



**Code:** UNEA/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Alarmed* by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mentioning that at least 40% of our oceans are affected by  
4 pollution,  
5  
6 *Recalling* United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) resolution 2/10 of 4 August 2016, which stresses the  
7 importance of safeguarding our oceans,  
8  
9 *Considering* that Article 194 of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* discusses individual and  
10 collective measures towards prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution,  
11  
12 *Referring to* the concern for the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity which are negatively affected by  
13 marine pollution mentioned in General Assembly resolution 66/288 adopted of 27 July 2012,  
14  
15 *Understanding* the importance for all Member States to reach the SDGs particularly 6, 7, 9 and 14,  
16  
17 *Appreciating* the various commitments by Member States at the recently concluded Ocean Conference and its  
18 outcome document *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action* and various voluntary commitment submitted by  
19 different organizations,  
20  
21 *Acknowledging* that according to the United Nations' (UN) 2017 Mission there is currently 300 million tons of  
22 plastic debris in our oceans,  
23  
24 *Bearing in mind* the concern expressed in UNEA resolution 1/6 of 27 June 2014 with which marine litter, including  
25 plastics stemming from land and sea-based sources, can have on the marine environment, marine ecosystem  
26 services, marine natural resources, fisheries, tourism and the economy, as well as the potential risks to human health,  
27  
28 *Deeply concerned with* the severity and negative implications of previous oil spills on our oceans,  
29  
30 *Recognizing* the need for further research to establish better safeguards regarding offshore oil extraction methods,  
31  
32 *Aware of* the amount of toxic wastewater entering the world's bodies of water through inadequate infrastructure,  
33 sewage treatment, and ships releasing untreated wastewater, causing increasing eutrophication and destruction of  
34 biodiversity,  
35  
36 *Referring to the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development*, which mentions that about 36% of the  
37 water produced by urban water utilities in developing countries is unaccounted for, which can be reduced with better  
38 management of these systems and with the inclusion of better plans,  
39  
40 *Calling upon* all Member States to work together to implement new sewage systems and treatment plant while  
41 considering the monetary support the new sewage system entails, especially for developing countries,  
42  
43 *According to* General Assembly resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, Member States are committed to minimizing  
44 waste through the development of management tools and other techniques,  
45  
46 *Expressing its appreciation* that Member States are moving towards renewable energy as an alternative to carbon-  
47 based energy,  
48

49 *Realizing* the emphasis placed in the *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action* document on financial support, and  
50 capacity building especially in regard to developing nations, for instance small island states, to aid in the sustainable  
51 use of the oceans,  
52

53 *Observing* that according to General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, developing states lack the level of  
54 resources sufficient to respond effectively to threats to its oceans and require assistance to ensure long-term debt  
55 sustainability and thus the potential for widespread pollution,  
56

- 57 1. *Urges* all Member States to take the measures necessary to ensure the cleanliness of our waters, by:
  - 58 a. Consulting with developing nations regarding policies on cleaner energy alternatives;
  - 59 b. Cooperating with financial sectors within their borders to ensure the sustainability of renewable energy  
60 programs;
- 61 2. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities  
62 that made voluntary commitments to the recently concluded World Ocean Conference to make efforts towards  
63 the fulfillment of the commitments as this will greatly assist in addressing the various problems facing ocean  
64 governance;  
65
- 66 3. *Emphasizes* previous resolutions such as General Assembly 71/312 by Member States concerning the  
67 management of pollution and waste in marine environments and calls for the continued dedication to previous  
68 resolutions;  
69
- 70 4. *Endorses* the reduction of ocean pollution caused by plastic water bottles through the utilization of individual  
71 water filtration technology:
  - 72 a. That filters microorganisms such as bacteria and protozoa using a hollow fiber membrane micro-  
73 filtration system;
    - 74 i. Using this technology for individual access to clean water;
    - 75 ii. Employing similar technology, that also filters out viruses, for family or group use;
  - 76 b. Voluntary funding would be welcomed by Member States;
  - 77 c. Looks upon non-governmental organizations such as Washfunders to promote crowdfunding efforts as  
78 well as contribute to the allocation of funds;
  - 79 d. Suggests partnerships between Member States and companies such as Life Straw to facilitate the  
80 achievement of SDG 6 and reduce plastic bottle pollution;
  - 81 e. United Nations designated disaster areas would be the primary focus of this strategy, while areas  
82 without access to purified water would be the secondary target for this initiative;
- 83 5. *Encourages* all Member States consider integrating biodegradable paper bags and consider taxing plastic bags at  
84 a rate of at least 7% by 2030 or institute a voluntary ban in all coastal cities in Member States by 2030:
  - 85 a. Currently, several Member States have already implemented a ban throughout their entire respective  
86 nations and this is much encouraged;
  - 87 b. A matter of enforcement, a United Nations Special Council will be created to oversee and ensure  
88 Member States institute the tax rate 7% on plastic bags;
  - 89 c. The Special United Nations Council is formed from two Member States in each Regional Bloc and  
90 these positions will rotate on a two year basis;

- 105 6. *Invites* Member States to collaborate with non-governmental organizations to institute the Sustainable  
106 Collaborative Humane Natural and Candid Kaleidoscopic watch program, a voluntary program that calls for  
107 Member States to annually report their imports and exports of products containing microplastics to the watch  
108 program’s online database;  
109
- 110 7. *Requests* that Member States prohibit microbeads in cosmetic products and reduce the use of virgin resin  
111 pellets;  
112
- 113 8. *Recommends* Member States to work in regional alliances to reduce the amount of plastic debris in the world’s  
114 oceans and to use screen nets that stops this debris in their territorial waters;  
115
- 116 9. *Affirms* that Member States create research initiatives focused on facilitating international collaboration  
117 regarding safeguards for extracting oil from offshore drilling sites in order to:  
118
- 119 a. Prevent leaking and negative environmental effects when extracting oil as a resource;
  - 120 b. Facilitate the sharing of knowledge between Member States to increase safeguards worldwide;
  - 121 c. Provide guidance to developing nations on implementation and initiatives;
- 122  
123
- 124 10. *Further requests* that Member States consider restrictions as an effective tool to be implemented on  
125 international corporations that could potentially release toxic chemicals and strain the natural resources of our  
126 oceans;  
127  
128
- 129 11. *Supports* the creation and enhancement of partnerships, coalitions, and alliances with Member States to  
130 collaborate in the dispersion of clean water;  
131
- 132 12. *Proposes* the use of “decentralized” or “on-site” sewage systems in developing countries, which can be done  
133 close to where the sewage is created and can possibly include:  
134
- 135 a. Septic tanks, which are chambers through which domestic wastewater flow through for primary  
136 treatment, while settling and anaerobic processes reduce solids and organics;
  - 137 b. Biofiltration, which consists of using a bioreactor containing living material to capture and biologically  
138 degrade pollutants;
  - 139 c. Aerobic treatment systems, which are similar to septic tank systems except that they use aerobic  
140 processes rather than anaerobic processes;
- 141  
142  
143
- 144 13. *Further invites* developing Member States to partner with non-governmental organizations listed under the  
145 United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs Financing for Development Program in order to  
146 fund sewage management programs to ensure harmful waste is not dumped into the ocean;  
147
- 148 14. *Notes* that Member States should treat all wastewater released from ships into the oceans within regional sea  
149 borders and in international waters to protect biodiversity in all oceanic regions;  
150
- 151 15. *Expresses its hope* for the implementation of aggressive recycling programs in partnership with controlled  
152 incineration of waste materials unable to be recycled in order to:  
153
- 154 a. Create a form of alternative energy to provide electricity and heat in developing Member States;
  - 155 b. Incorporate strong air filtration systems to ensure no further pollution enters our atmosphere;
- 156  
157
- 158 16. *Designates* the use of consultation from developed states to developing nations regarding policies on cleaner  
159 energy alternatives;  
160

