

14-18 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment
Assembly



Conference B

United Nations Environment Assembly

Committee Staff

Director	Lauren Kiser
Assistant Director	Miranda Coleman
Chair	Arun Joseph
Rapporteur	Nadine Fouad
Rapporteur	Runnan Gao

Agenda

- I. Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics
- II. Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally
- III. Promoting the Responsible Disposal of Electronic and Hazardous Waste

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEA/1/1	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/2	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	103 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 9 abstentions
UNEA/1/3	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	110 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 7 abstentions
UNEA/1/4	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	106 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 10 abstentions
UNEA/1/5	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	103 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 11 abstentions
UNEA/1/6	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	104 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 13 abstentions
UNEA/1/7	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	100 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/8	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	102 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/9	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	99 votes in favor, 10 votes against, 11 abstentions
UNEA/1/10	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	100 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/11	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	103 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/12	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	103 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/13	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	103 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 8 abstentions

UNEA/1/14	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	99 votes in favor, 11 votes against, 10 abstentions
UNEA/1/15	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	80 votes in favor, 28 votes against, 12 abstentions
UNEA/1/16	Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	100 in favor, 10 against, 10 abstentions

Summary Report for the United Nations Environment Assembly

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

- I. Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics
- II. Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally
- III. Promoting the Responsible Disposal of Electronic and Hazardous Waste

The session was attended by representatives of 116 Member States and 2 Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 19 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including education, public-private partnerships, legislative regulations, and regional cooperation. On Monday the Dais had received the first 10 proposals that were followed by an additional 9 on Tuesday. Through the cooperation of the body the 19 proposals were merged into 16.

On Wednesday, 16 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, 1 of which had amendments. The committee adopted 16 resolutions, 1 of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including legislative regulations, regional cooperation, education, technology, waste management, taxation, infrastructure, and alternative resources. The body diligently worked toward proposing actionable policy solutions to eradicate marine plastic litter and microplastics.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Understanding* the precedent set by *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)* (1982)

4 on the conservation and protection of the oceans,

5

6 *Recognizing* the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes*

7 *and Their Disposal* (Basel Convention) (1989) to control the transboundary movement of waste,

8

9 *Recalling* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/11 (2016) “Marine plastic litter and

10 microplastics” with its goal to encourage legislation that will reduce the production of plastic goods,

11

12 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 71/312 (2017) “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action”, which

13 encourages Member States to decrease the reliance on plastics,

14

15 *Considering* the UNEA report on “Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the

16 effectiveness of relevant international, regional and sub-regional governance strategies and approaches

17 *Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics*” (2018) and the expectations of the *G20 Action Plan*

18 (2018) to build awareness on marine litter,

19

20 *Acknowledging* the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.6, 12.7.1, and 12.8 to both reduce

21 and limit plastic production in Member States,

22

23 1. *Urges* all Member States to sign and ratify UNCLOS to support and coordinate efforts to protect

24 oceans;

25

26 2. *Encourages* Member States to sign and ratify the Basel Convention and private enterprises to adhere

27 to its guidelines;

28

29 3. *Recommends* Member States incentivize private industries to use environmentally-friendly materials

30 by providing private industries that produce products with low or no plastic in product content and

31 packaging with a tax reduction;

32

33 4. *Establishes* a funding program titled Plastic Leasing System (PLS) to which Member States can opt-

34 in that creates a security deposit to incentivize citizens to recycle their purchased single-use plastics

35 and provide funds for tax reductions for Least Developed Countries by:

36

37 a. Proposing an additional financial deposit of 15% on top of the original cost of the single-use

38 plastic products of which citizens can retrieve said 15% if they return the single-use plastic

39 giving logistical and practical implementation at the discretion of the Member State deciding

40 to opt-in to PLS;

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42 b. Encouraging Member States to contribute up to 20% of the 15% to the United Nations to

43 redistribute funds for a supplementation in tax reductions to Least Developed Countries by:

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- 74
- i. Allocating funds obtained by the United Nations from the PLS to countries that are deemed emerging economies by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
 - ii. Identifying that the PLS program will begin within OECD Member States to build funds for a period of 3 years before the fund is available for Member States with emerging economies;
 - iii. Utilize the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress within the OECD to annually review and revise the list of Member States with emerging economies;
- c. Suggesting the National governments will take 80% of the 15% which is encouraged to be used to supplement the tax reductions for private industries with low or no plastic content or fund alternatives to single-use plastics;
 - d. Dissolving this program if the PLS fund is depleted or when plastic is no longer used;
5. *Requests* the UNEA to build a partnership with the Plastic Soup Foundation to expand its directive for its Beat the Microbead program and its product grading system to include all plastic products instead of only microplastics to be displayed on product packaging for consumer awareness;
6. *Encourages* Member States to organize annual workshops in collaboration with the Sustainable Innovation Expo for enterprises to:
- a. Make companies aware of their responsibility in dealing with plastics;
 - b. Develop a think tank that strategizes cost-effective ways to reuse plastics and manufacture alternative materials;
 - c. Establish an international database among companies for sharing knowledge on the most effective strategies.



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United National Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

- 1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) which provides a foundation for implementing the global*
4 *sustainable development agenda which marks a milestone in forging an enhanced global partnership that*
5 *aims to foster universal, inclusive economic prosperity, and improve people’s well-being while protecting*
6 *the environment,*
7
8 *Keeping in mind the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) which defines the rights of*
9 *Member States and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the bodies of water around the*
10 *world in consonance to the UNEA mandate,*
11
12 *Acknowledging the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Clean Seas campaign, launched in*
13 *2017, that urges Member States to target industries to minimize plastic packaging and redesign products,*
14
15 *Having considered the last UNEA resolution 4/7 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics which emphasizes*
16 *the need for every Member State to address and take actions to encourage and incentivize consumers*
17 *and companies towards alleviating this maritime issue,*
18
19 *Bearing in mind the joint meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee*
20 *of the General Assembly entitled “Circular Economy for the SDGs: From Concept to Practice” of which*
21 *primary objectives include generating jobs and extending the life of plastics by turning these into products*
22 *of higher value,*
23
24 *Recognizing the European Environmental Bureau, founded in 1974 with the goal of encouraging Member*
25 *States to implement measures that ensure a transition towards a circular economy,*
26
27 *Noting with appreciation the innovative examples set by international actions such as the 2014 Regional*
28 *Action Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Wider Caribbean Region (RAPMaLi) and the 2016*
29 *Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), which encourages collaboration between key sectors of*
30 *society such as the academe, NGOs, the private sector, the public sector, and scientific collaboration in*
31 *the pursuit of eradicating marine plastic litter,*
32
33 1. *Encourages Member States monitor retributions collection from sectors and bodies that are non-*
34 *adherent to environmental protection legislation and to prioritize these areas for the development of*
35 *upcycling mechanisms and infrastructure;*
36
37 2. *Urges Member States to create local educational projects such as the Adiwiyata School Program,*
38 *which is partnered with the UNEP, and focuses on instructing youth on the best environmental*
39 *practices regarding the benefits of upcycling and environmentally friendly disposal methods of plastic*
40 *waste through the youth-based curriculum;*
41
42 3. *Endorses the upcycling of marine plastic waste to foster development through the utilization of*
43 *recycled plastics in growing infrastructure, such as plastic-tar hybrid roads and waste-collection*
44 *containers;*
45
46 4. *Recognizes the effectiveness of taxation that intends to change the norms within a Member State’s*
47 *economy and practices, and recommends that Member States implement national legislation towards*
48 *a circular economy by:*
49

- 50 a. Introducing requirements of reparability, durability, and recyclability for producers of plastics;
51
52 b. Increasing taxes on consumer single-use plastic products and containers at a rate of 20%
53 biennially over the course of 10 years;
54
55 c. Inviting Member States to enforce businesses to apply the proposed tax onto the consumers,
56 and;
57
58 d. Working cooperatively with consumers to inform them of the increasing costs of single-use
59 plastic products and containers;
60
- 61 5. *Advises* Member States to mirror General Assembly resolution 71/256 “New Urban Agenda”
62 Upcycling the Oceans which is centered on sustainable production and consumption for the
63 development of waste management systems to provide sophisticated infrastructure to developing
64 Member States;
65
- 66 6. *Recommends* a reduction in the production of new and raw materials by transforming recyclable
67 materials such as plastic and marine litter into everyday goods like clothing;
68
- 69 7. *Invites* Member States to increase cooperation between developing and developed countries in order
70 to form a project on the basis of pyrolysis; which would be a framework for upcycling plastic and
71 marine litter waste pertaining to the transformation of unused plastic into fuel to reduce the influx of
72 plastic pollution in bodies of water around the world by:
73
- 74 a. Inviting Member States to further collect plastics and marine litter to mitigate the
75 consequences of such waste by providing incentives, such as the production of clean fuel;
76
77 b. Welcoming collaboration from the Green Climate Fund and Blue Natural Capital Financing
78 Facility in fulfilling the logistical and financial aspect of pyrolysis to allow all Member States to
79 partake in this proposed mechanism;
80
81 c. Encouraging the adoption of plastic and marine litter management mechanisms that properly
82 identify and segregate waste in least-developed countries (LDCs) to better aid in the
83 selection process of upcyclable plastics;
84
85 d. Storing and transporting the selected upcyclable plastics to existing pyrolysis centers such
86 as, but not limited to, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Japan through
87 collaboration with United Nations Office for Project Services and EUMarineRobots;
88
89 e. Transforming the upcyclable plastic into fuel at existing public and private-owned pyrolysis
90 centers, and;
91
92 f. Distributing the generated fuel in a 70-30% ratio, with most of the fuel kept in the upcycling
93 country, and the remaining transported back to LDCs for their usage or means of livelihood;
94
- 95 8. *Suggests* experts in chemical engineering who are affiliated to UNEP and any of its partners and
96 benefactors convene and create the lifecycle analysis of alternatives to plastic and components of
97 marine litter which aims to prevent negative unintended consequences to human health and the
98 environment and to increase knowledge on the chemical compositions of plastics transported to both
99 the upcycling and end-user nations;
100
- 101 9. *Further recommends* the creation of a reference matrix on what types of plastics and components of
102 marine litter may be upcycled to which kind of material, and the technological infrastructure needed to
103 actualize these said upcycling methods as well as alternatives which may be opted for by developing
104 countries through experts’ analysis such as the works previously done by the United Nations Groups
105 of Governmental Experts on chemical engineering.



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Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nation Environmental Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Recalling* the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a particular focus on
4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 on health and well-being, 12 on sustainable consumption and
5 production, 13 on urgent action on climate change, and 14 on the conservation and sustainability of the
6 oceans,

7

8 *Commends* the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on its existing mechanisms to prevent marine litter
9 through its various regional programs, such as the Clean Seas Campaign,

10

11 *Appreciating* UNEP's work in establishing cooperatives among citizens in Member States that will collect
12 trash from rivers, oceans, streets, landfills, and other polluted areas and utilize recycled goods in local
13 crafts or reusable products that can be offered for use by 5Gyres, a non-governmental organization
14 (NGO) that raises funds for environmental relief through the sale of recycled plastic artisan goods,

15

16 *Highlighting* the efforts of direct relief campaigns such as those of the Ocean Conservancy which have
17 resulted in the removal of 220 million pounds of plastic from the ocean through international partnerships
18 with volunteer organizations for coastal cleanup projects in beaches and waterways,

19

20 *Acknowledging* United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA) report entitled *Plastic and Shallow Water*
21 *Coral Reefs* (2018) which addressed the effects that mismanaged plastic waste continues to have on
22 coral reefs and marine life, contributing to the loss of over 100,000 marine mammals annually,

23

24 *Supporting* fully the reuse of recycled plastics to create new products that will promote a circular, global
25 economy and ensure the reduction of plastic dependency,

26

27 *Deeply concerned by* the scientific data showing that approximately 8 million tons of plastic pile up in the
28 oceans every year, causing alarming impacts on marine wildlife, fisheries, tourism, ecosystems and
29 human health and provoking damages that amount to approximately \$8 billion USD,

30

31 *Recognizing* the need for infrastructure and discipline of proper waste management in regions that lack
32 necessary resources and considering the work of locally present organizations and institutions of
33 education as accessible solutions to advocate for responsible plastic usage,

34

35 *Aware of* the value in engaging youth in a collective global effort to reduce individual single-use plastic
36 consumption,

37

38 *Recognizing* the necessity for international collaboration in order to give all countries access to renewable
39 resources and sustainable production methods,

40

41 *Reaffirming* the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), which highlights the
42 responsibilities of nations regarding the usage of the world's oceans and marine resources,

43

44 1. *Calls for* responses from Member States to support developing countries in addressing the issues of
45 marine litter and microplastics by:

46

- 47 a. Contributing funding on an ad hoc basis to international programs such as but not limited to:
48
49 i. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) which tackles the most urgent problems and
50 provides funding for more than 4500 projects in 170 countries;
51 ii. The Official Development Assistance (ODA), a government aid program designed to
52 promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries;
53 iii. The World Bank, an international organization whose purpose is to provide support
54 specifically to Least Developed Countries (LDGs) to end poverty and for fostering
55 prosperity;
56
57 b. Establishing innovative plastic waste management facilities that include plastic treatment plants,
58 analytical technology, and plastic classification systems to ensure that states can self-sufficiently
59 manage their plastic waste;
60
- 61 2. *Invites* Member States to implement educational programs for youth, corporations, and industries that
62 educate participants on the benefits of switching to renewable materials and sustainable resources in
63 place of plastic materials by:
64
65 a. Having teams of experts present in schools, corporations and industries about the economic
66 benefits of transferring away from single-use plastics and plastic as a material to renewable
67 materials within the industry;
68
69 b. Strengthening celebrations of World Oceans Day in schools, residential and industrial
70 communities to create awareness of the harms of plastic on the environment by encouraging
71 institutions to host more publicized events and activities on World Oceans Day;
72
73 c. Utilizing social media to engage youth and company employees in global conversations regarding
74 the prevention of marine plastic pollution awareness and for international exchange of ideas;
75
- 76 3. *Promotes* the expansion of the UN Environment’s “Back to School Plastic Challenge,” which
77 encourages schools and youth to find creative strategies that will reduce or eliminate single-use
78 plastics in their daily lives by further requesting that Member States invite existing environmental
79 NGOs to engage in meaningful conversations with local schools;
80
- 81 4. *Recommends* Member States adopt educational programs by utilizing the knowledge and skills of
82 domestic NGOs and existing research projects by higher education institutions on plastic waste
83 management to teach local communities better approaches to reduce and eliminate marine litter;
84
- 85 5. *Suggests* that capable Member States combat the use and effects of single-use plastics through
86 periodic, gradual introduction or increase of taxes and surcharges of single-use plastics to generate
87 funding that may be used to research and develop renewable materials to replace plastics by:
88
89 a. Taxing large corporations producing single-use plastics;
90
91 b. Establishing surcharges on the consumption of single-use plastics;
92
93 c. Creating new products from recycled plastics that will promote a circular and sustainable global
94 economy;
95
- 96 6. *Further suggests* Member States invest in and use biodegradable indigenous and traditional
97 alternatives to plastics to combat the use of single-use plastics, such as packaging food products in
98 banana leaves and traditional Mayan cloths, or using edible spoons made of local flours instead of
99 plastic cutlery;

- 101 7. *Calls upon* Member States to create national opportunities for communities and individuals to engage
102 in waterway cleanups and plastic recycling by:
103
104 a. Following the example of programs such as the Plastic Bank, a bottle deposit program for small
105 monetary returns, that will provide citizens of least-developed countries (LDCs) extra income for
106 turning plastic waste into a currency which will benefit the environment and citizens living in
107 poverty;
108
109 b. Cooperating with local NGOs, such as but not limited to:
110
111 i. Algalita, which empowers youth to work in their communities to reduce or eliminate single-
112 use plastic consumption;
113 ii. Clear Blue Sea, which uses solar-powered technology for ocean cleanup efforts;
114 iii. The World Wildlife Fund, which works to promote sustainable fishing practices and expand
115 protective mangrove cover of at-risk ecosystems;
116
117 8. *Intends* to implement this resolution by inviting Member States to submit a voluntary review to the
118 UNEA every four years on their progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and
119 reducing marine plastic pollution globally.



