEOs) in conjunction with local  
117 plastic clean up foundations to provide citizens with a platform that allows them to actively engage with  
118 relevant marine plastic policies through:  
119
- 120 a. Implementing ocean plastic clean up initiatives and aerial expeditions open to participation to local  
121 volunteers provided with the necessary equal pent by their respective CPEO;  
122
  - 123 b. Hosting regular monthly and bi-annual town hall conferences with representatives of respective  
124 Member State UNEA offices to provide concerned citizens with conduit to receive updates and  
125 engage with the current status and execution of marine plastic polices;  
126
- 127 10. *Encourages* transnational approaches that allow Member States to share beneficial measures, such as the use of  
128 high density polyethylene, a highly durable and recyclable materials, for the use of implementation of  
129 technologies that are used to help remove harmful plastics from the oceans and beneficial to marine life;  
130
- 131 11. *Suggests* the further utilization of recognized and existing research centers for data collection, dissemination  
132 and monitoring systems focused on maritime plastic debris through:  
133
- 134 a. Seeking funding through partnerships with the GEF for research projects recognized by the UNEA;  
135
  - 136 b. Utilizing the key component from the Plastic Disclosure Project in using plankton surface-trawl nets of  
137 5mm mesh to capture and collect data of plastic debris at the surface of the ocean;  
138
  - 139 c. Facilitating data exchange between international and regional communities, especially between  
140 developing and developed countries as outlined in SDG 17 of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*  
141 *Development* (2015).



**Code:** UNEA/1/7

**Committee:** United Nations Environmental Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

---

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Aware of the need to create a collection of data to organize and access important information about marine*  
4 *organisms in order to conserve and protect them,*  
5  
6 *Acknowledging Article 18.3 from the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), which emphasizes and further*  
7 *establishes clearing-house mechanisms (CHM) as a means to promote and facilitate scientific and technical*  
8 *cooperation,*  
9  
10 *Bearing in mind the initiatives of Member States for sustainable fishing practices such as the public-private*  
11 *partnership Rare, offering solutions to the detrimental effects that overfishing and pollution caused by the fishing*  
12 *industry has on marine life,*  
13  
14 *Guided by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015),*  
15 *which discusses the importance of combating unregulated fishing and overfishing while promoting the need for*  
16 *sustainable fishing practices and the importance of this in reaching all SDGs,*  
17  
18 *Considering the impact that industrial fishing and artisanal fishing can have on the population on marine life*  
19 *according to General Assembly resolution 72/72 (2017),*  
20  
21 *Reminded by the Meeting of the Committee of Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization (WTO),*  
22 *which discussed encouraging Member States to finance sustainable fisheries,*  
23  
24 *Recognizing General Assembly resolution 65/173 (2010), which focuses on ecotourism as a solution to eradicating*  
25 *poverty by creating green jobs within the Blue Economy, while also protecting the marine environment,*  
26  
27 *Applauding the efforts from Member States to prohibit and minimize plastic usage and disposal in locations of high*  
28 *human activity,*  
29  
30 *Highlighting the Singaporean Blueprint 2015, which taught sustainable stewardship to educators about green spaces,*  
31 *reduced energy output and promoted the use of eco-friendly devices such as wave energy and hydroelectric energy;*  
32  
33 *Noting the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and their*  
34 *collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to inform governments on the state of the*  
35 *marine environment on issues such as marine pollution, hypoxic areas, and the state of the oceans,*  
36  
37 *Keeping in mind the importance of educating youth for sustainable development, as stressed in the document The*  
38 *Future We Want (2012), and the important role of education for sustainable development plays in maintaining*  
39 *marine health and diminishing the negative effects of pollution,*  
40  
41 *Recalling Part XIV from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982), which*  
42 *encourages states and international organizations to cooperate in the development and transfer of marine technology*  
43 *on fair and reasonable terms and conditions and the importance of that in combating marine pollution,*  
44  
45 *Commending the work of the International Coral Reef Initiative, as well as the guidelines within the Convention on*  
46 *the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (1972) and The London Protocol*  
47 *(1996) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in protecting endangered species*  
48 *and sensitive areas such, as coral reefs from the dangers of industrial fishing,*  
49