- 161 17. *Further recommends* that Member States work with appropriate financial sectors to ensure the sustainability of  
162 renewable energy programs;  
163
- 164 18. *Considers* strengthening national institutions according to national priorities and gaining access to the  
165 utilization of renewable energy, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development;  
166
- 167 19. *Reminds* international bodies and multinational financial entities including the World Bank and the International  
168 Monetary Fund to aid in institutional development and financial assistance to developing nations to eradicate  
169 pollution in our oceans and:  
170
- 171 a. Assist Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in establishing and funding  
172 national institutions to combat pollution at the various state levels and ensure ocean conservation;  
173
  - 174 b. Support the eradication of pollution at all levels through collaboration with various regional  
175 institutions;  
176
  - 177 c. Encourage Member States to allocate greater resources to marine scientific research to allow such  
178 research and technology transfer to developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States  
179 and Least Developed Countries;  
180
- 181 20. *Suggests* interregional partnership and the strengthening of existing partnership between United Nations entities  
182 and various regional organizations similar to the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project to provide financial  
183 assistance and development of frameworks for marine spatial planning, technology transfer and capacity  
184 building in Member States.



**Code:** UNEA/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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185 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

186

187 *Recognizing* the importance of safeguarding our oceans in order to create a sustainable future, considering the  
188 importance of the marine environment as an essential component of the global-life support system,

189

190 *Noting with deep concern* the fragile nature and declining numbers of coral reef ecosystems: almost 30% of coral  
191 reefs are extremely damaged with an estimated overall decline of 60% by 2030; taking into account that an abundant  
192 and diverse population of marine organisms depends on coral reefs flourishing in a clean ocean,

193

194 *Recognizing* the efforts of the General Assembly to address this issue in resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010 on  
195 protecting coral reefs, believing more needs to be done in order not only to protect and ensure the vitality of coral  
196 reefs, but also to establish a basis for a thriving and sustainable future of coral reefs, while also pursuing important  
197 opportunities for the protection of this ecosystem as well as those of related ecosystems,

198

199 *Cognizant of* recent increases in the rates of human pollution, such as car gas emissions, which spread carbon  
200 dioxide in atmosphere, and how this is a main cause of acidification in the world's oceans, leading to an  
201 amelioration of fishes and corals worldwide,

202

203 *Noting* the profound efforts embarked on and successes of certain Member States in the creation of artificial reefs,  
204 considering the potential of utilizing these as a guideline for models of artificial reefs as well as for future research,  
205 data analysis and eventual building; fully believing that scientific advancements will be well suited for the impartial  
206 management of coral reefs under a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and protecting the environment,

207

208 *Observing* the activities of member states' involvement in the building of non-sustainable artificial islands in our  
209 ocean as an extremely detrimental and damaging action to our oceans,

210

211 1. *Recommends* Member States to support and contribute to an international effort to Replenish Ecosystems and  
212 the Environment for Future Sustainability (REEFS) through the building of artificial reefs; this will be done  
213 through:

214

215 a. The use of recyclable and reusable items such as navy vessels, train carts, and school busses to serve as  
216 a foundation and building block for the artificial reefs;

217

218 b. The development and facilitation of research centers focused on the building and implementation of  
219 artificial reefs to mitigate the impact of the endangered status of reefs around the world which furthers  
220 the goals of cleaner waters and sustainable growth of endangered species, using materials taken from  
221 recycling efforts;

222

223 c. The use of scientific equipment and technological advancements to monitor the development and  
224 growth of the artificial reefs.

225

226 2. *Discourages* the building of artificial islands on top of coral reefs, which:

227

228 a. Rips up seabed habitats by dredging the ocean floor;

229

230 b. Displaces ocean floor sediment, smothering coral fish and harming biodiverse regions;

231

232 c. Destroys entire coral habitats by dumping sand and rock on them;

233

234 d. Destabilizes power dynamics in the islands' regions, increasing likelihood of war;

235  
236  
237  
238  
239

- e. Breaches 2012 declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea;
- 3. *Calls upon* other Member States to condemn the construction of artificial islands on coral reefs, especially in international waters.



**Code:** UNEA/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 Noting the importance of educational and training initiatives in forming cohesive responses to environmental  
4 degradation so that progress can be made with both present and future generations,

5  
6 Taking into consideration “Theme 6 Water Education, Key for Water Security” defined by the International  
7 Hydrological Programme (IHP) Division of Water Sciences during the eighth phase of a six-year program to ensure  
8 water security through youth education,

9  
10 Guided by General Assembly resolution 71/123 of 7 December 2016, on sustainable fisheries and the inclusion of  
11 prior protocols such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to conserve fish  
12 biodiversity,

13  
14 Alarmed by the collapse of large-fish populations due to overfishing of selected fish species, inter alia, the  
15 destruction of corals and the disruption of the ocean ecosystem caused by boats and maritime businesses,

16  
17 Observing the progress made during the UN Ocean Conference through General Assembly resolution 71/312 of 6  
18 July 2017, “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action” while noting the actions of the United Nations Environmental  
19 Programme’s Coral Reef Unit, established by the UN Environment Programme 2/12 of 27 May 2016 “Sustainable  
20 Coral Reefs Management,”

21  
22 Recognizing that in accordance with Article 5 Annex VI of UNCLOS, all Member States, are tasked with  
23 safeguarding our world’s oceans within their capabilities, as they are a part of all of humanity’s shared heritage,

24  
25 Acknowledging the successes already achieved by the Paris Climate Accord in affirming international cooperation  
26 on environmental initiatives and reducing global environmental degradation through greenhouse gas curtailment and  
27 thus global temperature reduction to combat rising sea levels,

28  
29 Recognizing that in regard to ocean acidification, the outcome document “The Future We Want” from the 2012  
30 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development reiterates the need for collaboration towards a viable  
31 international solution to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems  
32 and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them,