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Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

- 1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Recognizing* the global scope of marine plastic litter and microplastics as an issue that affects landlocked
4 as well as coastal nations in the interest of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda
5 2030, in particular targets 3.9, 6.3, 12.4-12.7, and 14.1,
6
7 *Alarmed* by the fact that ten rivers are the route by which 90% of marine litter and microplastics ultimately
8 reach marine environments,
9
10 *Concerned* that 8.2 billion straws are found along coastlines and waterfronts,
11
12 *Acknowledging* the effects of marine plastics on the health of humans and wildlife, in accordance with
13 Article 197 of *the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*,
14
15 *Aware* of the importance of multilateral cooperation between governmental and non-governmental
16 organizations (NGOs) in fostering sustainable development,
17
18 *Appreciating* the success of the Ocean Cleanup Campaign and similar NGO advocacy programs,
19
20 *Endorsing* the engagement of Member States to act on land-based plastic pollution that ultimately
21 contributes to marine plastic litter, based on *the Washington Declaration on the Protection of Marine*
22 *Environments from Land-Based Activities*,
23
24 *Recalling the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Program of Action for the*
25 *Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities* for the prevention and management of
26 marine debris and the establishment of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter in order to facilitate
27 practices that can be applied universally to all Member States,
28
29 *Affirming* the work of United Nations Environment Assembly “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” (2017) and
30 the *Paris Agreement* (2016) to acknowledge the links between marine plastic pollution, climate change,
31 biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation,
32
33 *Emphasizing* the desire to prevent further contamination of the world’s oceans alongside the removal of
34 existing plastic pollution in accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on “Marine
35 Litter and Microplastics” (2018), which calls attention to the need to extract plastic contamination from the
36 world’s oceans and calls for global participation to halt the increasing quantity of plastic pollution,
37
38 *Bearing in mind* that the lack of resources for developing Member States weakens their ability to minimize
39 the impact of plastic pollution as well as the creation of further pollution,
40
41 *Reiterating* the importance of state sovereignty and the inclusive contribution of all Member States in
42 global environmental issues such as marine plastic litter, regardless of cultural differences, political
43 viewpoints, or ideological disagreements,
44
45 1. *Advocates* that Member States limit or halt the burying of plastic in landfills or other dumping sites,
46 which contributes to the toxification of water streams and marine plastic contamination, through the

- 47 establishment of alternative disposal methods such as recycling facilities, separate waste streams,
48 and enzymatic or microbiological breakdown;
49
- 50 2. *Encourages* utilizing sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, such as stainless steel,
51 biodegradable plastic, or bamboo;
52
- 53 3. *Promotes* the significance of reusable plastic by working to expand the Collection and Reuse of
54 Plastic Refuse, whose goal is to actively separate, process and send Polyethylene Terephthalate
55 plastic (PET) to recycling, which has an impact of 50-70% increase in PET waste recycled, reducing
56 the amount of landfill plastic that often ultimately gets blown or transported to oceans;
57
- 58 4. *Endorses* the adoption of a recycling system similar to the Deutsche Green Dot System and other
59 like-minded programs, which promotes the cooperation of industries and consumers through
60 generating income from selling a license to packaging corporations that:
61
- 62 a. Benefits the proper disposal of plastic wastes through raising awareness to the industries,
63 governments, and consumers;
64
- 65 b. Provides employment opportunities to local communities;
66
- 67 c. Establishes sustainable recycling centers that sort plastic wastes and converts those plastic
68 wastes into raw materials, and sells those to manufacturers;
69
- 70 5. *Establishes* an online platform for various nations that will serve as a trading platform for the
71 transaction of collected resources from rivers, oceans, streets, landfills, and other polluted areas, thus
72 incentivizing individuals to volunteer in cleaning water regions to earn currency or points with tangible
73 rewards;
74
- 75 6. *Recommends* that Member States develop partnerships with NGOs such as Clear Blue Sea, Ocean
76 Cleanup, and EcoOcean, who are actively working toward the minimization of plastic litter,
77 participating in research toward a greater understanding of plastic pollution, developing sustainable
78 waste management strategies, and decreasing marine pollution at the source;
79
- 80 7. *Supports* multilateral cooperation between Member States and private actors to foster sustainable
81 infrastructure mitigating plastic waste, such as utilizing recycled plastic in public projects or creating
82 waste-collection services with further training on best practices regarding the correct sorting of plastic
83 waste into recycling facilities as opposed to landfills;
84
- 85 8. *Encourages* Member States to launch information campaigns to increase awareness of the serious
86 consequences of marine plastic litter among local populations, which will likely contribute to greater
87 public engagement in combating this issue;
88
- 89 9. *Advocates* that developing Member States utilize the International Monetary Fund's Capacity
90 Development Grants to enhance infrastructure for the responsible handling of plastics for working
91 toward SDG 14, since many developing nations may lack the necessary capacities for adequate
92 processing and recycling;
93
- 94 10. *Calls upon* Member States to consider that the implementation of unilateral sanctions may weaken
95 Member States' economic resources to address marine litter and microplastics, as action on
96 environmental topics such as marine plastic litter require the essential contribution of the entire
97 international community.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Bearing in mind* the deep concern on the amount of pollution in all oceans as stated in General Assembly
4 resolution 70/1, "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2015)
5 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, life under water, in addition to global conventions, such as the
6 Six International Ocean Disposal Symposium (1986), which addresses persistent plastic dumping, the
7 Second International Conference on Marine Debris (1989), which further recognizes sources contributing
8 to transboundary marine plastic pollution as vessel transportation, coastal, urban, rural, and upland
9 discharge, and the Third International Conference of Marine Debris (1994), which expands upon past
10 recognitions by providing solutions to address at-sea and mainland plastic disposal formulating a tracking
11 system recording levels of plastic debris, all Member States share a responsibility to counter the problem
12 of transboundary plastic pollution,

13

14 *Recognizing* the Fifth Conference on Marine Debris (2011) that brought forth the development of the
15 Honolulu Strategy (2011), particularly Strategy A5 'improve regulatory framework regarding storm water,
16 sewage systems, and debris in tributary waterways,' Strategy A2 'employing market-based instruments to
17 support solid waste management, in particular waste minimization,' and Strategy A7 'conduct regular
18 cleanup efforts on coastal lands, in watersheds, and in waterways, especially at hotspots of marine debris
19 accumulation, in line with SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production,

20

21 *Appreciating* the work that Upcycling the Oceans (UTO) and The Plastic Bank have done to remove
22 plastics from the oceans through economic incentives for the intent of recycling into sustainable products,

23

24 *Believing that* sustainability must be developed multilaterally but uniquely among states and regions,
25 while enjoying both support and independent state sufficiency within the international community in line
26 with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982), specifically citing article 10(3), outlining
27 the expectations of Member States to respect the sovereign laws and borders of all nations, emphasizing
28 respect toward developing nations and resolving their lessened ability to create water infrastructure that
29 effectively combats marine pollution,

30

31 *Recognizing* General Assembly's declaration of 2014, as the International Year of Small Islands
32 Developing States and that these states have declared waste management as one of their top priorities,

33

34 *Alarmed by* the 1.3 billion tons of waste as mentioned Industrial Development Report (2018) that if
35 mismanaged will lead to greater accumulation of marine plastics and microplastics,

36

37 1. *Asks* Member States to take action on the dilemma of Transboundary Pollution by:

38

39 a. *Calling for* increased synchronization, collaboration and coordination among UNEA, UN-
40 Water, Small Island Developing States, and UNEP GEMS/Water Program;

41

42 b. *Maximizing the scope and use of available funding by suggesting,* while respecting Member
43 State sovereign equality, developed nations raise foreign aid from 0.03% to 3.00%, as an
44 effort to support developing nation's efforts in improving waste management;

45

- 46 c. Expanding on the World Water Quality Assessment by gathering and sharing information on
47 pollution levels among all sources of the world's water supply including drinking water, lakes,
48 creeks, streams, rivers, seas and oceans;
49
- 50 d. Widening the area covered in regular reports regarding the state of global freshwater
51 supplies;
52
- 53 e. Better understanding the peculiarities of water pollution, and water availability which exists
54 among littoral, island, and landlocked states;
55
- 56 2. *Invites* Member States to establish Transboundary Pollution as a legitimate international concern by
57 supporting past commitments, acknowledging previous preventative measures, and seeking to further
58 expand effectiveness through biannual conventions on the State of International Marine Pollution;
59
- 60 3. *Further invites* Member States to utilize effective solid waste management by:
61
- 62 a. Encouraging the implementation of new, improved, and technically sound sewage systems
63 such as decreasing the production of impermeable surfaces by:
64
- 65 i. Improving or constructing traditional concrete sidewalks, paved roads that lack
66 drainage ability which contributes toward runoff that contains potential marine
67 microplastic litter;
68
- 69 ii. Introducing permeable surfaces that would allow water to be filtered through the
70 ground before returning to their watersheds and keeping the plastic waste on land;
71
- 72 iii. Welcoming Member States to use these permeable alternatives such as pervious
73 asphalt and concrete, interlocking pavers, and plastic grid pavers, which would allow
74 rain and snowmelt to seep through the surface down to the underlying layers of soil
75 and gravel which naturally filter water;
76
- 77 b. Administering advanced filtration systems that removes clutter from ocean life, such as using:
78
- 79 i. Passive Filtration Systems, like Seabin Technology that filters large or medium sized
80 debris;
81
- 82 ii. Enhanced Microfiltration, hence, a membrane filtration system with the manipulation
83 of collodion and Cellulose Acetate;
84
- 85 iii. Innovative filtration systems to be compatible on filtering air water from microplastics;
86
- 87 c. Prioritizing Member States who lack efficient waste management infrastructure, particularly
88 littoral, and those lying along the banks of rivers in Central Africa and East Asia, as its these
89 that feed 90% of plastic pollution into the oceans;
90
- 91 d. Recommending innovative technologies and additives for combating marine plastic buildup
92 by implementing biotech that would improve the climate of marine ecosystems, including
93 plastic eating organisms and replacing non-reusable and reusable plastic with biodegradable
94 alternatives;
95
- 96 4. *Notes with satisfaction* efforts by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Upcycling the
97 Oceans (UTO) and the Plastic Bank to economically incentivize locals among developing nations,
98 particularly in littoral nations, by:
99
- 100 a. Creating social and environmental impact in areas with high levels of poverty and plastic
pollution by turning plastic waste into a currency;
- b. Identifying individuals who gather our plastic can trade it for money, items, or services;

- 101 c. Reaffirming Henkel’s support for the Plastic Bank, which represents a unique solution to the
102 problem of ocean plastic, strengthening the creation of recycled and sustainable packaging;
103
- 104 d. Integrating breakthrough technology creating clothing and accessories made entirely from
105 recycled materials (UTO);
106
- 107 e. Identify and secure non-traditional funding sources to combat water pollution;
108
- 109 f. Formulate innovative solutions and technologies that are readily adaptable to assist states
110 addressing water pollution and marine conservation;
111
- 112 5. *Discourages* the implementation of unilateral sanctions that impede Member States’ ability to combat
113 marine plastics and microplastics such as economic, diplomatic and environmental sanctions,
114 acknowledging that these actions may make it exceedingly difficult for Member States to enforce the
115 UNEA resolutions;
116
- 117 6. *Urges* Member States to pursue the gradual reduction of the use of all single-use plastics by the year
118 2030, by suggesting the implementation of the following steps:
119
- 120 a. Creating economic policies that discourage the production of single-use plastics, such as the
121 implementation of a consumption fee for their use;
122
- 123 b. Recommending the Member States to distribute cost-free, reusable, eco-friendly bags
124 alternatives;
125
- 126 c. Pursuing specifically the gradual, but dedicated reduction of national production of single-use
127 plastic bags;
128
- 129 7. *Suggests* that present Member States consider adopting an Extended Producer Responsibility
130 system within the industrial sector by:
131
- 132 a. Noting that producers would become responsible for the proper disposal or treatment of post-
133 consumer waste;
134
- 135 b. Encouraging governments to create “Responsible Repurposing” incentives that would contain
136 economic benefits urging industries to implement this system that would repurpose potential
137 marine microplastic litter curbing the pollution of our waters;
138
- 139 8. *Calls upon* Member States to respect the substantive discussions that have taken place here and to
140 continue working toward solutions with all Member States that will bring forth a brighter, cleaner future
141 for the international community while at the same time remaining cognizant of the differing capabilities
142 of Member States.



Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environmental Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environmental Assembly,*

2

3 *Expressing* concern with the fact that there are no means by which the international community can
4 efficiently remove microplastics from the seas,

5

6 *Stressing* the need for close cooperation and knowledge transfer between both Member States and
7 private actors to target such a global issue whilst also setting a precedent for future scientific
8 collaboration,

9

10 *Cognizant* of the role of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Environment Fund in
11 providing resources to investigate innovative approaches to environmental issues,

12

13 *Recognizing* the significance of *Agenda 21* (1993) calling for the strengthening of collaborative
14 international efforts in protecting marine bodies,

15

16 *Acknowledging* the 1982 UN *Convention on the Law of the Sea* which establishes Member States
17 responsibilities to address increasing pollution in marine environments and the report *Marine Debris:*
18 *Understanding, Preventing, and Mitigating the Significant Adverse impacts on Marine and Coastal*
19 *Biodiversity* (2016), which underscores the issue of increasing levels of microplastic waste in open bodies
20 of water and the dire consequences of this upon marine ecosystems,

21

22 1. *Calls upon* willing and able Member States to recognize the severity of the crisis involving the
23 increasing levels of marine microplastics and the international community's current inability and lack
24 of effective resources to remove existing microplastics;

25

26 2. *Adopt* the development of the Research and Innovation For All Laboratory (RIFAL), under the UNEP,
27 which will operate as a centralized hub for sharing and testing marine litter research and development
28 with other international laboratories through:

29

30 a. A central laboratory made up of a variety of specialized scientists including marine biologists,
31 biochemists, engineers and software engineers, working together, from volunteering Member
32 States;

33

34 b. A specific focus on microplastics in five branches (which will be overseen by a liaison
35 committee of representatives from each elected from within each branches team on an
36 annual basis at each Rotterdam Conference, as outlined in clause 5) including:

37

38 i. Identification of factors that cause the breakdown of plastics into microplastics that
39 can contribute to finding biodegradable alternatives;

40 ii. Understanding the human behavioral causes of plastic and subsequent microplastic
41 litter in order to further reduce littering;

42 iii. Research and develop eco-friendly and time-efficient scientific methods for extracting
43 from and tracking plastic and microplastics within open bodies of water;

44 iv. Collaboration with research and corporate institutions in finding bio-alternatives for
45 plastics;

46 v. Implementation of results from research and capacity building with respect to each
47 country's means and ability;

48

- 49 3. *Directs* UNEP to earmark financial resources from the UNEP Environment Fund to support RIFAL:
50
51 a. Funds will initially be devoted to finding solutions, and thereafter the continuous improvement
52 of these solutions alongside their implementation and capacity building;
53
54 b. Equality of access will be ensured through the implementation of a sliding scale to determine
55 the funds allocated within each Member State based on economic ability to pay for such
56 implementation;
57
58 c. The UNEP discourages the implementation of unilateral sanctions that make it exceedingly
59 difficult for Member States to have the economic ability to address marine litter and
60 microplastics;
61
- 62 4. *Calls for* the establishment of partnerships and cooperation between Member States, non-
63 governmental organizations (NGOs) and private actors within the framework of RIFAL, that have
64 expertise and knowledge in development, distribution, and maintenance of biodegradable plastic
65 alternatives and technology used to remove microplastic through:
66
67 a. The active involvement of private actors (as well as state scientists) within the central
68 laboratory:
69
70 i. Whereby private actors may send representatives to any branch with approval of the
71 existing branch staff;
72 ii. And partake in research alongside the researchers and scientists representing
73 Member States;
74
75 b. A database in collaboration with private sector on viable solutions for the extraction of plastic
76 litter in marine bodies
77
78 i. This database would collect scientific proposals from NGOs and private actors (who
79 do not work within the central laboratory) as well as those established by the central
80 laboratory in order to encourage cooperation with the central laboratory whilst also
81 preventing actors from pursuing disproved scientific methods and technology;
82 ii. The organization of these solutions will help identify measures to prevent the
83 continuation of the microplastic litter crisis as well as steps to eliminate existing
84 microplastic dust;
85 iii. This data would be collected through the automatic updating of research
86 developments by the central laboratory as well as the voluntary uploading of private
87 actors;
88 iv. Member States and private organizations who join RIFAL will have secured access to
89 data published and deposited in the data bank;
90
- 91 5. *Suggests* an annual conference in Rotterdam to report findings of RIFAL and promote knowledge
92 transfer between professionals in academia, private actors, and policy makers in Member States:
93
94 a. This conference will include representatives of all signatory Member States, NGO's,
95 academic institutions, and private actors, outline the findings made over the course of the
96 previous year, allow dialogue between Member States to decide the future course of action,
97 influence the focus of research, and express concern for how the laboratory has conducted
98 activity in the previous year;
99
100 b. The funds to run this conference will come out of the aforementioned allocated funds to
101 RIFAL from the UNEP Environment Fund;
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- c. The intention behind this conference will be to facilitate a forum by which knowledge transfer on microplastics can take place between signatory Member States, NGOs, and private actors;
- d. The agenda would be set through a process of nominating focus areas and an inclusive vote on these nominations whereby:
 - i. Each signatory Member State, NGO, and private actors will be able to nominate two points of agenda and make their case for each with two-minute speeches;
 - ii. After which each Member State, NGO, and private actor will be allotted four votes each to place on four points of agenda;
 - iii. With the agenda set as the four points of agenda with the most votes, in the order of how many votes they received.



Code: UNEA/1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2
3 *Acknowledging* the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions 3/7, “Marine litter and
4 microplastics” (2018) and 4/7, “Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics” (2019) on measures to tackle
5 plastic pollution and work toward a cleaner marine environment and General Assembly resolution 70/226,
6 “United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:
7 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”
8 (2015) for its desired full implementation of its Transformative Sustainable Goals by the year 2030,
9

10 *Noting with concern* the fact that the manufacture, use, and disposal of single-use plastic products remain
11 largely unrestricted despite the fact that plastics make up 90% of the litter entering the ocean each year,
12 and the extreme effects marine plastic litter has on coastal and island Member States, while still
13 considering the different natures of states and their ability to transition away from plastic,
14

15 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 71/312, *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action* (2017) and the
16 UNEA resolution 4/10, *Addressing single-use plastic products pollution* (2019) for its dedication to
17 decreasing the production and use of single-use plastics and microplastics,
18

19 *Commending* the initiatives of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) under the United Nations
20 Environment Programme (UNEP), that aims to reduce marine plastic litter world-wide in order to fulfill the
21 General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
22 Development” (2015),
23

24 *Realizing* the importance of the cultural identity of a Member State and the indigenous practices, such as
25 craftsmanship, which could alleviate the need for plastics by revitalizing traditional indigenous practices
26 into the mainframe of a Member State’s economy,
27

28 *Supporting* the historically ongoing transition toward digitalization in order to communicate positive
29 stimulation in the identification of plastic and microplastic collection sites throughout the global community
30 via the Internet, by utilizing initiatives such as the Clean Seas Campaign and Clean Rivers Campaign
31 commenced by UN Environment,
32

33 1. *Reminds* all Member States of the urgency to implement recommendations of UNEA resolutions 3/7
34 and 4/7 within their capabilities to accomplish a significant reduction of marine pollution by 2030
35 through:

- 36
- 37 a. Introducing, where economically feasible, clean-up programs;
 - 38
 - 39 b. Establishing common standards and methods to monitor and analyze the amounts of marine litter
40 and microplastics entering the oceans;
 - 41
 - 42 c. Prioritizing regional and national waste management plans;
 - 43
 - 44 d. Taking into account already established technological mechanisms;
 - 45
 - 46 e. Benefiting from the awareness raised because of “World Oceans Day”;
 - 47

- 48 2. Asks Member States to prioritize the reduction of single-use plastics in order to diminish the amount
49 of marine plastic litter entering the oceans and to go for a shared response by inviting those in a
50 position to provide financial and particularly non-monetary support;
51
- 52 3. Invites Member States to enact comprehensive bans on the production, import, sale and distribution
53 of single-use plastic bags by the year 2030, which would:
54
- 55 a. Rely on domestic legislation that should become increasingly restrictive of the use of single-
56 use plastic bags;
57
- 58 b. Encourage Member States to monitor and punish illegal trade and production of these items,
59 so that the ban will be effective;
60
- 61 4. Directs the GPML to guide Member States to prioritize the reduction of marine plastic litter and assist
62 in the transition away from single-use plastic bags, facilitated by scientists, specifically
63 anthropologists, chemists and ecologists that will seek out alternatives that:
64
- 65 a. Are fully biodegradable (not oxo-degradable), which includes materials such as:
66
- 67 i. Beeswax, Liquid wood, PCL polyesters, glass containers;
68 ii. Plaxx, clean substitute for fossil fuels;
69 iii. Bio-Plastic (Sugar and CO-2);
70 iv. Hemp;
71
- 72 b. Aim to incorporate indigenous and sustainable practices into the mainframe of Member States'
73 economies, by revitalizing traditional practices such as basket-weaving, which will further:
74
- 75 i. Promote the remembrance of national history and identity;
76 ii. Provide entrepreneurial opportunities to underrepresented groups, particularly
77 indigenous women, through domestic initiatives such as traditional woven cloth
78 bags or grass baskets;
79 iii. Incorporate a focus on processes that can be emulated biomimetically, such as
80 hydroponic food systems extrapolated from indigenous farming practices;
81 iv. Advance opportunities for economic independence within Member States;
82
- 83 2. *Encourages* the stimulation of national and local economies through utilizing natural resources
84 efficiently by:
85
- 86 a. Fostering craftsmanship in community centers through a capacity-building program, titled
87 "Beautify Plastic (BP)," which aims to showcase different, cost-efficient, easy, and useful ways
88 that plastic can be reused or up-cycled to create new items such as accessories or home decor;
89
- 90 b. Sourcing materials such as wood, clay, stone, and others existing within the varying communities
91 to substitutional, benign products;
92
- 93 c. Recommending that Member States adopt additional subsidization of both tools for the creation
94 and the consumption of such products;
95
- 96 3. *Suggests* the inclusion of UNEP as an administrative body to conduct the collection of indicators of
97 the possible substitutional products stemming from indigenous and traditional societies by:
98
- 99 a. Identifying local leadership entities and fostering lasting relationships and continued collaboration
100 in contributing to data collection efforts;
101
- 102 b. Creating additional streams of information to their existing networking and communication
103 partners;

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107

- c. Creating a rapidly-growing, community-based, and reliable approach to tracking progress made in local communities that collectively aid in preventing the distribution of plastic litter and microplastic through water stocks and flows.



Code: UNEA/1/8

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2
3 *Acknowledging* the Clean Seas campaign which calls for the complete elimination of major sources of
4 marine litter including micro-plastics in cosmetics as well as excessive usage of single-use plastics by the
5 year 2022,
6

7 *Alarmed* that the industrial sector remains one of the primary producers of plastic waste as evidenced by
8 a 2015 report that specified 302 million tons of plastic wastes were produced by industries in that year
9 alone,
10

11 *Recognizing* the work of the Evaluation and Oversight Unit of the United Nations Environment Program
12 (UNEP) in conducting, coordinating, and overseeing evaluations within UNEP, specifically drawing
13 attention to projects of the Environment Fund,
14

15 *Reaffirming* the objective of the UNEA resolution 3.7 "Marine Litter and Micro-plastics" (2018) which
16 specifically aims to reduce marine litter and micro-plastics from land-based sources by developing
17 comprehensive source-to-sea action plans within individual Member States,
18

19 *Further Acknowledging* the goal of the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference*
20 *on Financing for Development 69/313* (2015) which calls to reduce pollution in marine ecosystems
21 through the promotion of green alternatives by government and corporate investment and research,
22

23 1. *Introduces* the framework for the Plastics Cap and Trade System through the UNEP, a model working
24 towards eliminating the usage and production of plastic while investing in recyclable and other
25 renewable materials to reduce the usage of plastic through:
26

27 a. A cap and trade system which will encourage voluntary cooperation between Member States
28 with varying amounts of plastic production and their domestic private partners to minimize the
29 usage and production of single-use plastics with a certain percentage limit on plastic
30 production denoted as the cap will:
31

- 32 i. Be assessed and calculated through a mathematical model to determine the initial
33 cap percentage as well as the rate at which the cap will gradually decrease over a set
34 cycle in order to eliminate the dependency on plastics for each Member State;
35 ii. Address previous annual plastic production, gross domestic product and consider
36 other influential factors that will be measured with a weight coefficient;
37 iii. Determine the amount of credit that private entities will receive towards subsidies for
38 the investment in renewable materials to eventually replace plastics;
39

40 b. If private entities within the trade system are below their designated cap, the amount that they
41 are under the cap will be considered and worded as "left over", bonus, or rollover credit of
42 which:
43

- 44 i. Private entities below the cap are eligible to sell to other private entities above the
45 cap within the coalition so that their net plastic production is below the cap and
46 continue to receive credits for investment in biodegradable material research;
47 ii. Rollover credits will not be recognized for the following cycle's cap;
48 iii. Rollover credits cannot be purchased more than once every three intervals as
49 established by the Member State in collaboration with the Environment Fund;