50 *Seeking* to meet SDG 15, which includes halting and reversing biodiversity loss and its importance in promoting and  
51 maintaining marine health,  
52

53 *Reaffirming* the need for protected areas to achieve long term conservation of marine habitats with associated  
54 ecosystem services and cultural values, especially for safeguarding coastal ecosystems,  
55

56 *Further recalling* Article 25 of the *Stockholm Convention of 1972*, which underlines the role of international  
57 organizations to protect the environment, such as marine and coastal environments,  
58

59 1. *Recommends* greater co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in an effort to expand the  
60 global fisheries database, to ensure a more cohesive and centralized United Nations (UN) database containing  
61 information such as but not limited to, biological details, breeding seasons, geographical information, and  
62 details on how the fishing industry is being affected by pollution on marine life, with the objective of  
63 strengthening and promoting informed decisions about the preservation across the globe;  
64

65 2. *Proposes* the implementation of a CHM to facilitate knowledge transfer on commercial fishing, marine  
66 pollution, and sea animal migration patterns among UNEP, Member States, non-governmental organizations,  
67 and civil society which will:  
68

69 a. Support national and local decision making, increase transparency, and strengthen the science-policy  
70 interface;  
71

72 b. Provide support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office so as to  
73 promote its activities;  
74

75 3. *Advises* Member States to implement investment programs for small and local fisheries to create a sustainable  
76 fishing enterprise by working with UN bodies such as UNDP, and also utilizing financing programs such as  
77 private-public partnerships to ensure the conservation of marine biodiversity and prevention of marine  
78 pollution;  
79

80 4. *Invites* the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to increase regulations on international fishing, in order  
81 to combat overfishing and illegal fishing as a means to protect marine life from the adverse effects, especially  
82 pollution, of the fishing industry;  
83

84 5. *Encourages* Member States to increase regulation and understanding of the fishing industry and its practices as  
85 well as artisanal fishing by:  
86

87 a. Promoting the use and knowledge of more eco-friendly fishing practices such as eliminating the use of  
88 bottom-trawling and increased use of drift nets;  
89

90 b. Fostering transparency and traceability in hatcheries and fisheries through means such as:  
91

92 i. Issuing licenses to fish in certain regions;

93 ii. Bringing awareness to the corruption that may occur in fishing practices;

94 iii. Ensuring practices that are sustainable and healthy for wild fish populations;

95 iv. Incorporating GPS devices on vessels used for commercial fishing within fisheries that  
96 choose to do so;  
97

98 c. Developing a system that ensures the health and sustainability of fish populations;  
99

100 d. Informing communities on how to engage in artisanal fishing while avoiding overfishing;  
101

102 e. Preventing the loss of biodiversity and keystone species that play a critical role in the reduction of  
103 nitrogen;  
104