33  
34 Recalling the goals raised by the Kyoto Protocol and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 8 and 10 which call upon  
35 nations to reduce the amount of excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is known to be a direct cause of  
36 ocean acidification,

37  
38 Conscious of the environmental benefits of switching from fuels, such as coal, to more environmentally conscious  
39 sources of energy such as wave and solar energy,

40  
41 1. *Promotes* the formation of a comprehensive and culturally competent curriculum focused on increasing the  
42 sustainability of potentially detrimental industries:

43  
44 a. With the maintenance, thereof by a board of 15 representatives from various Member States which  
45 specialize in sustainable or renewable technology:

46  
47 i. Elected bi-annually by member states from a pool of qualified candidates;

48 ii. Selected through standards of experience in sustainable industries or extensive knowledge of  
49 environmental science and policy;

- 50                   iii.     Controlled to ensure varied regional and cultural representation with equal membership from each  
51                   larger region (Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and North America);  
52
- 53                   b.     Offer training and capacity-building for Member States or industries in order to assist in the transition:  
54
- 55                   i.     Elected bi-annually by member states from a pool of qualified candidates;  
56                   ii.    The UNEA would offer training and information to Member States;  
57                   iii.   The Member States would then, in turn, relay information to the industries in their own regions  
58                   which require training;  
59                   iv.   Training sessions would be funded by NGOs which are already invested in sustainability, as well  
60                   as supplementing this with a small fee per country to be decided annually by the UNEA based on  
61                   the additional funding required for these sessions;  
62                   v.    Annual reports on training as well as application of the training would be issued to the UNEA in  
63                   order to ensure that progress is being made in increasing sustainability of industries;  
64
- 65                   c.     Provide opportunities for corporations to volunteer in the sustainability of oceans;  
66
- 67                   2.     *Recommends* that public schools and education programs highlight the urgency of climate change and  
68                   environmental conservation by:  
69
- 70                   a.     Aiming to further incorporate textbook publications in public libraries that include information about  
71                   climate change, rising ocean levels, ocean acidification, overfishing, and Sustainable Development  
72                   Goal 14;  
73
- 74                   b.     Supporting and partnering with curriculums to incorporate a specific department to emphasize the risk  
75                   posed by climate change and ocean pollution upon the health of all animals, including humans;  
76
- 77                   c.     Suggesting that developed Member States allocate 1% of their GDP for developing Member States to  
78                   assist school programs that emphasize climate change and ocean conservation and safeguarding as an  
79                   urgent need;  
80
- 81                   d.     Committing to green standards that will reduce the usage and subsequent waste of straws, plastic water  
82                   bottles, plastic cups and plates in our oceans;  
83
- 84                   e.     Promoting the presence of school programs, extracurricular activities, and clubs in developing Member  
85                   States to ensure higher rates of participation from the student body to actively practice both basic and  
86                   advanced methods of environmental ocean conservation such as:  
87
- 88                   i.     Coastal cleanup through beach walks or road projects;  
89                   ii.    Active recycling and the reduction of waste production which may harm the oceans;  
90
- 91                   f.     Reinforcing the importance of sympathy in order to combat social and ecological harms and thus:  
92
- 93                   i.     Engaging in better honing of sympathy throughout schools so children may be exposed to it during  
94                   their formative experiences;  
95                   ii.    Increasing the understanding of the importance of biodiversity and the oceans in of themselves;  
96
- 97                   3.     *Urges* the multilateral adoption of Agenda 21, established at the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment and  
98                   Development, in the prospect of enabling the development of local and legal fisheries in which the rights of the  
99                   fishermen are protected while mitigating the negative effects of high-impact fishing on:  
100
- 101                   a.     Species diversification in fisheries and local markets to maintain a balance on the consumption of fish  
102                   species by:  
103
- 104                   i.     Introducing different and uncommon edible fish breeds;  
105                   ii.    Rebranding said breeds through marketing strategies;



- 106           iii.     Recommend policies for seasonal fishing for specific species;  
107  
108           b.     Incentivizing of fisheries and independent fishermen to allow fish species to repopulate through  
109                 seasonal fishing strategies;  
110  
111     4.     *Promotes* the regional implementation of catch share models which allocates to individuals the privilege to  
112     catch a specific amount or percentage of a fishery's total catch within a nation the in collaboration with regional  
113     fishery management councils and socially responsible corporations with the help of local government bodies  
114     and fishing companies to:  
115  
116           a.     Secure an area or quota allocated per individual or group of fishermen to effectively reverse the  
117                 incentive to overfish as determined by individual nation states so that the quota conforms to their own  
118                 unique position and needs;  
119  
120           b.     Increase stability and profitability for all fishery stakeholders by providing a long-term stake in the  
121                 fishery, thereby decreasing the need for the fishing of wild-caught fish which can often result in the  
122                 catching, injuring, and killing of protected species and other vulnerable species.  
123  
124     5.     *Promotes* the expansion of the United Nations Environment Programme's Coral Reef Unit to specifically target  
125     youth in their workshop to:  
126  
127           a.     Provide interest at the grassroots level for communities to take action in protecting coral reefs, which  
128                 are a critical part of the ocean's marine population as they act as a home for twenty five percent of all  
129                 species of fish, on a global scale by acting locally;  
130  
131           b.     Encourage direct action from member states as discussed during the 2017 Ocean Conference, relating  
132                 to Member States implementing significant change through committed contributions on a voluntary  
133                 basis in taking the lead on addressing damage to coral reef population as well as world ocean welfare  
134                 as a whole;  
135  
136     6.     *Invites* the active involvement of landlocked nation states towards pursuing marine safeguarding initiatives  
137     within their capacity;  
138  
139     7.     *Emphasizes* the fortification of existing and future industries or initiatives which can better serve in the  
140     safeguarding of our oceans, such as biodegradable technologies and recycling centers:  
141  
142           a.     Through an increased emphasis and improvements upon international idea-sharing networks for  
143                 successful practices or improvements that may be implemented;  
144  
145           b.     Facilitated by the UNEA and its Member States;  
146  
147           c.     Promoting the use of subsidies for those organizations making considerable efforts and advances in  
148                 mitigating outright pollution in our oceans, training individuals and groups alike in sustainability, and  
149                 any other effort deemed beneficial towards safeguarding our oceans by the Member States of the  
150                 UNEA;  
151  
152     8.     *Suggests* the establishment of greater collaboration between non-governmental organizations, national, and  
153     international bodies for the purpose of finding a viable solution for ocean acidification by:  
154  
155           a.     Raising awareness within NGOs and government bodies focused upon the role that ocean acidification  
156                 plays in the loss of marine biodiversity;  
157  
158           b.     Recommending that member states incentivize research into viable solutions which can be enacted  
159                 both on a regional and international scale in order to reduce the effects that carbon emissions have on  
160                 the environment and biodiversity in the form of ocean acidification by:  
161