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- c. Monitor the life cycles of plastic products by requesting private entities recycle and dispose of end of life products originated from the same entity;
 - 2. *Recommends* that all Member States designate one representative for their private coalition to participate in an annual forum that is moderated by a representative of the UNEP to ensure the progress of all participants and discusses:
 - a. The efficiency in the allocation of credits distributed towards finding alternatives to plastic;
 - b. Enhancements from specialized analysts on how to improve the mathematical model for the cap initial setting and rate of decline;
 - c. Past achievements, experiences, and share up-to-date information of private entities between Member States to promote new technologies, investment, and development;
 - 3. *Requests* the allocation of credits from the Environment Fund to financially support the following initiatives in the pursuit of the protection and preservation of the marine environment and simultaneously solicit the support of:
 - a. Member States in extending financial, technical, and workforce assistance;
 - b. Non-governmental organizations through donations and various types of assistance;
 - 4. *Encourages* the involvement of private entities, with priority on those which are the major contributors to plastic production within the Member State that meet the qualifications to join the Plastic Cap and Trade System of their Member State by which:
 - a. Each Member State's domestic private entity is eligible to apply to join the coalition of the Member State in which they produce the highest amount of plastic, as long as they have a plastics manufacturing plan within the given Member State;
 - b. Compliant private entities are expected to adhere for a duration, at a minimum of four years, set by the Member State in collaboration with the UNEP, to a predetermined production limit for plastics as established by the Member State;
 - c. Private entities within the Member States are invited to cooperate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Plastic Pollution Coalition and Avani Eco to develop implementation plans and solutions.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/9

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Deeply concerned* with the amount of plastic waste that is able to enter the world's bodies of water every
4 year, as mentioned in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/10 (2016),

5

6 *Recalling* UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/11, which recognizes that protection of marine
7 environment is in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its target 14.1 which seeks by
8 2025 to “prevent and significantly reduce marine pollutions of all kinds, in particular from land-based
9 activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution” as mentioned in UNEA resolution 2/11 (2016),

10

11 *Recognizing* the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from
12 Land-Based Activities which outlines a framework for identifying and prioritizing marine litter concerns as
13 the basic principle in addressing marine plastic pollution, floater system which can remove 90% of ocean
14 plastic by 2040,

15

16 *Suggesting* concrete collaboration under the guidance of the 2006 Abidjan Convention and the 2012
17 Johannesburg Declaration for better implementation for sustainable disposal of plastic waste to reduce
18 and recycle land-based pollution,

19

20 *Deeply Alarmed by the* inadequate plastic waste disposal by the international community and lack of
21 resources to combat the adverse effects of plastic pollution,

22

23 1. *Advocates* for the implementation of tax plans by Member States to hold accountable plastic waste
24 producers, by establishing tax guidelines to be instituted on producers to generate financial incentives
25 and funding through:

26

27 a. Member States partnering with the World Economic Forum to create a strategic tax plans that
28 will meet the needs of their economic needs;

29

30 b. Providing tax incentives to corporations that meet and exceed the standards of Member
31 States environmental policies regarding the production and disposal of plastic waste;

32

33 2. *Suggests* initiatives that encourage plastic cleanup and recycling through:

34

35 a. Sharing already successful initiatives between states using the Group of Experts on the
36 Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) so states lacking the expertise
37 can benefit, and thereby reduce the overall amount of plastic;

38

39 b. Implementing services that allow people to exchange plastic waste for necessities or income;

40

41 c. Transboundary rehabilitation;

42

43 d. Alternative and safe garbage disposal such as sanitary landfill;

44

45 3. *Suggests* for the mitigation of plastic and microplastic waste entering different bodies of water through
46 the creation of eco-barriers which would be made of recycled plastic waste meshed together into nets

- 47 to catch waste floating in rivers and would prevent the outflow of plastic waste from river bodies into
48 oceanic bodies through the support of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (SGP);
49
- 50 4. *Encourages* the cooperation between the private and public sectors to thoroughly implement
51 environmentally sound policies through the cooperation of regional working groups with organizations
52 such as the United Nations Statistics Division to:
- 53
- 54 a. Assess the sources of plastic pollution that are entering the ocean through major river
55 systems in order to implement actions that will prevent the dissemination of plastics in the
56 marine environment;
- 57
- 58 b. Champion collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit
59 organizations to implement specific actions focus on cleaning the existing plastic in rivers and
60 oceans;
- 61
- 62 5. *Encourages* governments to create and support recycling and litter collection facilities in major cities
63 through:
- 64
- 65 a. Creating new waste management system or improving existing systems by installing them in
66 more locations for people to easily dispose of any waste;
- 67
- 68 b. Further supporting the spaces by creating a system of collection points situated in urban
69 areas and near major water Fiscally supporting current public recycling facilities by expanding
70 their allocated tax budget;
- 71
- 72 6. *Stresses* the importance of public participations via NGOs in combating plastic pollution by
73 establishing programs that encourage the return of recyclable plastic products by providing socio-
74 economic rewards such as:
- 75
- 76 a. Financial rewards such as conditional cash transfer programs that will provide funding to
77 people in developing countries for recycling products and/or picking up plastic litter,
78 emphasizing mobile payments for the sake of accountability;
- 79
- 80 b. Discounts basic utilities (i.e. crude oil, clean water, electricity) and necessary goods (i.e.
81 hygiene products, household materials) in exchange for continual recycling;
- 82
- 83 c. In addition to financial reimbursement for plastic recycling, also encourage NGOs to fund
84 primary educational systems to further educate youth on the dangers of plastic pollution as
85 well as preventative measures;
- 86
- 87 7. *Calls upon* all Member States to improve public awareness and recognize the devastating impacts of
88 marine plastic on human health and marine ecosystem and the importance of reducing plastic use
89 and pollution by:
- 90
- 91 a. Eliminating microplastics added into cosmetic product;
- 92
- 93 b. Promoting school subjects associated with impacts of pollution and disposal of plastic;
- 94
- 95 c. *Urging* Member States to engage the public through joint marketing campaigns that would
96 raise the awareness of the population about ongoing joint projects to incentivize them to
97 adopt more environmentally aware behavior.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/10

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2

3 *Re-emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2016) on “Marine Litter and Microplastics”, which
4 emphasizes the detrimental effects of plastic debris, including microplastics, to human health and marine
5 environment as microplastics carry harmful bacteria that can affect human organs,

6

7 *Taking note of* General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015), on the “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the
8 Third International Conference on Financing Development” which addresses funding for development
9 projects and aims to foster universal and inclusive economic prosperity through promoting sustainable
10 use and fostering renewable plastic alternatives,

11

12 *Taking into consideration* the result of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, where
13 Member States adopted the *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development* along with the
14 Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development calling for Member States to commit to
15 environmental change,

16

17 *Stressing* the importance of the reduction and prevention of marine litter including plastic litter and
18 microplastics in General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for
19 Sustainable Development” (2015) Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14,

20

21 *Viewing* the aims of programs among Member States established as a result of the European Union’s
22 Marine Strategy Framework Directive which include a marine plastic litter action plan for ports and
23 harbors, involving a revision of the current waste management systems, and reducing the massive
24 amounts of plastic waste entering the ocean by improving storm water drainage systems,

25

26 *Further noting the Draft Ministerial Declaration* of the 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly which
27 reiterates United Nations Environment Assembly’s (UNEA) dedication to address environmental
28 challenges through advancing innovative solutions, such as social innovation programs that educate
29 citizens in sustainability practices, to move toward sustainable and resilient societies,

30

31 *Expresses satisfaction* toward the work done by Partnership for Action on the Green Economy, that
32 provides services aiding Member States in shifting their economic policies toward sustainability,

33

34 *Recalling the United Nations Convention on The Law of the Sea* (1982) specifically in article 301, which
35 ensures sustainable use of the oceans and designed certain regulations regarding the blue economy
36 through scientific research and economic aspects of the activities in the area,

37

38 *Stressing further* the necessity to sustainably manage plastics throughout their lifecycle through
39 managing them by reducing, reusing, and recycling (3Rs Approach) within sound waste management,
40 and international and regional cooperation, in order to increase sustainable consumption and production
41 patterns,

42

43 *Taking into account* UNEA resolution 3/7 (2018) in its efforts to increase coherence and harmony by
44 cooperating with Member States at the local, national, regional, and international levels, coordinate and

45 synergize between existing mechanisms and to enhance cooperation and governance with the intent to
46 better address marine litter and microplastics challenges,
47

- 48 1. *Urges* Member States to implement regulations on the sale of single-use plastics to reduce the total
49 amount of plastic waste while continuing to foster further development including, but not limited to
50 taxing private sector companies who produce and sell single-use plastic;
51
- 52 2. *Invites* Member States to create biodegradable alternatives from the money generated through the
53 previously implemented regulations of single-use plastic like *AVANI ECO* which are eco-friendly
54 “plastic” bags made from cassava roots;
55
- 56 3. *Encourages* Member States to add taxes and fees on plastic materials in order to:
57
 - 58 a. Implement the *Deutsche Pfand System* in urban and other strategic areas, which mainly
59 regulates the sale and return of plastic bottles;
60
 - 61 b. Provide incentives to consumers for recycling single-use plastics by providing partial refunds
62 when returning used plastic bottles;
63
 - 64 c. Increase awareness and promote sustainable attitudes in consumers and producers toward
65 their usage and reuse of plastics and materials generates marine litter;
66
 - 67 d. Encourage companies to decrease their single-use plastic production and marine litter
68 components which would be replaced by an increase in the production of reusable plastic
69 products and components found in marine litter;
70
- 71 4. *Supports* the creation of a global campaign to raise awareness of single-use plastics to:
72
 - 73 a. Make citizens and private industries to the environmental and health dangers posed by the
74 presence of plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean in order for them to contribute to the
75 mitigation of said consequences;
76
 - 77 b. Inform Member States of the dangers that microbeads pose on both marine life and human
78 health with the intention of leading to a ban on microbead-containing products;
79
- 80 5. *Recommends* Member States to put the revenue from single-use plastic regulations toward the
81 further development of technology and infrastructure that will create more sustainable industries by:
82
 - 83 a. Improving storm water drainage systems and revising the current waste management
84 systems at ports and harbors which will prevent plastic from entering waterways and reduce
85 the levels of marine litter;
86
 - 87 b. Developing deep ocean monitoring systems to remove microplastics from deep sea
88 environments and limit their effects on marine life:
89
 - 90 i. Increase awareness and knowledge of the levels of plastics and microplastics in the
91 oceans;
 - 92 ii. Use this knowledge to protect endangered marine life with marine protection zones in
93 coastal areas with a specific focus on coral reefs;
94
 - 95 c. Creating and strengthening innovative technology start-up projects for example by using solar
96 powered ocean vacuums which are capable of cleaning up to 24,000 tons plastics plastic
97 every year in river and ocean environments;
98

- 99 d. Promote the use of sewage filters at estuaries in order to prevent plastic waste from flowing
100 into the ocean;
101
- 102 6. *Urges* Member States to redirect funds from the revenue generated from the taxes on single-use
103 plastics to forms of local entrepreneurship in their respective nations in order to:
104
- 105 a. Stimulate their respective economies by utilizing said funds to implement green business
106 practices in small local and medium-sized enterprises such as, but not limited to:
107
- 108 i. Sustainable supply chains solely composed of environmentally safe vendors;
109 ii. Recycling programs for products that can only be recycled at specific locations;
110 iii. Replacing faucets and toilets for energy efficient ones;
111
- 112 b. Include each Member State's citizens in the fight against plastic pollution;
113
- 114 7. *Suggests* Member States to implement infrastructure from the money retrieved from taxing single-use
115 plastics for waste management with a focus on developing states for example by:
116
- 117 a. Construction of new recycling facilities in developing countries within close proximity
118 communities that do not have the ability to properly dispose of waste:
119
- 120 b. Emphasizing an increased effectiveness of waste transportation and handling through
121 improving infrastructure;
122
- 123 c. Creating and strengthening programs within waste collection services who pick up
124 microplastic waste from homes of residents in individual cities or countries to increase
125 convenience for residents and reduce microplastics from ending up in the ocean;
126
- 127 8. *Invites* Member States to expand Marine Protected Areas along coastal zones to protect the local
128 habitat and marine life using the tax money retrieved by legislative regulations for maintaining and
129 securing the areas.



Code: UNEA/1/11

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter & Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Guided by Article 197 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), which emphasizes*
4 *the importance of international and regional partnerships for the preservation, development, and*
5 *protection of marine environment,*
6
7 *Reiterating the principles of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)*
8 *especially SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 5 on Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 13 on*
9 *Climate action, SDG 14 on Life Below Water, and SDG 17 on Partnership for the Goals, to encourage*
10 *collaboration among Member States on the prevention and removal of marine plastic litter,*
11
12 *Recognizing the importance of land-based waste disposal as outlined in the Washington Declaration on*
13 *the Protection of Marine Environments from Land-Based Activities (1995),*
14
15 *Acknowledging the efforts made by Member States utilizing vessels with specialized applications to*
16 *rehabilitate the ocean through filtration and removal of micro- and macro plastics,*
17
18 *Commending regional collaboration such as the Comprehensive Program on Hydrometeorology and*
19 *Environmental Monitoring in the Caspian Sea Region (CASPAS), an organization which facilitates*
20 *cooperation on hydrometeorology and pollution monitoring around shared seas, along with similar*
21 *associations around other shared bodies of water to address marine plastic pollution according to local*
22 *needs,*
23
24 *Recognizing the Clean Seas Campaign, launched by the United Nations Environment in 2017, which*
25 *encourages individuals to dispose plastics through sustainable means,*
26
27 *Bearing in mind the fifth Global Environment Outlook report, A Snapshot of the World's Water Quality:*
28 *Towards a Global Assessment, and the analytical brief entitled Towards a Worldwide Assessment of*
29 *Freshwater Quality, which shows lapses in knowledge of water quality and the opportunities for avoiding*
30 *pollution and restoring polluted water bodies in developing countries,*
31
32 *Recalling the United Nations Environment Programme resolution UNEP/5/1.1 "The Need for Urgent*
33 *Action to Address Water Security", which states that water should be protected for the benefit of mankind*
34 *and the marine environment,*
35
36 *Emphasizing the significance of marine pollution to climate change, as outlined in United Nations*
37 *Environment Programme resolution UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1 "Toward a Pollution Free Planet" which affirms the*
38 *role of international cooperation and knowledge sharing,*
39
40 *Bearing in mind the resolutions already passed by the United Nations Environment from 2014 through*
41 *2018 on marine pollution and marine health,*
42
43 *Reaffirming the importance of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Criteria and Guidelines on the*
44 *Transfer of Marine Technology (IOCGTMT) which encourages all participating Member States to benefit*
45 *on an equal basis on progress in the field of marine plastic clean-up technologies,*
46