- 105 6. *Suggests* WTO and FAO work in collaboration to finance and facilitate technology transfer between Member  
106 States for sustainable fishing technologies and techniques in order to promote the sustainable use of marine  
107 environment in regards to the blue economy;  
108
- 109 7. *Invites* the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to expand its efforts with Member States to  
110 implement programs with the Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships to recycle nylon and plastic fishing  
111 nets as a means to remove derelict fishing gear from coastal regions in order to decrease its negative effects,  
112 along with other forms of pollution on marine life;  
113
- 114 8. *Calls upon* UNEP in collaboration with the World Bank, to aid Member States in the implementation of waste  
115 management systems in order to protect marine life from pollution as a means to promote a sustainable Blue  
116 Economy through eco-tourism;  
117
- 118 9. *Advocates for* the consideration of creating initiatives within Member States to create plastic free zones to  
119 promote the Blue Economy as well as protecting marine life and biodiversity from the effects of marine plastic  
120 pollution in order to ensure a sustainable future for marine based industries;  
121
- 122 10. *Encourages* bio-enterprises to partake in bio-entrepreneurship initiatives with the objective of engaging  
123 individuals in research and development on methods to alleviate the impact of pollution on marine life through:  
124
- 125 a. Promoting innovation within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to  
126 contribute to sustainable economic practices in regards to the Blue Economy for coastal and land-  
127 locked countries,  
128
- 129 b. The co-ordination of funds for specialized learning projects;  
130
- 131 11. *Supports* the promotion of new technologies and innovations in regard to improving marine life by promoting  
132 regional and international knowledge sharing conventions as well as promoting increased sharing of best  
133 practices and methods for implementing the new technologies in order to protect the blue economy and the  
134 marine environment;  
135
- 136 12. *Welcomes* Member States to analyze the marine environments near their countries through suitable methods, in  
137 order to create more particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSA) and establish a national protected area network that  
138 is used to canvas sensitive biodiversity and national heritage resources for the protection of endangered marine  
139 environments, such as coral reefs;  
140
- 141 13. *Invites* Member States to implement programs for coastal protection through the use of ecosystem-based  
142 adaptation methods similar to programs previously implemented, which have utilized protective mangroves on  
143 the coast to reduce coastal pollution and protect biodiversity;  
144
- 145 14. *Encourages* all Member States to establish protected marine areas, in order to enhance conservation and  
146 preservation of marine resources in a sustainable manner, as well as reversing the decline in the health of  
147 marine ecosystems and restoring their resilience by:  
148
- 149 a. Expanding and diversifying funding strategies to finance protected areas;  
150
- 151 b. Enlarging financial mechanisms at a regional level to tackle environmental concerns especially by  
152 preserving endangered ecosystems;  
153
- 154 15. *Invites* all Member States to implement marine spatial planning in cooperation with the Intergovernmental  
155 Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in order to ensure that human activities at sea are efficient and  
156 sustainable, as well as suggesting Member States work to develop common guidelines to obtain better  
157 management of the oceans and other marine environments.



**Code:** UNEA/1/8

**Committee:** United Nations Environmental Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on the Marine Environment

---

1 *The United Nations Environmental Assembly,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for  
4 Sustainable Development,” which establishes the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and General Assembly  
5 resolution 70/235 (2015) on “Oceans and the law of the sea” that outlines internationally agreed upon maritime  
6 laws,

7  
8 *Underscoring* the detrimental effects of eutrophication on marine life and other sea-based organisms as well as the  
9 role toxic runoff plays in oceanic hypoxic dead zones,

10  
11 *Recognizing* the European Union’s research and studies on Agri-Environmental Indicators and the dangers of an  
12 indicator level of 25 NO<sub>3</sub>/liter’s effect on marine life and the non-potability of water at levels as high as 50  
13 NO<sub>3</sub>/liter,

14  
15 *Understanding* the impact acid rain cycles have on oceanic ecosystems and the importance of acid reduction for the  
16 preservation of marine wildlife as reported in United Nations Environmental Programme Resolution 2/12 (2016) on  
17 “Sustainable coral reefs management,”

18  
19 *Recognizing* the need to advocate for environmentally friendly methods reaching local community farmers within all  
20 Member States and the work of the One Acre Fund and the Heifer International non-governmental organization  
21 (NGO) in their efforts to promote sustainable and marine-friendly agricultural approaches,

22  
23 *Deeply disturbed* with the negative effect that agricultural runoff, such as pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers have  
24 on marine life, as described in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and especially target 14.1,

25  
26 *Emphasizing* that farmers, following SDG 2 and especially target 2.3, particularly in developing nations and rural  
27 areas have limited access to environmental awareness about the usage of fertilizers, pesticides, and environmentally  
28 friendly methods to produce crops,

29  
30 *Taking note* of United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/22 (2017) on “Science,  
31 technology and innovation for development” and its position regarding technological advances that could reduce the  
32 amount of pollution impacting marine life,

33  
34 *Recalling* clause 13 of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) that outlines the detrimental association between climate change  
35 and marine life,

36  
37 *Keeping in mind* the need for concrete methods of the implementation of positive environmental actions that do not  
38 harm marine life,

39  
40 *Recognizing* the need to advocate for environmentally friendly methods reaching local community farmers within all  
41 Member States,