- 162 i. Encouraging the expansion of previous research which has found limited, but promising success in  
163 the planting of seaweed and the experimentation of solutes in order to reduce the alarmingly high  
164 pH levels in the ocean;
- 165 ii. Hoping for new initiatives into as of yet unexplored solutions to the problem of ocean  
166 acidification;
- 167
- 168 9. *Reaffirms* the initiatives and goals put forth by the Kyoto Protocol and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in regard  
169 to working to reduce carbon emissions, and furthermore encourages greater multilateral support and adoption of  
170 these protocols and initiatives as well as their expansion in regard to the initiatives that they undertake;  
171
- 172 10. *Encourages* the creation of initiatives for community and regional engagement for the purpose of reducing  
173 one's personal carbon footprint in order to decrease the rate of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere by:  
174
- 175 a. Teaching citizens, even those that live far from the ocean, how their carbon footprint affects the ocean  
176 environment, and thereby realize the role that they play in ocean acidification;
- 177
- 178 b. Expanding community efforts to reduce unnecessary waste, in order to reduce the rate of the damaging  
179 expansion of carbon emissions;
- 180
- 181 11. *Endorses* a decrease in carbon emissions across all member states through multilateral and regional agreements  
182 in order to address ocean acidification by:  
183
- 184 a. Promoting the reduction of coal use on varying intervals based upon the capacity of respective  
185 Member States with the purpose of decreasing coal use internationally by at least 20% by 2030, the  
186 same deadline as the *Paris Agreement's (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)* goal to decrease overall carbon  
187 emissions, and by at least 40% overall by 2050 as coal contributes to 43% of all carbon emissions;  
188
- 189 b. Switching to alternative forms of energy appropriate for Member States' climates and geographic  
190 regions, for example through the use of tidal energy near coastlines, directly reducing carbon emissions  
191 near oceans, and through the use of solar energy in areas with high amounts of direct sunlight, as solar  
192 energy is quickly becoming a less expensive and more efficient source of energy;
- 193
- 194 c. Increasing focus on researching alternative energy in order to discover new sources of power as well as  
195 decrease the current costs of the above-mentioned forms of energy;
- 196
- 197 d. Promoting the replenishment of the rain forests and other native fauna to maximize the reduction in  
198 carbon emissions;
- 199
- 200 e. Supporting local and regional organizations in their initiatives to do any of the above, such as Friends  
201 of the Planet Europe and the GoodPlanet Foundation.



**Code:** UNEA/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Noting with deep concern* the importance of safeguarding our oceans with peace and cooperation of Member States,  
4  
5 *Reaffirming* the commitment to protecting the seas, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 9, 12,  
6 14 and 17,  
7  
8 *Emphasizing* the need for international collaboration and cooperation, as stated in the *1992 Rio Declaration on*  
9 *Environment and Development*, especially Principle 12, which encourages a global partnership that works to  
10 develop cohesive and multilateral environmental policy,  
11  
12 *Calling to attention* the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) expert group  
13 meeting on Oceans, Seas and Sustainable Development, the work of the Global Ocean Commission, the Global  
14 Partnership for Oceans, and the prominence given to oceans and seas in the UN five-year Action Agenda 2012-  
15 2016,  
16  
17 *Recalling* Resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, the UN General Assembly, which states that the rights to water and  
18 sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights,  
19  
20 *Bearing in mind* the crucial role the private sector plays in the lives of people worldwide, and recognizing the impact  
21 of the result of industrial activities on the ocean ecosystem,  
22  
23 *Considering* the report from the UNDESA which state nearly 700 million people currently suffer from water  
24 scarcity and estimates it to rise to 1.8 billion in the next 10 years,  
25  
26 *Observing* the various threats to endangered oceanic species including pollution, overfishing, and commercial trade,  
27  
28 *Referencing* the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) framework and the intentions of MAP to assist Member States in  
29 ensuring valuable and sustainable environmental protection to contribute positively to economic and social  
30 development,  
31  
32 *Emphasizing* the importance of information dissemination pertaining to oceanic protection and communal  
33 engagement while advocating for the reformation of the standards created by Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)  
34 mold and to better accommodate the ever-changing struggles and nuanced issues that plague individual regions,  
35  
36 *Remembering* the *Urban Environmental Accords* of 2008, Action 12, which facilitates both employment  
37 opportunities of which created almost 60 million aquatic-based jobs in 2014, and legislation that prevents the  
38 degradation of both land and marine habitats,  
39  
40 *Noting with importance* that marine environments are grossly under-protected, with only 3.5% of its total area being  
41 protected, despite being over 70% of the Earth's surface and home to over 80% of global biodiversity,  
42  
43 *Realizing* the importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the success of the Locally Managed Marine Areas  
44 (LMMAs) addressing the issues of protection of biodiversity and prevention of overfishing by mitigating the  
45 negative impact of large-scale multinational commercial fisheries on fish stocks around the world,  
46  
47 *Emphasizing* the issues of the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of overfishing while mitigating the  
48 negative impact of large-scale multinational commercial fisheries on fish stocks around the world,  
49

- 50 1. *Encourages* Member states with the economic means to sustainably use our oceans and establish programs  
51 similar to the Abu Dhabi's Strategic Tunnel Enhancement Program and those implemented by the state of Israel  
52 to:  
53
- 54 a. Collect, treat, recycle, and reuse wastewater discharged from residential, commercial and industrial  
55 buildings;
  - 56
  - 57 b. Recycling sewage from the waterways to encourage the usage of hydroelectric power instead of other  
58 non-renewable or sustainable and less economically beneficial energy sources;
  - 59
  - 60 c. Use this treated wastewater for irrigation and agriculture;
  - 61
  - 62 d. Fund these efforts through providing microcredit for microloans invested in programs similar to the  
63 Desalination and Water Purification Research Program (DWPR) across the globe;
  - 64
- 65 2. *Suggests* that Member States and private water companies, especially large companies in the leading nations in  
66 desalination, work in cooperation with available existing initiatives and NGOs working on ocean sustainability,  
67 such as:  
68
- 69 a. The Ocean Foundation's World Ocean Initiative that provides funding, research and consulting on the  
70 sustainable use of the oceans and new, more economically and environmentally friendly methods and  
71 technologies of desalination such as:  
72
    - 73 i. Desalination plants that run on solar or thermonuclear power, rather than traditional fossil fuels;
    - 74 ii. A process to decompose brine, a waste byproduct of desalination that is often dumped back into  
75 the ocean, using solar power energy, to allow desalination plants to reduce the emissions of carbon  
76 dioxide;
    - 77 iii. A desalination process designed by Ocean Fresh Water that uses deep ocean water from below  
78 300 meters, which contains virtually no bacteria and has more ionic minerals allowing for higher  
79 quality drinking water;
    - 80 iv. A process in which CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with brine in the presence of ammonia to create solid baking soda,  
81 therefore reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste brine, which would be dumped back  
82 into oceans, as well as producing a product that could then be sold and exported;
    - 83  - 84 b. The International Atomic Energy Agency's Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center to  
85 educate and bring together scientists, policy makers, schools, and the general public;
  - 86
- 87 3. *Urges* developing Member States with limited economic resources to utilize access funding from the  
88 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, International Ocean Institution, and the  
89 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Global Ocean Observing System to build and run plants, as  
90 well as implementing alternative methods of accessing fresh water and improve further research such as:  
91
- 92 a. Producing research emphasizing the need for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
93 Change to expand the mandate of its Green Network Fund to incorporate all issues of sustainability,  
94 including ocean pollution;
  - 95
  - 96 b. Utilizing the General Assembly Resolution 70/75 of 8 December 2015, which advocates for an  
97 intergovernmental committee that focuses on encouraging Member States to utilize *Intended*  
98 *Nationally Determined Contributions* (INDC) to create the feedback loop necessary to better  
99 implement and continue improving programs working toward the protection and reversal of damage  
100 done to our oceans as well as consensually acting on behalf of Member States that are unable to  
101 enforce current maritime regulations in the area, specifically in times of armed conflict;
  - 102
- 103 4. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage engagement with the private sector to raise awareness among civil  
104 society and the private sector by:  
105