47 *Recognizing* the Global Partnership of Marine Litter (GPML), a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides
48 mechanisms unifying multiple actors to prevent marine litter and microplastics through set information-
49 sharing frameworks,
50

51 1. *Suggests* Member States and private organizations to support the sustainable clean-up of macro- and
52 microplastics in the oceans:
53

54 a. through the utilization of repurposed local ships, such as the specialized vessels of *Deutsche*
55 *One Earth-One Ocean*, especially in areas where plastic naturally collects (i.e. gyres and
56 estuaries), and use possible profits from removing and recycling the plastic from the areas
57 previously mentioned, to improve plastic recycling and disposal capacities in coastal regions;
58

59 b. by sharing the best practices on the construction of new specialized ships, and repurposing
60 already existing vessels for clean-up efforts facilitated by the IOCGTMT;
61

62 c. by strengthening and promoting regional cooperation of domestic and international
63 corporations to increase capacities for disposal and recycling of macro and microplastic
64 collected in the oceans;
65

66 2. *Encourages* information sharing and marine plastic litter monitoring in order to combat marine plastic
67 pollution among Member States that share responsibility for adjacent bodies of water by:
68

69 a. Engaging in deliberations in regional organizations, which form specific solutions to problems
70 that are unique to localized areas, in order to embrace a common but differentiated approach
71 that still emphasizes best environmental practices;
72

73 b. Creating cross-sectoral partnerships between stakeholders whose surrounding ecosystems
74 are affected by marine plastic pollution, with intentions to facilitate increased data collection
75 to apply efficient solutions for the purposes of reducing overpackaging, increasing recycling
76 rates, increasing waste-collection rates, and others;
77

78 3. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with multinational corporations (MNC's) forming partnerships,
79 including those of the Global Compact to take the lead in addressing research on technologies for the
80 detection and prevention of microplastic litter by:
81

82 a. Promoting events within the Global Compact displaying the need for the development of
83 devices that can detect and extract microplastics from marine environments;
84

85 b. Encouraging reduced taxation for the development of technological devices which will
86 promote the total elimination of microplastic products and byproducts gradually over the
87 coming years;
88

89 c. Inviting Member States to engage in joint research projects with the private sector and MNCs
90 to further utilize their expertise and research facilities for biodegradable plastic technology;
91

92 4. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate further with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such
93 as 5Gyres, International Institute Applied System Analysis and Interreg Central Baltic to effectively
94 develop preventative measures that will limit the amount of plastics entering oceans by continuing to
95 implement and share practices for testing concentrations of microplastics, that aid response and
96 prevention by:
97

98 a. Effectively mapping out the types of plastics produced or utilized by businesses located
99 closer to bodies of water to best predict where these plastics enter marine ecosystems;
100

101 b. Developing research venues for biodegradable plastics as alternatives to substitute for
102 single-use plastics and microplastics;

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c. Internationally unifying production of biologically or chemically degradable plastics among Member States;

5. *Calls for* action from the International Maritime Organization to work with innovative corporations to effectively determine the sources of plastics and microplastics entering oceans, and transfer collected plastics to proper plastic waste facilities;
6. *Recommends* that Member States engage in knowledge and resource sharing to develop technologies such as bio-fences that will capture plastics within rivers and streams before reaching larger bodies of water, which is then facilitated by the IOCGTMT to ensure equal distribution and access across all Member States through the GPML;
7. *Advocates* that Member States introduce a collection system in urban areas for single-use plastic items based on a small additional deposit from the consumer to a government agency, which is refunded when consumers hand in the items at collection points for recycling.



Code: UNEA/1/12

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for
4 Sustainable Development” (2015) Sustainable Development Goals, which guides the international
5 community’s action toward creating a more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable world,
6
7 *Affirming the* importance of transparency initiatives such as the UN Transparency and Accountability
8 Initiative regarding any research, strategies, and programs among all Member States to increase
9 communication and accountability,
10
11 *Pushing* for the need for increased research and technology to improve the efficiency of dealing with the
12 marine litter through UN bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
13 International Environmental Technology Centre,
14
15 *Reiterating* its appreciation for *the 2015 Paris Agreement*, creating an innovative framework to address
16 climate and environmental sustainability,
17
18 *Welcoming with satisfaction* the resolution UNEP/EA.4/L.7 established at the Innovative Solutions for
19 Environmental Challenges 2019 Conference which highlights the increasing number of states endorsing
20 the concept of circular economy and developing comprehensive plans for action,
21
22 *Noting with deep concern* the lack of waste collection and management practices brought to attention by
23 *A Snapshot of the World’s Water Quality*, published by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
24 in rivers that contribute large amounts of plastic into the oceans,
25
26 *Alarmed by* the number of plastic wastes in oceans, especially in gyres, found by UNEA’s Global
27 Partnership on Marine Litter, which leads to the transboundary crisis of plastic pollution of Member
28 States,
29
30 *Recognizing* the UNEA resolution 1/6 on “Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics” (2016) that certain
31 coastal nations are disproportionately affected by marine litter issues and require more drastic action,
32
33 *Expressing with concern* that ninety percent of the territorial and international waters in the purview of
34 Protect Planet Ocean, an initiative by International Union for Conservation of Nature with the collaboration
35 with World Conservation Monitoring Centre, are not preserved through marine protected areas or national
36 parks,
37
38 *Acknowledging* the importance of Agenda 21 in promoting environmentally sound management of solid
39 wastes which highlights a framework to implement a reduction of marine litter in international waters,
40
41 *Approving of* the work done by the UN CleanSeas Campaign to engage governments, the public, and the
42 private sector in the fight against marine litter,
43
44 *Conscious of* the limited capabilities of economically developing Member States to achieve the
45 Sustainable Development Goal 14.1 of decreasing marine pollution in marine ecosystems,
46
47 *Highlighting* the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 15.1 which illustrates the mobilization of
48 financial resources from Member States to conserve biodiversity and marine ecosystems,
49

50 *Noting with approval the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment* and its endeavors to foster relations
51 and financial support between Multinational Corporations (MNCs), More Developed Countries (MDCs),
52 and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
53

- 54 1. *Endorses* the creation of a transparent information sharing program through training sessions and
55 educational programs on the sustainable development knowledge platform by the UN on the topic of
56 sustainable practices, recycling- and cleanup methods to benefit developing nations and developed
57 nations, including Non-governmental Organizations and Multinational Corporations, using the funds of
58 the UNEP, the International Trade Union (ITU), and the World Bank Fund “PROBLUE”;
59
- 60 2. *Appreciates the efforts of* Member States to designate more ocean regions as marine protected areas
61 and national parks to:
62
 - 63 a. Create cooperation with international non-governmental organizations to regulate marine
64 protected areas including the support from the World Wildlife Fund;
 - 65
 - 66 b. Use marine protected areas to improve marine biodiversity and therefore increase eco-
67 tourism for Member States who rely on eco-tourism;
 - 68
 - 69 c. Expand marine protected areas into Exclusive Economic Zones where plastics are found in
70 higher concentrations to improve cooperation with the UN Ocean and other non-profit
71 organizations to advocate for legislation expanding marine protected areas and national
72 parks;
 - 73
- 74 3. *Requests* immediate action to address the disturbing amount of plastic litter coming from inland
75 waters leading into oceans by:
76
 - 77 a. Expanding the ocean protection plans based on models already implemented in some
78 Member States in addition to encouraging and facilitating cleanup programs in coastal
79 communities by encouraging public awareness by working alongside non-governmental
80 organizations (NGO)’s and engaging local communities in the cleanup of their coastline;
 - 81
 - 82 b. Developing filtration systems to prevent a majority of pollution from the ten most polluting
83 rivers around the world, recognizing differences in national policy/cultural importance
84 regarding those bodies of water by establish a committee within the UNEA of experts from
85 nations at the forefront of research and environmental risk assessment to find possible
86 alternatives to dams and filtration system such as: placing the Ocean Cleanup machine
87 outside rivers where they connect with the ocean as a prevention method netting trash traps;
 - 88
- 89 4. *Urges* adoption and improvement of high seas efficient plastic filtering and cleaning emulating
90 specialized vessels Deutsche One Earth-One Ocean and Clear Blue Sea, Ocean Cleanup campaign,
91 along with broadening research for biodegradable plastic alternatives, expanding the Global
92 Microplastic Initiative and fostering programs analogous to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation;
- 93
- 94 5. *Suggests* that Member States collaborate with the UNEA for aid in developing legal frameworks for
95 private-sector regulation that all willing and able Member States can implement this framework that
96 will be focused on regulating the private-sector companies who are producing large amounts of
97 marine litter in order to combat that amount of microplastics and other forms of plastics from reaching
98 international waters;
- 99
- 100 6. *Supports* the vision of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to mobilize over two hundred-
101 fifty MNC signatories that are determined to start building a circular economy for plastic as a solution
102 to the funding gap for sustainable practices between MDCs and LDCs through:
103
 - 104 a. Utilizing the financial institutions that have endorsed the Global Commitment and the money
105 pledged by venture capital funds to create a circular economy for plastic, ensuring credibility

- 106 and transparency by setting a clear minimum level of ambition for MNC signatories, stressing
107 annual reporting on progress to ensure the Global Commitment continues to represent true
108 leadership, enforcing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* targets that will respect
109 this vision;
- 110
- 111 b. Reiterating the 2030 Agenda commitments through redesign, innovation, and new delivery
112 models:
- 113
- 114 i. Ensuring that packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable;
- 115 ii. Fully decoupling the use of plastic from the consumption of finite resources;
- 116 iii. Ensuring that packaging is free of hazardous chemicals, and the health, safety, and
117 rights of all people involved are respected;
- 118
- 119 7. *Encourages* the utilization of the sustainable and income-generating specialized water vessel,
120 Deutsche One Earth-One Ocean, which is available for all Member States to utilize with their consent
121 and agreement, that focuses on the elimination of plastics in oceans, especially in gyres through:
- 122
- 123 a. Filtering plastics and microplastics and converting collected wastes into raw materials to be
124 sold to manufacturers;
- 125
- 126 b. Instigating trans government and transparency collaboration and creating partnerships with
127 MNCs for the merchandising of the converted wastes;
- 128
- 129 c. Asking for the assistance of able and willing Member States to lend out ships and/or cargos
130 to be sent out to oceans and gyres together with the specialized vessel and incentivizing by
131 providing work opportunities to Member States involved;
- 132
- 133 8. *Calls upon* the UNEP to strengthen the partnership with International Coral Reef Initiative to create
134 and conduct regional increased assessments on how marine plastic litter is affecting corals reefs to
135 provide Member States with more knowledge on their coral reef management as it relates to the
136 effect plastic has on coral;
- 137
- 138 9. *Invites* all willing Member States to emulate the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) within
139 *the Paris Agreement* through submitting NDCs with:
- 140
- 141 a. Strengthening the relationship with The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of
142 Marine Environmental Protection to contribute to a 50% reduction in the global use of plastics
143 and microplastics by the year 2030 through:
- 144
- 145 i. Suggesting environmental regulation to ban single-use plastics which have
146 sustainable alternatives;
- 147 ii. Ensuring a significant reduction in marine waste in international waters;
- 148
- 149 b. Regulating materials that are difficult and hazardous to recycle is within the purview of
150 Member States in hopes of emphasizing the desire for a circular economy by the year 2030:
- 151
- 152 i. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE);
- 153 ii. High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE);
- 154 iii. Polyvinyl Chloride (V or Vinyl or PVC);
- 155 iv. And other non-recyclable mixed polymers;
- 156
- 157 10. *Advises* Member States to voluntarily apply green tax policies to push corporations and consumers
158 toward reducing plastic in Member States where bans have proved inefficient through:
- 159
- 160 a. Applying taxes on single-use plastics which have been effective in other countries in
161 programs;

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- b. Taxing corporations which manufacture significant amounts of plastic in their production, reallocating the funds gathered from the taxes to the citizens of the Member States who participate in research for plastic alternatives;
- c. Encouraging the utilization of the Global Environment Facilities and the Green Climate Fund as a measure to implement facilities such as filtration systems.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/13

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
4 Development” (2015) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12 and 14 regarding responsible
5 consumption and production and life below water respectively,
6
7 *Further recalling*, UN Ocean Conference Resolution titled “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call to Action” (2017),
8 United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/19 (2016), General Assembly resolution
9 71/257 adopted on the 23rd of December 2016 concerning “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”, and General
10 Assembly resolution 71/312 (2017) which highlights the issue and provide potential solutions,
11
12 *Highlighting* the importance of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, as well as understanding
13 that the presence of microplastics and other plastic litter is an issue for environmentally sound waste
14 disposal,
15
16 *Recognizing* that the recycling of plastic is and should be considered a temporary solution, as the overall
17 use of plastic should be eradicated, and responsible consumption should be the goal as per SDG 12,
18
19 *Deeply Concerned* about the increasing amount of hazardous disposal of plastic waste in oceans and the
20 lack of efficient and sustainable use of plastic waste and implementation of SDG 12,
21
22 *Emphasizing* the importance of SDG 14.A which outlines the need for Small Island Developing States
23 (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries to develop research capacity and transfer marine technology to
24 address marine plastic litter and microplastics,
25
26 *Further acknowledging* the importance of eradicating marine litter and microplastics which is emphasized
27 through UNEA resolution 3/7 titled “Marine Litter and Microplastics”,
28
29 *Commending* the work of the 18 Regional Sea Programs under United Nations Environment Program
30 (UNEP) which assists regions in addressing the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and
31 coastal areas from marine plastic litter and microplastics through a shared seas approach,
32
33 *Commending* the work done in the Marine Atlas of the Western Arabian Gulf focusing on the effects of
34 marine litter on marine wildlife in the Arabian Gulf focused on preserving corals,
35
36 *Aware* of the lack of communication between Member States and existing Civil Society Organizations and
37 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in efforts to resolve issues concerning litter before it can reach
38 the oceans,
39
40 *Reaffirming* the importance of Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental
41 Protection (GESAMP) in providing advice to the UN on scientific aspects of marine environmental
42 protection,
43
44 *Noting with satisfaction* the creation of the African Marine Waste Network, a project by the NGO
45 Sustainable Seas Trust, and its focus on preventing marine pollution in Africa at its source; on land,
46