42  
43 1. *Calls upon* Member States to implement measures designed to alleviate the negative effects of agrochemical  
44 eutrophication, particularly those with maritime trading statuses and agricultural industries in ways including  
45 but not limited to:

46  
47 a. Testing soil and water frequently for indicators of agricultural acidification and/or eutrophication;

48



- 49 b. Transitioning current fertilizer distribution methods to eco-friendlier and cost-effective alternatives, for  
50 reducing nitrogen and phosphorus occurrences;  
51
- 52 c. Encouraging Member States to work in conjunction with NGOs to equip developing farms with  
53 sustainable techniques by taking into account the negative effects of eutrophication;  
54
- 55 d. Incorporating the use of Agri-Environmental Indicators, to monitor degradation of water related to  
56 agriculture use, including identifying Nitrate Vulnerable Zones;  
57
- 58 e. Including riparian buffers between agricultural regions to decrease the buildup of algae and redirect  
59 other harmful chemicals away from marine life through innovative techniques;  
60
- 61 2. *Invites* Member States to promote the sustainable use of fertilizers and pesticides by:  
62
- 63 a. Working with regional NGOs and other organizations at the local level to provide knowledge on  
64 sustainable farming;  
65
- 66 b. Encourage the implementation of local legislation to discourage the use of fertilizers on vulnerable  
67 areas such as sloping or snow-covered grounds;  
68
- 69 c. Building practical programs such as eco-friendly and nutritional animal feed to encourage sustainable  
70 livestock management to reduce the production of methane;  
71
- 72 d. Participating in crop rotations to prevent nutrient losses;  
73
- 74 3. *Recommends* that Member States acknowledge the responsibility they have in interrupting the acid precipitation  
75 cycle in areas including conflict zones and other rural areas by implementing, including, but not limited to,  
76 processes to monitor nitrification, the collection of air samples, catalysts for bioremediation, methods of  
77 limestone neutralization, the minimization of synthetic and organic nitrogen fertilizers, and the studying of  
78 inorganic nitrogen compounds;  
79
- 80 4. *Suggests* the mitigation of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers by implementing waste management laws  
81 through:  
82
- 83 a. The recommendation of Member States' national governments to explore greater rollout of alternative  
84 organic fertilizers to reduce the toxicity of agricultural runoff;  
85
- 86 b. The international acceptance of organic alternatives to reduce the toxicity of agricultural runoff;  
87
- 88 c. The investment in shared scientific research that provides all nations with the information they need to  
89 move towards these efficient and sustainable agricultural techniques that limit bioaccumulation  
90 through working with:  
91
- 92 i. The Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection  
93 (GESTAMP);  
94 ii. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational,  
95 Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICO-UNESCO);  
96
- 97 d. Informing farmers on sustainable agricultural practices related to fertilizer usage;  
98
- 99 5. *Encourages* the promotion of research and development of technological advances related to agriculture and  
100 marine systems such as:  
101
- 102 a. Oil-degrading microorganisms that break down oil particles, adding oxygen to hydrocarbon chains  
103 making them polar and soluble in water;  
104

- 105           b. The advancement of lab research to culture bacteria and other microorganisms for bioremediation;  
106  
107           c. The integration of metal hyperaccumulator plants as another biological degradation phenomena in  
108           regions with metal contaminated soil;  
109  
110           d. The application of nutrients and electron acceptors along with the microbial population in catalyzing  
111           the process of bioremediation in polluted waters and soil;  
112  
113           e. Coordinating a symbiotic relationship between oil degrading microorganisms and the compounds that  
114           enable eutrophication to occur and;  
115  
116           f. Introducing oyster populations to areas where eutrophication has occurred to reverse the effects of  
117           nitrification;  
118
- 119   6. *Reminds* Member States to implement suggestions of the *Paris Agreement (2015)* to protect ecosystems and the  
120   marine biodiversity by recognizing regions that are geographically susceptible to natural disasters and the  
121   environmental impact that such natural disasters have on disrupting marine life;  
122
- 123   7. *Calls Upon* Member States to engage in innovative funding methods that highlight eco-conscious and positive  
124   environmental actions through:  
125
- 126           a. Consulting the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* (1994) “Green  
127           Climate Fund” in the committee’s funding compendium for financing agricultural based research and  
128           technologies;  
129  
130           b. Communicating with environmentally focused philanthropic foundations;  
131  
132           c. Utilizing wetlands as a potential source of ecotourism and funding for environmental initiatives;  
133  
134           d. Encouraging micro-financial opportunities, particularly in developing countries focused on the  
135           agricultural industry.