- 106 a. Suggesting incorporations in the fishing and seafood industry:  
107  
108 i. The necessity of communicating the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list of  
109 endangered and threatened marine species to consumers;  
110 ii. The importance of providing full, transparent traceability on their products, especially with respect  
111 to the highest-risk marine species;  
112  
113 b. Providing incentives to private water companies within their countries to promote water conservation  
114 efforts by:  
115  
116 i. Supplying their customers with free smart water meters within their homes so that they could  
117 regulate and monitor their water usage at home and encourage water conservation on an individual  
118 and daily basis;  
119 ii. Providing their customers with pamphlets to educate them on water;  
120
- 121 5. *Encourages* Member States to consider adopting the Blue Economy model, as Abu Dhabi has done in its 2016  
122 Blue Economy Declaration, by:  
123  
124 a. Drafting similar declarations in which they would assert their commitment to the Blue Economy model  
125 focusing on the sustainable use of the oceans, food security, and social equality;  
126  
127 b. Following the principles of the model including:  
128  
129 i. Creating sustainable fisheries;  
130 ii. Promoting eco-tourism;  
131 iii. Increasing waste management;  
132 iv. Developing access to renewable energy;  
133 v. Mitigating the effects of climate change;  
134  
135 c. Recommending marine cleaning programs be implemented to minimize debris that has the likely  
136 possibility of ending up in the ocean;  
137
- 138 6. *Requests* international organizations such as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN) and the  
139 Ocean and Climate Platform, along with relevant UN agencies such as UNESCO and WHO to:  
140  
141 a. Establish a global framework under the IUPN for the promotion and expansion of Locally Managed  
142 Marine Areas (LMMAs), by national governments that:  
143  
144 i. Defines LMMAs as specified areas of marine ecosystems where local communities assume  
145 responsibility for the sustainable management of the marine environment and simultaneously  
146 stand to benefit from the sustainable use of marine products from the area;  
147 ii. Distinguishes them from Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), by recognizing that LMMAs are  
148 managed by local communities while MPAs are managed by national governments;  
149 iii. Recommends the IUPN and Ocean and Climate Platform to assume responsibility for connecting  
150 with local community leaders and national governments to assist with the legal formation of  
151 LMMAs;  
152  
153 b. Form an independent commission paneled by experts under the UNEP to implement voluntary global  
154 guidelines on LMMAs including seasonal bans, no-take areas, quotas, diversification of fishing  
155 product and stock, and other stipulations as recommended by the aforementioned commission:  
156  
157 i. Clarifying that these guidelines will represent suggested best practices and points of focus for  
158 communities looking to implement LMMAs;  
159 ii. Establishing that such experts' national affiliations should be broadly representative of the  
160 membership of the UNEA;  
161

- 162 c. Expand LMMA to developed and developing countries alike, especially regions where the local  
163 economy relies on marine ecosystems;  
164
- 165 7. *Invites* neighboring countries to consider implementing the framework laid out by the Mediterranean Action  
166 Plan characterized by its legal applicability to bodies of waters and seven main protocols addressing:  
167
- 168 a. Pollution of aircrafts and ships;  
169  
170 b. Land-based pollution;  
171  
172 c. Specially Protected Areas (SPA);  
173  
174 d. Prevention of ship pollution and preparation for emergencies;  
175  
176 e. Offshore explorations;  
177  
178 f. Hazardous wastes;  
179  
180 g. Integrated coastal zone management;  
181
- 182 8. *Appeals* to Member States to create governmental and intergovernmental organizations for Marine Protected  
183 Areas dedicated to the protection and preservation of marine life by:  
184
- 185 a. Establishing a national marine protected area system so that it could monitor and regulate all of the  
186 nation's MPAs;  
187  
188 b. Effectively managing these MPAs in coordination with regional and international organizations and  
189 governments;  
190  
191 c. Appealing to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to fund the creation of these organizations;  
192
- 193 9. *Calls upon* the expansion of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve sustainable fishing activities,  
194 with the hope of rebuilding overfished stocks, while that working to:  
195
- 196 a. Establish a Marine Protected Area Network among the MPAs in regions sharing the same marine  
197 ecosystem in order to share information that stimulates cooperation, including things such as data on  
198 local fish populations and locations;  
199  
200 b. Adopt locally-established initiatives with regional governments' agendas;  
201  
202 c. Encourage politically impartial management of MPAs based upon science-based research and  
203 methodology;  
204
- 205 10. *Encourages* Member States to establish marine preserves, differentiated from MPAs, to protect our oceans as  
206 designated zones for endangered species:  
207
- 208 a. Limiting fishing to prevent the destruction of wildlife populations and the natural environment;  
209  
210 b. Regulating human contact resulting in structured and staunchly observed interactions in the form of  
211 ecotourism, or completely barring human contact in designated zones;  
212  
213 c. Banning commercial trade or fishing practices within these waters and restricting industrial practices  
214 that can harm wildlife within these designated spaces;  
215  
216 d. Providing a means for scientific research on how best to protect the marine biodiversity within these  
217 designated marine preserves.