47 *Recognizing* the need for further studies and data collection by Member States to assess the scale of
48 plastic waste and prevalence of microplastics surrounding all Member States and their oceans,
49
50 *Alarmed by* the lack of effective recycling procedures in urban African areas and the perpetual rise in
51 marine litter and plastics,
52
53 *Considering* the lack of incentive in the private sector with regards to reducing the use and production of
54 single-use plastics,
55
56 *Commending* the success of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in
57 promoting sustainable awareness and practices at the individual level with their program Education for
58 Sustainable Development (ESD),
59
60 *Echoing* the effect of the States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) in their efforts to establish an
61 intergovernmental partnership framework among SIDS, which stimulates the progress of, and stimulate
62 the launch of genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS,
63
64 *Aware of* the insufficient education and recognition concerning the effects of marine plastic litter,
65 highlighting the need for the further development of global education on marine litter and expanding the
66 Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter,
67
68 *Guided by* the efforts made by the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) to define the
69 rights and responsibilities of all Member States conduct regarding the rules of all waters, specifically
70 Article 194 which outlines Member States conduct regarding marine pollution,
71
72 *Recognizing* the role of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in combating single-use plastics
73 through the Green Jobs Initiative,
74
75 *Acknowledging* the efforts made by entities in the public and private sector with regards to reducing
76 marine waste such as the Ocean Clean Up initiative done by a Maersk, a private shipping company,
77
78 *Aware of* UNEP's report on *Single-Use Plastics, A Roadmap for Sustainability* and concerned by the lack
79 of sufficient methods for the combating of plastic waste buildup in most Member States and the
80 estimation that Africa will, by 20135, be the most plastic ridden continent,
81
82 *Deeply regretting* that SIDS are considered to be more directly vulnerable to environmental impacts such
83 as marine litter, than other Member States as outlined in the Barbados Programme of Action,
84
85 *Having devoted attention* to the need for proper disposal programs to further educate citizens and
86 diminish marine plastic litter in our oceans,
87
88 *Knowing* that SIDS have limited development and lack of access to resources and assistance impedes
89 their ability to address the environmental challenges effectively as outlined in the Mauritius Strategy,
90
91 *Highly concerned* with the lack of inclusion of the local population and local initiatives in most Member
92 States regarding waterway plastic litter cleanups,
93
94 *Acknowledging the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the*
95 *Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region*
96 (1981) in their efforts protecting 14,000 km of marine area,
97
98 1. *Recommends* the implementation of an AD-HOC committee by the name of "African Committee on
99 the Review of Marine Littering":
100

- 101 a. Mandated to review all African Member States annually on their current levels of marine
102 plastics and report biannually to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UNEA with
103 findings;
- 104
- 105 b. Headquartered in the North African Region;
- 106
- 107 c. With 15 members chosen through a vote in UNEA;
- 108
- 109 d. Duration of three years with potential renewal;
- 110
- 111 e. Funding referred to General Assembly Fifth Committee;
- 112
- 113 2. *Fully supports* the incentivization of all Member States for the reduced production and use of single-
114 use plastics:
- 115
- 116 a. Increase government subsidies in those market units that refuse to or limit the use of plastic
117 bags;
- 118
- 119 b. By providing subsidies and covering the cost of market units that do not use or use limited
120 number of plastic bags the government will ensure that the markets have an incentive and
121 reason to not use plastic bags;
- 122
- 123 c. Establishing a maximum number of plastic bags used by private and public entities and
124 implanting a heavy tax on those who exceed it;
- 125
- 126 3. *Calls upon* the assistance of UNEP to establish an online platform for various nations that will:
- 127
- 128 a. Serve as a trading platform for the transaction of collected resources from rivers, oceans,
129 streets, landfills, and other polluted areas;
- 130
- 131 b. Incentivize individuals to volunteer in cleaning water regions and earning currency as a by-
132 product;
- 133
- 134 c. Assist in providing natural resources that can later be used for infrastructure development or
135 recreational purposes;
- 136
- 137 4. *Recommends* innovative techniques for combating plastic buildup by implementing technology that
138 would degrade plastic particles such as:
- 139
- 140 a. Replacing non-reusable and reusable plastic with biodegradable and compostable plastic;
- 141
- 142 b. Administering advanced filtration systems that separates clutter from ocean life such as:
- 143
- 144 i. Passive filtration systems like Seabin technology that would clear up the ocean from
145 large or medium sized debris;
- 146 ii. Enhanced microfiltration hence a membrane filtration system with the manipulation of
147 collodion and cellulose acetate;
- 148
- 149 5. *Emphasizes* the need for the adoption and implementation of programs such as Day by Day
150 mandated to responsibly and safely dispose of harmful plastics as opposed to ocean dumping by:
- 151
- 152 a. Citizens will go to their local Day by Day government accredited centers and based off of
153 what each individual citizen recycles, points will be given on their card;
- 154

- 155 b. Points on the card can be used in a form of monetary assistance for hygiene products, food,
156 housing situations, and other necessities which is extremely beneficial to citizens in
157 developing nations;
158
- 159 c. Cards will be electronically saved in individual accounts just in case the physical one is lost;
160
- 161 d. On the back of the card, further information on how to reduce waste and use of harmful
162 plastics will be included for further education on the issue;
163
- 164 6. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in efforts related to resolving the issues on plastic litter
165 in the oceans such as through joining the UNEP Clean Seas Campaign and the Global Partnership
166 on Marine Litter (GPML);
167
- 168 7. *Invites* Member States to engage the public sector, as well as the private sector through the UN
169 Global Compact to support reductions on plastic production and consumption by emphasizing
170 recycling and proper waste management of plastics, working towards Sustainable Development Goal
171 12;
172
- 173 8. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with the ILO on the Green Jobs Initiative which aims to
174 provide jobs for women focused on recycling single-use plastics;
175
- 176 9. *Invites* the need for the UNEP, as the parliament of the environment, to continue its role of fostering
177 collaboration between all Member States regarding environmental concerns, particularly through
178 reviewing the developmental statuses of all Member States to better ensure that all UNEP programs
179 and initiatives better encompass the capacity constraints of all Member States in addressing marine
180 plastic litter and microplastics;
181
- 182 10. *Recommends* Member States to abide by the SAMOA declaration outlining the importance to support
183 and invest in SIDS and encourage the establishment of intergovernmental partnerships to foster
184 sustainable development practices such as addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics;
185
- 186 11. *Welcomes* Member States to further adopt the ESD curriculums and publications concerning
187 sustainability within all levels of education while also developing their own curriculums and community
188 campaigns on managing plastics and; to augment these initiatives, asks that Member States
189 contribute to international education funds like Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) for ESD has;
190
- 191 12. *Endorses* the cooperation between Member States to promote mentoring relationships in the form of
192 marine technology transfers administered through UNEP between States in order to better equip
193 Member States in addressing issues of marine plastic litter and plastic litter;
194
- 195 13. *Further invites* all Member States to develop online and physical programs to educate and raise
196 awareness about marine plastic litter specifically to people between the ages of 18-45 and
197 establishing international and regional conferences through UNEP to correspond with responsible
198 officials of Member States in creating awareness raising campaigns;
199
- 200 14. *Encourages* UNEP to create a program like the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's
201 Green Industry Initiative, to offer for all Member States through UNEP's regional offices to provide
202 opportunities for all Member States, especially developing nations, to excel in the development of
203 plastic litter infrastructure;
204
- 205 15. *Strongly advises* Member States to create and adopt plastic deposit refund systems in collaboration
206 with (GESAMP) to incentivize the population to recycle and adopt environmentally aware behavior;
207
- 208 16. *Praises* the research conducted in the Marine Atlas of the Western Arabian Gulf on minimizing the
209 impacts of marine litter on marine mammals and reaffirms its beliefs to:
210

- 211 a. Commit to conserve all species of wildlife through international cooperation;
212
213 b. Recognize that rapid development activities make a significant impact on the coastal zone;
214
215 c. Consider the promotion of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources by prioritizing
216 biodiversity in international and national planning and development;
217
- 218 17. *Advises* Member States to monitor the sources and magnitude of plastic waste in their State in order
219 to better comprehend the scope of microplastic inputs to the global ecosystem by implementing or
220 further contributing to programs such as:
221
- 222 a. Global Microplastics Initiative, run by the nonprofit group Adventure scientists;
223
224 b. Tracking of Plastics in our Seas run by the European Research Council;
225
226 c. International Pellet Watch;
227
- 228 18. *Commends* the work of UNEP, through its marine protected areas (MPA) Governance Guide, which
229 works to develop MPAs in each Member State, and recommends that UNEP add to its Governance
230 Guide a specific outline of how all Member States can address marine plastic litter and microplastics
231 through the development and implementation of MPAs like the Mediterranean Plastic Busters MPA
232 project;
233
- 234 19. *Further advises* the global community to utilize and implement UNEP's Marine Legislation Toolkit in
235 order to develop stricter legislation regarding marine plastics and littering in cooperation within
236 regions to preserve and protect the globe.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/14

Committee: United Nations Environmental Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environmental Assembly,*

2

3 *Fully believing* in global, national, regional, and local cooperation to eradicate marine pollution,

4

5 *Emphasizing* each Member State's individual needs and goals in mitigating the effects of marine plastic
6 litter and microplastics, highlighted in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/3,
7 Investing in Human Capacity for Sustainable Development through Environmental Education and
8 Training, and the successful local solutions provided by social entrepreneurs,

9

10 *Concerned by* the fact that more than 150 million metric tons of plastic have accumulated in oceans
11 across the world, with 80% of those coming from land-based sources as the June 2016 report, *Plastics in*
12 *the Marine Environment* by the UK-based Eunomia Research & Consulting shows,

13

14 *Emphasizing* each Member State's individual needs and goals in mitigating the effects of marine plastic
15 litter and microplastics, highlighted in UNEA resolution 2/3, Investing in Human Capacity for Sustainable
16 Development through Environmental Education and Training, and the successful local solutions provided
17 by social entrepreneurs,

18

19 *Noting* the effectiveness of satellite and radar technologies such as the Marine Debris Tracker App, which
20 facilitates the reporting of marine debris or litter anywhere in the world to prevent plastic from entering the
21 oceans, have had in combating and preventing the movements of plastic throughout the world's water
22 systems,

23

24 *Recognizing* the Cartagena Convention and its protocols for further plastic waste management, which has
25 been ratified with a particular focus on land-based sources of marine pollution by taking appropriate
26 measures to prevent, reduce, and control plastic pollution, through the uses of the best practical means
27 available,

28

29 *Recognizing* the importance of collaboration among all Member States towards the transition to a circular
30 economy model for responsible consumption and waste management,

31

32 *Taking note of* the existing research regarding lowering marine plastic waste mismanagement caused by
33 a lack of proper infrastructure conducted by Development Banks, whose solutions still require resources
34 to support implementation on a larger scale,

35

36 *Acknowledging* the need to incentivize local populations through accessibility and the cost-effective
37 benefits of subconscious incentives, which motivates the populace to engage in self-sustainable
38 practices,

39

40 *Noting with satisfaction* the UN Clean Seas Campaign for promoting global, regional, and national
41 engagement in the fight towards eliminating single-use plastic by 2022, marine plastic litter, microplastic,
42 and promoting responsible consumer habits,

43

44 1. *Recommends* Member States of this committee to participate in multi-dimensional and collaborative
45 solutions to marine plastic pollution, such as creating international consensus, where Member States
46 meet annually to discuss and report progress made in decreasing plastic waste in marine areas

47 through altering current disposal and production methods while also setting reduction standards
48 agreed upon by individual Member States, which would be informed by an annual international forum
49 to share suggestions, practices, and findings from non-governmental actors including—the private
50 sector, coastal and landlocked communities, along with researchers and academia, who are needed
51 to help Member States tailor specific legislation within the bounds of the international consensus;

- 52
- 53 2. *Invites* Member States to organize local panel discussions and workshops for companies held by
54 experts in sustainability to promote eco-friendly alternatives that can replace single-use plastic
55 packaging, such as biodegradable materials created by biomass-based products like corn or
56 potatoes;
- 57
- 58 3. *Urges* for the creation of a database of social enterprises and their innovative solutions to marine
59 plastic waste, facilitated by the United Nations Environmental Assembly to increase accessibility of
60 relevant information to prevent, as well as to mitigate, the harmful effects of marine plastic litter and
61 microplastics, specifically through:
- 62
- 63 a. Sharing information of Member States' after implementing proposed marine plastic solutions,
64 which come from social enterprises' research;
- 65
- 66 b. Providing social entrepreneurs' the opportunity to share research findings between
67 themselves and Member States to broaden the channel of communication to incentivize
68 collaboration to minimize plastic marine litter;
- 69
- 70 c. Providing public access to the database to ensure equal opportunities to implement these
71 cost-effective solutions to both developing and developed Member States affected;
- 72
- 73 4. *Suggests* building upon the UN's GEMS/Water database, managed by the GEMS/Water Capacity
74 Development Centre, which currently maintains global and regional data on water quality, all of which
75 will be managed and used by UNEA scientists, approved non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
76 and all Member States willing to participate, to include:
- 77
- 78 a. Tracking data using artificial intelligence, such as stimulating clean ups through drones and
79 algorithms through knowledge synergy related to the locations of large plastic and garbage
80 buildups within shared bodies of water, which can be used to retrieve and remove such
81 plastics;
- 82
- 83 b. Patterns and the predicted movements of plastic movement throughout bodies of water,
84 which can be used to intercept plastics before they reach locations;
- 85
- 86 c. Filtration techniques that have been proven to be cost-effective at combating microplastics;
- 87
- 88 d. Information regarding innovative methods of replacing, reusing and treating plastic;
- 89
- 90 5. *Emphasizes* the further usage of satellite and radar technologies with the goal of monitoring plastic
91 buildups and publishing this information within the global database;
- 92
- 93 6. *Calls upon* coastal Member States to cooperate among each other regionally as exemplified by the
94 Cartagena Convention, through The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine
95 Environment from Land-based Activities, which would decrease the amount of plastics and
96 microplastics through:
- 97
- 98 a. Encouraging Member States to contribute member fees based upon their annual gross
99 domestic product (GDP) and previous performances in environment protection and waste
100 treatment, aiming at taking measures at regional levels;
- 101