**Code:** UNEA/1/9

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Understanding* the importance of youth in the implementation of solutions to sustainably combat pollution in marine  
4 ecosystems,  
5  
6 *Acknowledging* the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies into national sustainable  
7 development strategies as they help strengthen education and knowledge-sharing,  
8  
9 *Emphasizing* that marine pollution knows no territorial boundaries and is a constant threat to every nation and  
10 individual on Earth,  
11  
12 *Acknowledging* that 40 percent of the world’s oceans are heavily affected by human activities,  
13  
14 *Expressing* its gravest concern for the amount of pollution in the oceans, as it has increased over the past 60 years,  
15 with almost 1.4 billion pounds of trash entering the world's oceans annually,  
16  
17 *Reiterating* the essential need for global cooperation of all Member States, emphasizing the participation of  
18 developing countries, and Small Island States in global and regional forums and discussions dealing with ocean  
19 issues such as cooperation for education on sustainability,  
20  
21 *Keeping in mind* the principles of international cooperation on ocean sustainability outlined by the  
22 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
23 Organization (UNESCO),  
24  
25 *Further recognizing* the work of the Environmental Education and Training Unit of the United Nations Environment  
26 Programme (UNEP) in the field of research and sustainable education,  
27  
28 *Recognizes* the accomplishments of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are 2 and 7 that focus on  
29 universal primary education and environmental sustainability and the post-2015 Development Agenda,  
30  
31 *Recalling* previous resolutions and institutional frameworks on the topic of marine pollution, including the  
32 *Mediterranean Action Plan* (1975), the *Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II* (1995), the *Barcelona Convention*  
33 (1995), General Assembly resolution 65/37 “Oceans and the law of the sea” (2010), United Nations Environmental  
34 Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/6 (2014), and the Ocean Conference (2017),  
35  
36 *Reaffirming* the General Assembly resolution 63/111 “Oceans and the law of the sea,” which highlights the  
37 importance of building capacities for developing states to protect their marine biodiversity,  
38  
39 *Recalling* the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995) and the Programme of Action of the World  
40 Summit for Social Development (1995),  
41  
42 *Recognizing* the importance of individual actions including but not exclusive to single-use plastic, littering and  
43 microbead consumption that add to the problem of marine pollution and the potential of education to alter the  
44 behaviors of individuals,  
45  
46 *Drawing attention to* UNESCO’s Decade of Oceans Sciences 2021-2030 and the objective of exploring in depth the  
47 marine and ocean conditions, economy, coastal ecosystems, increasing scientific knowledge, and achieving  
48 integrated observations and data sharing,  
49

50 *Acknowledging* the impact, leadership, and organization that the Singaporean Blueprint 2015 has contributed to the  
51 United Nations,  
52

53 *Aware* of the need for goals to be aligned with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) to reduce the  
54 carbon footprint by 36 percent in 12 years,  
55

56 *Expressing* its gravest concern for the amount of pollution in the oceans and seas has increased immensely over the  
57 past 60 years, with almost 1.4 billion pounds of trash entering the world's oceans annually,  
58

59 *Recalling* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 14 target 1, which promotes the prevention  
60 and reduction of marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities,  
61

62 *Keeping in mind* the importance of educating youth in sustainable development, as stressed in the document *The*  
63 *Future We Want* addressed in General Assembly resolution 66/288 (2012), and the important role education of  
64 sustainable development plays in maintaining marine health and diminishing the negative effects of pollution,  
65

66 *Encourages* Member States to include values and knowledge that indigenous groups hold into educational systems  
67 to foster a more positive attitude to coastal systems, marine life, and land pollution,  
68

69 1. *Encourages* Member States to continue the promotion of international cooperation in order to further educate  
70 the population on how to achieve sustainable usage of plastics to ensure protection of the marine environment,  
71 and improve management of marine ecosystems;  
72