**Code:** UNEA/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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1 *United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming* Sustainable Development Goal 14, which underscores the need for conservation and sustainable use of  
4 the oceans,

5  
6 *Taking into consideration* the need for developing states to acquire technologies to fulfill the targets of the  
7 Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 17,

8  
9 *Guided by* past resolutions and agreements on safeguarding oceans, more specifically United Nations Environment  
10 Assembly of the UNEP/EA.2/ Res.10, which outlines best practices in regard to the oceans and seas, and UN  
11 Regional Seas program, which promotes technology transfer between developed and developing nations,

12  
13 *Recognizing* the need for the use of technology to monitor the state of the oceans,

14  
15 *Fully aware* of the need for sharing technology and data between Member States,

16  
17 *Emphasizing* innovative desalination techniques to create jobs and remain cost effective,

18  
19 *Realizing* technologies can be implemented to lessen the possibilities of oil detriment to the oceanic ecosystem,

20  
21 *Acknowledging* that research can improve the preventive and recovery efforts for oceans pollution,

- 22  
23 1. *Calls upon* developed states to create a catalogue of their development funds available to support the  
24 development of technology in order to attain Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 14 to further support the  
25 development of Member States;
- 26  
27 2. *Encourages* Member States to adhere to Article 4.5 of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change in  
28 promoting, facilitating, and funding to environmental technologies;
- 29  
30 3. *Encourages* the use of successful existing programs such as the UN Regional Seas Program and Rwanda's ban  
31 on plastic bags as case studies to incentivize Member States to adopt policies focusing on:
- 32  
33 a. Corporate social responsibility;
- 34  
35 b. Safety of resources in Member States;
- 36  
37 c. Addressing the exploitation through the company's investment;
- 38  
39 4. *Recommends* the creation of a database tracking system that monitors ocean acidification, plastic pollution, and  
40 overfishing to create a global standard for understanding the environmental impacts of;
- 41  
42 a. Utilizes existing satellite systems such as Global Fish Watch to monitor fishing populations on an  
43 international level;
- 44  
45 b. Displays of results of ocean water testing, including levels of pH, salinity, microbial life, and plastic  
46 concentration, that is accessible to all Member States, resembling Egypt's EIMP Coastal Water  
47 Monitoring Project;
- 48

- 49 c. Continuing to develop marine pollution technology, such as pollution detection methods to detect  
50 pollution and their sources quickly and efficiently similar to methods developed by The Baltic Marine  
51 Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM);  
52
- 53 5. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with non-government organisations (NGOs) to institute the Sustainable  
54 Collaborative Humane Natural and Candid Kaleidoscopic (SCHNACK) watch program, a voluntary program  
55 that calls for Member States to annually report their imports and exports of products containing micro plastics  
56 to the SCHNACK watch program's online database;  
57
- 58 6. *Calls for* new techniques of water treatment, and desalination clean the water through our technology we strive  
59 to clean the ocean and provide potable waters to countries that don't have clean drinking water:  
60
- 61 a. Cooperation with countries to build desalination plants, similar to the technologies of Sorek. Using  
62 newly advanced can produce thousands of liters for just 58 cents;  
63
- 64 b. Creating infrastructure and engineer work in the countries that adopt these plants in partnership with  
65 the International Desalination (IDA);  
66
- 67 7. *Encourages* states to join NGOs such as ECOOCEAN, which focuses on cleaning up the oceans and providing  
68 education to schools on pollution;  
69
- 70 8. *Calls upon* Member States to make use of available technologies that provide greater security against leakages  
71 and spills during oil drilling and exploration efforts through:  
72
- 73 a. Usage of new and safe technologies would follow the oil industry and International Maritime  
74 Organization (IMO) agreed upon guidelines;  
75
- 76 b. Case studies such as those done by the Generating Engineering Impact (GENPACT) have shown that  
77 blowout preventers and other technologies can be improved upon for greater efficiency and decreased  
78 risk of damage to surrounding environment.





**Code:** UNEA/1/6

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

---

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming* Member States' commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 regarding the conservation  
4 and sustainable use of the oceans,

5  
6 *Affirming* the importance of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information  
7 and cooperation at all levels to address the degradation of our oceans,

8  
9 *Recognizing* the importance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/70, *Oceans and the Law of the Sea,*

10  
11 *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 64/71, 67/79, and 69/109 which inform of the *Oceans and Law of the*  
12 *Sea* and encourages peace and cooperation between nations upon the advancement of sustainable fisheries,  
13 sustainable development of the oceans and seas, and legal framework upon activities that is applicable upon the  
14 oceans and seas,

15  
16 *Conscious* of General Assembly resolution 69/233 which recognizes the need for the promotion of sustainable  
17 tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection,

18  
19 *Keeping in mind* General Assembly resolution 68/71 which acknowledges the effects of illegal, unreported, and  
20 unregulated (IUU) fishing on marine biodiversity and understanding the benefits of safe havens or government  
21 protected sectors for marine life,

22  
23 *Emphasizing* the importance of catch shares as a flexible fishing management that encourages accountability for  
24 fishery participants,

25  
26 *Recalling* the implementation of The Seas Programme which aimed to address the accelerating degradation of the  
27 world's ocean and coastal areas through a "shared seas" approach, and further engaging neighboring countries into a  
28 comprehensive action plan to protect our common marine environment,

29  
30 *Welcoming* the Paris Agreement adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
31 (UNFCCC) as a crucial step towards limiting the climate change related impacts of warming and acidification of the  
32 oceans as a result of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the adverse consequences for marine and coastal  
33 ecosystems including for small island developing states and other vulnerable states,

34  
35 *Concerned* by the devastating effects of carbon emissions on ocean acidification, leading to the destruction of  
36 ecosystems and reduction of biodiversity, harm being done to ecosystems by plastic pollution, and health risks  
37 associated with broken down plastic,

38  
39 *Recognizing* the need for proper disposal of plastics in developing countries and a high demand of recycled materials  
40 used in the production of plastic products,

41  
42 1. *Calls for* expanding information sharing and education in regards to safeguarding our oceans globally by:

43  
44 a. Developing a UNEP sponsored website that centralizes and organizes oceanic research data collected  
45 by the UN, NGO's, as well as other Member States in order to:

46  
47 i. Aid smaller NGO's as well as grassroot efforts with easy to access information that will be useful  
48 to their global and regional causes;

49 ii. Create a more transparent platform where data can be shared and utilized amongst students  
50 conducting their own research;