- 102 b. Developing and increasing qualified scientific and technical staff for supervising the progress of
103 of implementation and evaluating its results;
104
- 105 c. Increasing investments within Artificial Intelligence towards installing waste collection and
106 plastic management infrastructure, such as the Advanced Sewage treatments like the
107 Activated Sludge Model, which improves the efficiency of the process to remove
108 contaminants from municipal wastewater;
109
- 110 7. *Promotes* the implementation of a circular economy for responsible consumption and finding ways of
111 recycling and reusing of plastics and to work on improving properties of the bioplastics with the final
112 aim of reducing plastic waste by following the 3Rs principles, namely replacing, reducing and refining;
113
- 114 8. *Suggests* the United Nations Environment Assembly seeks out and contract NGOs and Civil Society
115 Organizations to improve technological infrastructure through annual collaborations with regional
116 development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development
117 Bank, by utilizing their research regarding waste management infrastructure to implement solutions to
118 decrease marine plastic pollution by stopping the hazardous materials before it enters waterways as
119 a preventative measure;
120
- 121 9. *Encourages* Member States to promote public initiatives to increase citizens awareness about the
122 proper way to dispose of these materials and the possible consequences for the environment and
123 human health that these substances can provoke, through:
124
- 125 a. Civilian recycling through incentivizing local populations through increased accessibility by
126 placing responsible disposal sites within areas of high rates of pollution and activity;
127
- 128 b. Adjusting educational curriculum potentially in collaboration with NGOs and Member States
129 to bring awareness to plastic litter and promote respect of the environment through:
- 130 i. Including workshops on proper waste disposal and methods of reusing and recycling
131 plastic;
132 ii. Educating about environmental-friendly alternatives on plastic such as cloth/paper
133 bags, stainless steel/paper straws and reusable bottles;
134 iii. Integrating data regarding plastic litter to raise awareness and thus encourage proper
135 waste disposal when it comes to plastic;
136
137 c. Increasing environmental awareness of local citizens with the help of psychological
138 incentives, such as placing footprints on the ground pointing the way to the nearest garbage
139 bin;
140
141
- 142 10. *Encourages* Member States and NGOs to establish a new global campaign in which they work
143 together in an effort to increase public awareness and influence a change on people's habits
144 concerning ongoing goals to reduce plastic waste on an individual level, specifically looking at
145 building on the Clean Seas Campaign to establish new mediums to spread information, as well as
146 sending information through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) mobile phone
147 applications;
148
- 149 11. *Suggests* to not only refer to the General Assembly Fifth Committee for funding, but also encourages
150 Member States to engage in the creation of a domestic taxation on single-use plastics, of which
151 0.01% would be voluntarily sent back into the UNEA for the purposes of reinvesting the funds into
152 various educational and R&D goals.



Code: UNEA/1/15

Committee: United Nations Environmental Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environmental Assembly,*
2
3 *Recognizing* the sovereignty of all Member States,
4
5 *Approving* of the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) mandate to keep the global environment under
6 review and use environmental information for decision making and action planning for sustainable human
7 development that works to minimize the effects of marine litter,
8
9 *Recalling* the recent UN Ocean Conference (2017) that manifested in order to implement Sustainable
10 Development Goal 14, which aims to sustainable manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
11 from pollution,
12
13 *Further recalling* the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its acknowledgement
14 of the importance of international financial support and the collaboration among developed and
15 developing Member States,
16
17 *Bearing in mind Towards a Pollution Free Planet* which outlines economic actions, such as incentivizing
18 sustainable consumption and production practices, and calls for efficient targeted pollutant intervention,
19 particularly of plastics,
20
21 *Recognizing* the fact that every year, 8 million metric tons of plastics enter our oceans and the need to
22 remove accumulations of plastic debris in order to minimize ecological, social, and economic impacts, as
23 cited in the *2011 Honolulu Strategy, a Global Framework or Prevention and Management of Marine*
24 *Debris,*
25
26 *Applauding* the efforts of Ocean Conservancy initiatives such as their mobile application CleanSwell,
27 which encourages public participation in the cleanup of plastic waste in public areas, as well as the data
28 gathered through this initiative,
29
30 *Noting* the crucial importance of the involvement of youths to teach new generations the importance of
31 proper plastic disposal methods so they can spread information throughout the globe,
32
33 *Reiterating* the UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res11 entitled "Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics"
34 which advocates for existing online training programs created by UNEP on the issue of marine debris
35 plastics and microplastics, as a means to raise public awareness of the *CleanSea* campaign which calls
36 on Member States to come together and address the marine plastic waste crisis,
37
38 *Expressing* its appreciation to the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
39 created by the UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res7 on "Marine Litter and Microplastics", which works to
40 develop long-term solutions on the elimination of discharges into the oceans and on the reduction of
41 marine plastic litter and microplastics,
42
43 *Recognizing* the role of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) in providing unique mechanisms
44 seeking to protect human health and the global environment by the reduction and management of marine
45 litter,
46
47 *Expressing its satisfaction* with the work of The Ocean Cleanup project on creating an accessible floating
48 system allowing to gather debris by using a system of floaters which makes the capture of debris easier,
49

50 *Being aware of* Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.C, which aims to “substantially increase health
51 financing and [...] development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries,
52 especially in least developed countries and small island developing States”, which would greatly benefit
53 communities struggling with health crises due to marine litter and microplastic contamination within their
54 water supply,
55

56 *Acknowledging* the dire need to create and implement effective waste management programs to mitigate
57 and ultimately eradicate the introduction of marine plastic pollutants as laid out in UNEP/EA.3/INF/5 on
58 “Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant
59 international, regional and sub-regional governance strategies and approaches”,
60

61 *Taking into consideration* the importance of communication to having inclusive multilateral innovation
62 through the United Nations Internet and Technology for Equitable Development and (UNITED),
63

64 *Fully aware of* the need for transitional infrastructure in both developing and developed nations to
65 promote the use of biodegradable plastics through the use of Creating Oases Around States for
66 Tomorrow’s Security (COASTS),
67

- 68 1. *Recommends* Member States who are concerned with coastal pollution to implement the Floating
69 system of The Ocean Cleanup project which focuses on gathering floating plastic debris, which
70 enable the easy and ecosystem safe removal of plastic, hence preventing the degradation of plastic
71 into micro plastic into the ocean;
72
- 73 2. *Recommends* Member States to cooperate with Ocean Conservancy, both in promotion of their app
74 and their overall mission of preserving clean coastlines;
75
- 76 3. *Asks* UNEP to work with Member States to develop and promote youth participation in the global
77 movement for the reduction of marine plastic litter and microplastics by adding an amount of
78 volunteer hours in school curriculum that would include:
79
 - 80 a. The removal of plastic items near bodies of water to prevent them from degrading into micro
81 plastic which are harder to pick up;
82
 - 83 b. The use of technologies and application such as the *CleanSwell* app for cleanup initiatives
84 when it is possible, in order to provide essential data to the international community
85 concerning the most common plastic items found in particular areas, their quantities, and the
86 progress made in areas over time;
87
 - 88 c. The use of student’s cell phones, when it is possible, where they could download the app to
89 directly enter their collect, which would allow them to become more conscientious about the
90 quantities of plastic that is released in the environment;
91
 - 92 d. Workshops on the impacts of plastics and the cycle of plastic degradation before the
93 volunteer activities adapted to grade of the students;
94
- 95 4. *Encourages* the cooperation with educational programs such as the International Baccalaureate
96 Organization;
97
- 98 5. *Requests* the Executive Director to take charge in the creation of free training materials and
99 guidelines to be primarily used by educators, local governmental organizations, non-governmental
100 organizations (NGOs), the tourism industry, and health advocacy groups, and geared towards
101 education on the impacts of plastic on ecosystems and the economy, including content for
102 informational seminars on the impacts of plastic waste in the local community and on the life cycle
103 and alternatives to plastic;
104

- 105 6. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Secretariat to create the training materials and
106 guidelines and to work with the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
107 to provide the most up-to-date data and challenges of plastic and microplastics for the material and
108 guidelines;
109
- 110 7. *Advocates for* the distribution of non-electronic informational material related to cleanup,
111 conservation, and health management in regard to marine litter for areas unable to access the
112 internet, with the knowledge that:
113
- 114 a. Many regions heavily impacted by the loss of safe water resources due to pollutants are rural
115 and/or low-income, and therefore unable to access certain information technologies;
116
- 117 b. Communities in which local government serves the people to a higher degree than the
118 federal government would benefit from established ground plans for reduction of local
119 pollutants;
120
- 121 8. *Recommends* that assistance in translating the Executive Director's documents be provided to groups
122 whose primary and subsequent official languages are not listed within the six permanent languages of
123 the United Nations;
124
- 125 9. *Directs* the international community to become better global partners to end the war with ocean
126 plastic by promoting and committing to an implementation of plastic disposal regulations that
127 encourages accessible disposal facilities, domestic and localized enforcement on public marine
128 areas, and install legal frameworks for those who are not following the regulations; all of these with
129 the aim of working together to end the critical condition of plastic littering and microplastics in our
130 oceans and Member States across the globe.
131
- 132 10. *Expresses* hope for the collaboration of international regions to formulate alternatives such as
133 providing sustainable financing for the wastewater sector, supporting policy and legislative reforms,
134 and fostering regional dialogue among members of the Wider Caribbean Region for sustainable
135 solutions for the proper disposal of plastic to avoid pollution, similar to the *Testing a Prototype*
136 *Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management* project
137
- 138 11. *Encourages* the regional coordination of localized conservation efforts in incentivizing community-led
139 preservation and stewardship of river banks and lake shores as well as collecting scientifically
140 accurate information on locally-relevant bodies of water by adopting the action plan *Day by Day 2030*,
141 which consists of:
142
- 143 a. Implementing domestic legal frameworks on the production of single use plastics;
144
- 145 b. Establishing a point-based system that allows citizens to exchange plastic products for points
146 which can be redeemed in specific location in order to obtain food or financial support, which
147 are funded by the legal framework;
148
- 149 c. Introducing new job opportunities such as waste management and logistics for developing
150 states to advance their economies;
151
- 152 12. *Advises* the international community to become better global partners to combat ocean microplastic
153 by promoting and committing to an implementation of plastic disposal regulations to end plastic
154 littering and microplastics in our oceans due to the critical situation affecting not only our marine
155 environments, but also Member States across the globe;
156
- 157 13. *Requests* the collaboration of international regions to formulate alternatives for sustainable solutions
158 for the proper disposal of microplastic to avoid pollution, like *Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional*
159 *Fund for Wastewater Management* project;
160

- 161 14. *Urges* Member States to adopt the four-step Plastic Identification and Elimination Framework in
162 collaboration with GPML to utilize their expertise on marine litter to:
163
- 164 a. Identify, characterize and quantify the major microplastic sources, especially tracking
165 microplastics fragmentation;
166
 - 167 b. Come up with new sampling and analytical methodologies especially focusing on smaller
168 particles in all matrices;
169
 - 170 c. Monitor and map microplastics in the marine environment and its effects on the marine
171 environment;
172
 - 173 d. Reduce inputs of plastics into the marine environment through utilizing socio-economic
174 analysis research to introduce new recycling methods, raise public awareness, and promote
175 behavioral change;
176
- 177 15. *Strongly encourages* the UNEP to enhance efforts in the Global Partnership on Waste Management
178 to increase international efforts and cooperation by:
179
- 180 a. Increasing advocacy, outreach and information sharing to create effective waste
181 management efforts to combat plastic pollutants;
182
 - 183 b. Putting special focus on Member States, specifically least-developed countries (LDCs), who
184 do not have adequate waste management infrastructure;
185
 - 186 c. Instructs the UNEP to help establish cooperatives of citizens in Member States that will
187 gather trash from rivers, oceans, streets, landfills, and other polluted areas and then utilize
188 those recycled goods in local crafts or reusable goods that can be sold on an online platform
189 that the UNEP will establish;
190
- 191 16. *Requests* Member States to initiate locally based education and cleanup projects for rivers and lakes
192 by implementing training programs on proper disposal practices for citizens of states that border
193 important rivers establishing more recycling plants in those targeted countries;
194
- 195 17. *Recommends* Member States who are concerned with coastal pollution to implement the floating
196 system of the Ocean Cleanup project which focuses on gathering floating plastic debris, which enable
197 the easy and ecosystem safe removal of plastic, hence preventing the degradation of plastic into
198 micro plastic into the ocean;
199
- 200 18. *Reiterates* the *Towards a Pollution Free Planet* report which outlines economic actions, such as
201 incentivizing sustainable consumption and production practices, and calls for efficient targeted
202 pollutant intervention, particularly of plastics;
203
- 204 19. *Further invites* the development of a multilateral framework invested in reparative and preventative
205 measures such as the UNITED-COASTS Framework;
206
- 207 a. UNITED furthers telecommunications between developed and developing nations, promotes
208 domestic, regional, and global education programs for citizens and corporations alike, and
209 requires a two-year regional meeting and five-year global meeting for sharing the best
210 practices of research and development;
211
 - 212 b. A network of communication among the international community that provides a better
213 understanding of the concepts many Member States may not be aware of and addition to
214 programs such as a global wide program to clean up plastic pollutants;
215

- 216 c. COASTS provide Member States with domestic, regional, and global support for transitioning
217 from non-renewable to renewable infrastructure through workforce development, subsidizing
218 biodegradable plastic markets, and empowering economic state sovereignty;
219
- 220 20. *Provides* funding for the UNITED-COASTS Framework to implement these innovative and
221 collaborative measures through Member States, private sectors, and NGO's;
222
- 223 a. Allowing Member States the choice of contributing 0.8% of their annual gross domestic
224 product (GDP) or providing innovative sustainable technology and resources;
225
- 226 b. Attaining funding through the Green Energy Fund, Global Environment Facility, and UN-
227 Energy;
228
- 229 c. Incentivizing the construction of waste management facilities and educational programs for
230 developed members as well as building infrastructure within developing members;
231
- 232 d. Allowing willing private sector companies and/or NGO's to make up the difference for
233 Member States who choose to opt out of contributing 0.8% of their GDP;
234
- 235 21. *Suggests* Member States think more actively about innovative and alternative solutions to the issue of
236 marine plastic litter and microplastics by implementing shoreline and shallow water cleanup efforts.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNEA/1/16