73 2. *Recommends* for the creation of a new website called “What? So What? Now What?” that provides information  
74 about marine pollution, why individuals should care about marine pollution, and what individuals can do to  
75 solve the problem of marine pollution by prioritizing upon the clean-up of waters across the globe through  
76 volunteer work, education of individuals about the present and future negative impacts of marine pollution, and  
77 providing individuals ways on becoming a more sustainable household in order to reduce overall pollution  
78 levels;  
79

80 3. *Calling for* the implementation of a program in which communities are exposed to sustainable practices by  
81 utilizing job-specific training to emphasize the necessity of sustainable development to support long term  
82 solutions in regards to marine pollution;  
83

84 4. *Supports* efforts to introduce supplementary education on the importance of marine environmental conservation  
85 by:  
86

87 a. Promoting the importance of environmental awareness and the necessity of protection through  
88 informal education instituted by community organizations;  
89

90 b. Involving the practice of renewable and sustainable energy by providing access to education and  
91 training that promotes employment opportunities;  
92

93 c. Implementing local cultural exchange programs advancing scientific and technical knowledge  
94 engaging underrepresented communities for capacity building on marine pollution strategies;  
95

96 5. *Invites* all Member States to include in their national environment plans strategies that include the promotion of  
97 local participatory programs available inclusively to all community members, especially those in marginalized  
98 and disadvantaged communities;  
99

100 6. *Recommends* the creation of the Ocean Conservation and Education Initiative Summit (O.C.E.A.N.S.) to  
101 operate under the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) of UNEP which would promote  
102 international cooperation on the topic of education on pollution and marine life by:  
103

- 104 a. Sharing knowledge with Member States on how to implement long-term solutions, collaborate with  
105 Member States on research and development, and establish regional strategies and plans;  
106
- 107 b. Ensuring that the summit includes scientific experts in the marine field focusing on constructive and  
108 solution-focused dialogues that decrease land-based, coastal marine, and freshwater pollution;  
109
- 110 c. Suggesting that reports and outcome documents of this summit will serve as a suggested guideline for  
111 national governments and ministries of education to incorporate into educational institutions and public  
112 policy to inform citizens about marine pollution reduction and its impact on marine life globally;  
113
- 114 7. *Calls upon* the regional offices of UNEP to create a week-long Blue Citizen Workshops for several cities in  
115 each region for the engagement of community members, academics, and staff members of various non-  
116 governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to share information and to  
117 promote the creation of initiatives that move towards lowering the impact of land-based activities on marine  
118 environments;  
119
- 120 8. *Encourages* the incorporation of CSOs that promote the sharing of knowledge and engagement of civilians  
121 regarding marine conservation such as programs encouraging the public to recycle, reduce, and reuse in order to  
122 eliminate land based sources of pollution;  
123
- 124 9. *Recommends* the development of a Marine Impact Indicator on products, which serves as a visual traffic light  
125 indicator, detailing the resources required for production and the amount of environmentally-damaging  
126 chemicals and toxins are used in its production and distribution;  
127
- 128 10. *Recommends* that Member States collaborate with UN Oceans to build capacity for local governments to  
129 implement educational programs for the purpose of teaching sustainable behaviors for the protection of marine  
130 life;  
131
- 132 11. *Invites* Member States to create and emphasize undergraduate and graduate courses related to ocean  
133 sustainability and marine ecosystem management in national universities in cooperation with the World  
134 Maritime University by:  
135
- 136 a. Creating a working group to establish a curriculum tailored to meet the individual Member States’  
137 challenges in cooperation with the Member States’ national ministries for education, educational  
138 institutions, and the World Maritime University;  
139
- 140 b. Ensuring that these courses would incorporate job training and job fairs in the field of marine  
141 sustainability and ocean management to encourage employment in the blue economy;  
142
- 143 12. *Proposes* that Member States mainstream marine protection and management into national primary and  
144 secondary educational curricula;  
145
- 146 13. *Encourages* Member States to promote the dissemination of information on marine pollution, conservation and  
147 management to the public.