- 51           iii.    Helping to mainstream UN websites as a common place where the global community can access  
52           information by making UNEP oceanic websites more attractive to users;
- 53           iv.    Supports the initiation of transnational data collecting projects on rainfall and ocean acidity levels  
54           in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, as well as the  
55           sharing of research between individual member states towards the restoration of the diverse  
56           ecosystems for long term social and economic development;
- 57
- 58           b.    Recommending expanding overall education regarding safeguarding our oceans by:
- 59
- 60           i.    Utilizing UNEP Goodwill Ambassadors in rural coastal communities to raise awareness of ocean  
61           pollution as well as teach sustainable practices that help reduce pollution entering our oceans;
- 62           ii.   Emphasizing that global access to the internet is growing which makes it all more vital to continue  
63           expanding ocean sustainability education across all UNEP online platforms regarding our oceans;
- 64           iii.   Recommends further integration of sustainable development Goal 14 throughout all UN oceanic  
65           websites;
- 66           iv.   Promote programs in higher education in the field of marine biology to further raise public  
67           awareness and promote the sustainable use of marine resources;
- 68
- 69   2.   *Further* invites other Member States to help other countries develop their Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and  
70   promote the protection of marine biodiversity outside of maritime and Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ)  
71   jurisdiction and that it include:
- 72
- 73           a.    The spread of international Marine Protection programs and encourages the use of naval bodies to  
74           cooperate on the protection of international waters by:
- 75
- 76           i.    Giving coastal countries the opportunity to protect areas of their jurisdiction by taking care of the  
77           areas outside of it;
- 78           ii.   Successfully implementing this partnership, which is necessary to have protected coastal areas to  
79           limit fishing and show member states own contributions towards the protection of biodiversity;
- 80           iii.   Encouraging the establishment of more biosphere reserves in collaboration with non-governmental  
81           organizations emphasizing the restriction of access to heavily damaged regions, the monitoring oil  
82           transport via underwater pipelines, as well as penalization of toxic waste and chemical dumping,  
83           specifically within the densely populated marine life ecosystem such as the Great Barrier Reef;
- 84
- 85           b.    The EEZ, which shows that there is only a certain level of jurisdiction that a country has and therefore  
86           limits their contribution to the protection of international waters and we encourage Member States to  
87           be involved;
- 88
- 89           c.    The formation of a coalition of naval experts to monitor offshore fishing to identify any illegal offshore  
90           fishing within a regional block, especially within international waters or sovereign waters that cannot  
91           be adequately monitored by associated states in order to:
- 92
- 93           i.    Identify and alert of illegal fishing activities and add the activities of boats to the registry;
- 94           ii.   Allow action can be taken by those involved in the regional body at their discretion;
- 95
- 96   3.   *Recommends* the implementation of sustainable aquaculture practices by the international community with the  
97   help of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO's) through:
- 98
- 99           a.    The utilization of recirculating aquaculture system which:
- 100
- 101           i.    Utilizes a variety of tactics including biofiltration, oxygenation, nitrification, and removal of solid  
102           waste in order to ensure biosecurity within the water and establish clean water filtration;
- 103           ii.   Emphasizes adequate monitoring of aquaculture systems to ensure proper maintenance and usage;
- 104           iii.   Take a minimal amount of physical space and leave a small environmental footprint;
- 105           iv.   Will further provide an alternative to overfishing practice;
- 106

- 107 b. The utilization of sea pen aeration systems which:  
108  
109 i. Uses an aeration system which pumps air into the pens in order to cause increased upwelling  
110 within the pens and greater movement within pens and the same location;  
111 ii. Focuses on a pod-based approach which can be customized to the region and specification in order  
112 to prevent harmful algal blooms, parasitic infection, and low dissolved oxygen content;  
113 iii. Uses the diffused air of the pods to compensate for conditions and prevent dissolution as well as  
114 cycle low density algal water upwards with the high density water to prevent algal blooms;  
115 iv. Can use both round and square pens depending on which better fits the region in order to ensure  
116 higher rates for mortality for fish;  
117 v. Supports the increase of fish farming to create sustainable solutions that can meet the demands on  
118 food supplies while simultaneously increasing ocean fish stocks;  
119
- 120 c. Promoting foreign investors and private companies to create profitable and sustainable fish farms;  
121  
122 d. Creates an information sharing network to facilitate the diffusion of aquaculture technology and  
123 mitigate the difficulties of this practice;  
124
- 125 4. *Urges* all Member States to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported, and  
126 unregulated fishing as well as overfishing by;  
127  
128 a. Identifying harmful fisheries subsidies as those which lead to the overexploitation of fish stocks, thus  
129 resulting in stagnation of the development in marine life;  
130  
131 b. Promoting ecotourism as an incentive to eradicate such subsidies;  
132
- 133 5. *Emphasizes* that the need for sustainable fisheries is prominent in Member States and the implementation of  
134 enforcement to withhold and maintain these fisheries on an international scale and:  
135  
136 a. Calls upon Member States to introduce strict regulations aimed at preventing marine life population  
137 devastation caused by harmful fishing practices such as dynamite and haul fishing:  
138  
139 i. Regulations should include specific guidelines for the types of nets to use and which fishing  
140 practices are legal, such as invasive-only catch, lead-free, and carbon-conscious;  
141 ii. Local legislation must be the initiative and work its way up to the international level to expand the  
142 reach of the Sustainable Fisheries Act;  
143  
144 b. Take the practice of registering fishermen and companies through a biometric system that the  
145 European Union has implemented and dispersed regionally in order to promote security and anti-piracy  
146 measures and support sustainability;  
147  
148 c. Expand a Catch Documentation Scheme into a global database regionally organized to track and  
149 analyze the path of fish from the origin of capture to consumers, decreasing the amount of IUU fish  
150 available in regional and local markets;  
151  
152 d. A catch limit or Total Allowable Catch (TAC), to be determined by the relevant Member States of the  
153 respective regional blocks, allows for the haul to be divided among the participating fishing  
154 organizations and/or countries;  
155
- 156 6. *Suggests* partnership between Regional Organizations and United Nations Entities including the World Bank  
157 Group and the UNEA in establishing workable framework like the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project to:  
158  
159 a. Develop and aid the development of Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans (CMSP) and associated training;  
160  
161 b. Strengthen knowledge and capacity objective, capacity of citizens, Member States, and institutions for  
162 ocean governance in sustainable fisheries and ecotourism;

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7. *Further* invites nations to focus on agricultural practices as a factor in ocean pollution through:
  - a. Preventing harmful solid and chemical products from entering into runoff by:
    - i. Utilize a variety of sustainable practices including buffer species and fencing in order to prevent agricultural runoff from entering water streams;
    - ii. Urges Member States to invest in programs to clean rivers and waterways used by local populations;
  - b. Improving education, training, and awareness of sustainable agricultural practices through:
    - i. Recognizing and recording sustainable agricultural process to aid in creation of sustainable agriculture programs and conferences;
    - ii. Implementing programs that allow students to focus on training in integrated pest management and mobilizing existing resources to increase production and reduce waste;
    - iii. Developing a digital curriculum library that serves and connects educators and the public, thus increasing the ability for sustainable agricultural practices to be learned and implemented;
8. *Supports the decrease of ocean dumping internationally through the regulation of ports by*:
  - a. Utilizing integrated waste management which will focus on:
    - i. Source reduction which emphasizes reducing waste at the source through increased sustainable practices of production and decreased chemical usage in production process;
    - ii. Recycling through improved separation and identification practices of waste;
    - iii. Energy recovery which deal with the conversion of non-recyclable materials into useable heat, electricity, anaerobic digestion, and landfill gas (LFG) recovery;
  - b. Focusing on maintaining proper staging and collection areas within ports to ensure that the above processes are conducted effectively and efficiently;
  - c. Urging all member states to revisit and update the “reverse list” mentioned in the Annex 1 of the London Convention;
9. *Suggests* the consideration of the report of the preparatory committee established to consider the development of an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction to allow for:
  - a. The holding of an intergovernmental conference to decide on the draft text of the stated internationally binding instrument under the convention;
  - b. To complete the efforts begun by the General Assembly in the development of an international binding instrument to regulate and ensure the sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;
10. *Calls upon* all member states to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC establishing a set of individual strategies aimed towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the acidification of our oceans in regard to the recent Paris Agreement;
11. *Proposes* developed nations who lack the proper recycling capabilities export the materials to developed nations to be used in production of new materials including:
  - a. Reducing the amount of waste going into the ocean;
  - b. Providing cost effective benefits to developed nations.