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
2
3 *Stressing* the responsibility of Member States in their role of reducing marine litter,
4
5 *Affirming* the need for a rapid reduction of single-use plastics across the globe,
6
7 *Emphasizing* the importance of education as a means of encouraging sustainable waste management
8 practices in order to target marine litter pollution at its source,
9
10 *Emphasizing* the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982) that establishes guidelines and
11 regulations that all Member States must abide by in order to protect the ocean from harmful
12 anthropogenic effects,
13
14 *Remembers* the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based
15 Action (1995),
16
17 *Noting with concern* the annual global loss of 8 billion USD to tourism and fishing industries caused by
18 plastic pollutants,
19
20 *Keeping in mind* General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for
21 Sustainable Development” (2015), specifically Sustainable Development Goals, 6, 11, and 12, which
22 focus on global health, quality education, sustainable water services, and responsible consumption and
23 production,
24
25 *Bearing in mind* the resolution of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/11 on *Marine*
26 *Plastic Litter and Microplastics* (2016), which specifically addresses the cyclical effects of marine plastic
27 litter and microplastics, underlining the dire need for public-private collaboration,
28
29 *Noting* Sustainable Development Goal 14 (2015) which urges the conservation and sustainable use of the
30 ocean for all, by reducing the number of all types of marine pollution including microplastics,
31
32 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/312 “Our ocean, our future: call for action” (2017) which
33 addresses the need for ocean-related education to promote ocean literacy and a culture of conservation,
34 restoration and sustainable use of our ocean,
35
36 *Considering* the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (2017), which stresses innovation as a solution to
37 marine plastic litter, specifically in developing biodegradable materials by companies,
38
39 *Reaffirming* the outcome of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
40 (2018) established by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7 on *Marine Litter and*
41 *Microplastics* (2018) which created global standards for marine plastic issues in consideration of different
42 regions,
43
44 *Bearing in mind* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on “Addressing Single Use Plastic
45 Products Pollution” 4/L.10 (2019), which specifically discusses addressing single-use plastic products
46 pollution, while understanding that sustainable alternatives to non-biodegradable, single-use plastics
47 exist,

48
49 *Recognizing* the vision of International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) that promotes the
50 collection and dissemination of knowledge on Environmentally Sound Technologies with a focus on waste
51 management,

52
53 *Noting* efforts to reconcile waste management, economic growth and sustainability using progressive
54 national legislation, such as the *Energy Transition for Green Growth Act of 2015*, showing the positive
55 economic impact of transitioning to a sustainable economy,

56
57 *Highlighting* that 89% of marine litter that is estimated to comprised of single-use plastics,

58
59 *Recognizing* the sustainability and effectiveness of natural materials as environmentally-friendly, viable
60 substitutes for single-use plastics,

61
62 *Fully aware of* the potential for effective cooperation between the private and public sectors, given that
63 most waste management efforts occur in the private sector,

64
65 *Recognizing* the successes of regional bodies in monitoring and reducing the levels of plastics, such as
66 the Black Sea Commission,

67
68 *Acknowledging* Member States' capabilities to engage in the research and development of technologies
69 to improve the lives of people globally, specifically as it relates to the proper monitoring of marine plastic
70 litter and microplastics,

71
72 *Noting with concern*, the dire need to streamline the bureaucratic process of applying for funding from
73 inter alia, the World Bank, Green Climate Fund, Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the United
74 Nations Sustainable Development Fund,

75
76 *Alarmed by* the report of the United Nations Environment Program at the Convention on Biological
77 Diversity that less than ten percent of the bodies of water are following conservation standards regulated
78 under marine protected areas,

79
80 *Noting with deep concern* the lack of waste collection and management practices that contribute to the
81 alarming amount of plastic wastes in rivers, lakes, and oceans,

82
83 *Advocating* for creating more effective ways to aid in immediate cleanup of plastics through technological
84 innovation outlined in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) IETC,

- 85
86 1. *Urges* Member States to implement sustainable waste management projects that aim at reducing
87 plastic from entering the natural environment through extensive recycling efforts in line with SDGs
88 11.6 and 12.4;
- 89
90 2. *Encourages* Member States to invest in waste segregation, management infrastructure, such as
91 recycling facilities, solid waste management center, as promoted by the UNEP Global Waste
92 Management Outlook and to fund sustainable waste management projects in the public sector on a
93 municipality level, encompassing household, commercial, industry and construction sectors in an
94 effort to eradicate marine plastics;
- 95
96 3. *Recommends* the private sector to share methods, experiences, technologies with the public sector
97 within Member States utilizing capacity-building workshops, both to improve existing waste
98 management practices and to contribute to an expanded network between municipalities on
99 systematic data sharing that can be used for monitoring and tracking plastics, in the model of the
100 Black Sea Commission, to identify areas of risk to allow for easier targeting of cleaning efforts;

- 102 4. *Endorses* the implementation of recycling goals amongst Member States according to each Member
103 State's needs or output capacity and affirms the recycling sequence as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and
104 Recovery;
- 105
- 106 5. *Further recommends* that Member States develop a "Wet-Garbage Waste Management Plan" which
107 aims to develop a systematic management of plastic waste that is often mixed with wet garbage,
108 contaminating the environment for years to come, as it does not biodegrade;
- 109
- 110 6. *Encourages* United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO)'s to expand
111 their Education for Sustainable Development program to include marine plastic pollution education in
112 every program by the year 2025:
- 113
- 114 a. Encourage the development of a youth education initiative in conjunction with UNESCO and
115 UNEP which teaches sustainable practices from a young age in primary schools to
116 encourage environmentally-friendly behaviors such as: reducing, reusing, and recycling
117 plastic products, promoting and developing careers in the environmental sector, limiting the
118 use of single-use plastics, and spreading awareness of the impact of plastic consumption on
119 marine life via interactive kid-friendly activities;
- 120
- 121 b. Encouraging UNESCO to establishment of massive open online courses, such as the one
122 operated by the UNEP with the Open University of Netherlands, for:
- 123
- 124 i. Promotion of public awareness of impacts of marine plastic pollution;
- 125 ii. Bringing insight to the attitude toward dealing with such waste like biodegradable
126 plastics;
- 127 iii. Professional training for various aspects like the disposal technology of plastics,
128 recycling procedures or materials replacing single-use plastics;
- 129
- 130 7. *Recommends* that Member States continue research in higher education programs aimed at assisting
131 Member States in managing plastic waste management and recovery, such as:
- 132
- 133 a. Advanced technological development of plastic waste management initiatives exploring
134 opportunities in artificial intelligence, solar-powered robotic technology like surface water-
135 filtration systems, and nuclear-powered plastic waste management technology;
- 136
- 137 b. Educate the dangers that single-use plastics pose and the impact of plastic litter on marine
138 environments i.e. oceans, rivers, lakes, and their biodegradable alternatives;
- 139
- 140 8. *Supports the Securing Environmental Assets (SEA)* solution for the United Nations Environment
141 Assembly (UNEA) by focusing on marine protection and security, and encouraging active
142 participation from Member States;
- 143
- 144 9. *Encourages* Member States to adopt the educational programs set by UNEA and UNEP to further
145 educate their youth about the importance of the ocean and the various ways that it may be used
146 sustainably through educational workshops and statistical analysis regarding plastic pollution, with the
147 help of the United Nations Statistics Division;
- 148
- 149 10. *Encourages* the introduction of new and innovative methods of treating and disposing of plastic waste
150 such as:
- 151
- 152 a. The use of plastic in building blocks such as the United Nations Children's Fund program,
153 First Plastic Classroom;
- 154
- 155 b. The melting of plastic for usage in infrastructure such as through combining it with tar to build
156 roads and highways;
- 157

- 158 11. *Encourages* regional bodies such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African
159 Union, and the European Union to research, monitor, and address marine and inland plastics in their
160 waterways, and meet biennially to discuss these topics;
161
162
- 163 12. *Recommends* the public sector to engage with various private businesses and civil society
164 organizations to utilize capacity-building workshops to share protocols, procedures and technologies
165 to improve existing waste management practices and contribute to an expanded network between
166 municipalities on systematic data sharing that can be used for monitoring and tracking plastics
167 domestically:
168
- 169 a. Said networks will be facilitated by the UNEP, in collaboration with regional bodies such as
170 The African Union, The European Union, BRICS, and ASEAN;
 - 171
 - 172 b. Each body will be encouraged to liaise with private sector forum leaders in data sharing and
173 cloud technology to update their infrastructure;
 - 174
- 175 13. *Encourages* further participation in the UNEA biennial conference, located in Asia, for the purpose of
176 sharing information regarding research, best practices, new technologies, and challenges regarding
177 marine plastics and will:
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- 179 a. Invite the World Ocean Summit to offer feasible ideas for a blue cyclical economy and to
180 particularly address the issue of “marine plastic litter and microplastic pollution”;
 - 181
 - 182 b. Conference location will rotate regionally;
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 - 184 c. UNEP will focus on solutions for the source of the problem, remedy the impacts of Marine
185 Plastic Pollution, and consider alternative means to single-use plastic at the conference;
 - 186
 - 187 d. Invite private entities, NGO's, scientists and Member States to fully participate in the
188 conference alongside regional bodies;
 - 189
 - 190 e. Organize regional training workshops with peer review that addresses the limited capacity in
191 small developing countries focusing on technology sharing;
 - 192
- 193 14. *Declares accordingly* once more the need for collaboration between the private and public spheres:
194
- 195 a. Recommends the public sector to engage with various private businesses and civil-social
196 organizations to:
197
 - 198 i. Utilize capacity-building workshops to share protocols, procedures and technologies
199 to improve existing waste management practices;
 - 200 ii. Contribute to an expanded network between municipalities on systematic data
201 sharing that can be used for monitoring and tracking plastics domestically:
202
 - 203 1. Said networks will be facilitated by the UNEP, in collaboration with regional
204 bodies such as The African Union, The European Union, BRICS, and
205 ASEAN;
 - 206 2. Said facilitation can be monitored and refined during the UNEA biennial
207 conference and World Ocean summits in addressing the subject of marine
208 plastic pollution;
 - 209 3. Each body will be encouraged to liaise with private sector forum leaders in
210 data sharing and cloud technology to update their infrastructure;
 - 211 4. For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least developed states that
212 cannot engage as effectively due to financial circumstances, they are

213 encouraged to access funding from the UN Development Fund, the Food and
214 Agriculture Organization, World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure for aid;
215
216 b. Reaffirms its belief that the private sector must engage regionally, and nationally with
217 individual Member States to:
218
219 i. Urge local councils within individual Member States to regulate for the mandatory
220 inclusion of a “recycling list” to be etched into every recycling bin;
221 ii. Insist upon discussions between private forum leaders in manufacturing to transition
222 single-use plastics to double-use, and biodegradable plastics;
223 iii. Expresses its support for said discussions to integrate SIDS and Least Developed
224 Member States in the exporting and agriculture process of the plastics mentioned in
225 the above sub-clause;
226 iv. Directs attention to polymer-road and advanced building material manufacturers to
227 introduce “plastic donation bins” in accepting Member States, with the goal of selling
228 collected waste back to said companies, creating a new economic sector;
229
230 15. *Directs* UNEP to continue and expand current social media campaigns, such as the #CleanSeas
231 Campaign, to encourage objective interaction on the local and national public awareness toward the
232 full life-cycle of plastic in order to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics;
233
234 16. *Invites* willing and capable Member States to invest in the research, development, and distribution of
235 technologies aimed at removing litter from various bodies of water;
236
237 17. *Encourages* collaboration between Member States on research and development based on bodies of
238 water specific to each Member State’s territory;
239
240 18. *Expresses* its appreciation to Member States who share technologies amongst each other to ensure
241 equitable access to the most recent and efficient waste management technology;
242
243 19. *Strongly encourages* Member States to invest in biodegradable materials to replace single-use
244 plastics such as agar, extracted from seaweed, in place of single-use plastics like water bottles,
245 eating utensils and straws and consumer packaging;
246
247 20. *Strongly advises* Member States invest in biological research aimed at promising alternatives for
248 single-use plastics, such as seaweed, corn, and hemp genetically modifying substances to allow for
249 more effective, and efficient, growth and production to replace dependency on plastics;
250
251 21. *Encourages* the private sector to take steps to phase out single-use plastics as research develops
252 and to continue to study the unintended side-effects of substitution on all life and the global
253 ecosystem;
254
255 22. *Calls for* streamlining the administrative process of applying for departmental project funding to
256 organizations such as Green Climate, World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, to
257 make funding more accessible for SIDS and Least Developed Member States who face deficiencies
258 that limit their ability to be organized;
259
260 23. *Suggests* Member States to adopt professional programs and placements to facilitate ongoing
261 international partnerships between affected Member States and other nations related to acquiring
262 funding;
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264 24. *Suggests* Member States to follow the model of international non-governmental organizations
265 focusing on the mitigation of the spread of plastics from inland water before reaching oceans by
266 following the model of the *Ocean Protection Plan* by:
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- a. Empowering communities by increasing cleanup programs and education programs for coastal Member States;
 - b. Reinforcing filtration systems through common pathways in the most polluting rivers globally to reduce the spread of plastics while maintaining regional sensitivity regarding these bodies of water;
 - c. Establish specialized regional forums composed of science and technology experts to find filtration systems alternatives that do not impede on the sovereignty or harm the communities living near or around those bodies of water;
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25. *Encourages* further research and amplification of technologies with more productive filtering and cleaning of plastics from the high seas following the specialized vessel *Deutsche One Earth-One Ocean*, and the creation of an artificial coastline with the *Ocean Cleanup* campaign, and expanding the *Global Microplastic Initiative* which contributes to the findings of common pathways of the spread of plastics and advocate for innovation through programs similar to that of *New Plastics Economy Initiative*.