**Code:** UNEA/1/7

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Safeguarding Our Oceans

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1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*  
2  
3 *Emphasizing* Principles 1 and 2 of the *1972 Stockholm Declaration*, General Principles 1 and 5 of Resolution 37/7,  
4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 11, 14, and 15, and Principle 1 of the *1992 Rio Declaration*, which states  
5 “human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development...they are entitled to a healthy and  
6 productive life in harmony with nature,”  
7  
8 *Deeply concerned* with the lack of substantive action to effectively rid the world’s oceans from both trash pollution  
9 and carbon-engulfed air mentioned in A/RES/44/228,  
10  
11 *Recognizing* the consequences of carbon-based economies which result in 80% of CO2 emissions being introduced  
12 into the Earth’s atmosphere, bodies of water, and marine ecosystems,  
13  
14 *Fully aware* that 80% of oceanic pollution is due to plastic waste materials, and that not an adequate percentage of  
15 the global population recognizes this,  
16  
17 *Having examined* the effectiveness of maritime wildlife conservation facilities, zones, and areas, such as domestic  
18 ocean protection efforts,  
19  
20 *Seeing* a lack of quantitative research in areas such as bycatch and degradation issues in surface and bottom longline  
21 fisheries,  
22  
23 *Alarmed by* the consequences of oceanic pollution around the world and the lack of awareness regarding  
24 safeguarding our oceans and emphasizing the importance of informing fellow Member States of the possible  
25 dangerous results that would come with inaction,  
26  
27 *Noting* the success of the Race for Water Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Environment  
28 Programme (UNEP) and commercial organizations researching plastic pollution over Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific  
29 Oceans to prevent and protect oceans from plastic debris,  
30  
31 *Acknowledging* that the sustainability of our oceans requires working across national jurisdictions and the high seas,  
32  
33 *Mindful of* the difficulty that least-developed countries (LDCs) face in the implementation and achievement of the  
34 SDGs on their own, specifically SDG 14 which urges ocean conservation and sustainable use of oceans,  
35  
36 *Underscoring* the importance of feasible solutions for LDCs, enabling them to effectively handle their  
37 environmental instability in pursuit of a more interconnected and self-sustaining world,  
38  
39 *Understanding* the importance of cooperation from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the need for  
40 collaboration on research to explore the ocean, such as the Ocean Networks Canada, the Living Oceans Program,  
41 and the Center for Marine Conservation, among others,  
42  
43 *Further noting* the United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission's  
44 successes in incentivizing and welcoming new research opportunities in sustainable ocean development, such as the  
45 Netherlands’ Institute for the Law of the Sea,  
46  
47 *Cognizant of* the accomplishments of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), a recently-  
48 created pilot program suggested to UNEP, while acknowledging that creating pilot programs under UNEP has

49 allowed committees such as UNEA to discover innovative solutions unable to be completed in the same capacity  
50 without such larger-scale support,

- 51
- 52 1. *Congratulates* Member States which have championed the implementation of clean energy-based economies  
53 and encouraging international divestment from industries which contribute to global carbon pollution;  
54
- 55 2. *Suggests* the establishment of the Three Point Pilot Programme (3PPP) through UNEP in the form of a pilot  
56 program, for the length of two years focused on the advancement of research and technology, followed by  
57 education and awareness on recycling initiatives, and finally implementation of projects and aids for various  
58 countries in partnership with local NGOs through the proposal of:
- 59
- 60 a. Monitoring existing laws and resolutions passed by the UN to ensure global cooperation towards  
61 meeting the objectives of SDG 14;  
62
- 63 b. Implementing initiatives in cooperation with NGOs to create seafloor observatories to further efforts of  
64 innovation of technology, exploration of the ocean, and education for the public;  
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- 66 c. Endorsing regional economic cooperation amongst Regional Commissions, including the UN  
67 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Economic Commission for  
68 Latin America (ECLAC), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN Economic and Social  
69 Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), to further oceanic research for the purpose of better  
70 understanding the desperate need for oceanic policy change and better understanding the proper  
71 methods to tackle the newfound issues in the immediate future;  
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- 73 d. Encouraging scientific research institutes of higher learning to further educate fellow Member States  
74 on the issues addressed during the *United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea*;  
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- 76 e. Championing the voluntary participation of researchers from all Member States to expand initiatives  
77 such as the Race for Water Foundation program and to implement international laws to combat oceanic  
78 pollution;  
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- 80 f. Recommending partnerships between Member States and NGOs to research and then implement  
81 regional projects on mitigating bycatch, such as Tunisia's pilot program in the Gulf of Gabs, to  
82 conduct research in bottom and surface longline fisheries, in partnership with the Permanent  
83 Secretariat of the *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea  
84 and Contiguous Atlantic Area* and Secretariat of the *General Fisheries Commission for the  
85 Mediterranean* (GFCM) and in collaboration with the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Regional  
86 Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas;  
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- 88 g. Advocating the creation of vocational training programs between developed and LDCs promoting  
89 recycling, waste reduction strategies, and a free flowing exchange of ideas with the aim of global  
90 collaboration;  
91
- 92 h. Making strides toward increasing the prevalence of prevalence of aquatic wildlife conservation  
93 facilities, zones, and areas while also continuing commitment to existing facilities, zones and areas;  
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- 95 i. Fostering data sharing while mutually enhancing global maritime situational awareness through the  
96 implementation of:
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- 98 i. Surveillance systems, such as the Sea Surveillance Cooperation Baltic Sea (SUCBAS), which  
99 regionally shares maritime data;
- 100 ii. The Global Environmental Assembly, which upholds trans-boundary cooperation and helps  
101 Member States to jointly manage water systems;
- 102 iii. Voluntary commitments from Member States that are geared towards the targets of SDG 14  
103 discussed at the UN Oceans Conference;

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3. *Endorses* that the UNEP’s Environmental Data Explorer produces a comprehensive annual report which would compile regional and international data toward mitigating oceanic pollution, increasing sustainability, and recommending further steps to achieve both SDG 14 and the 3PPP by:
  - a. Multilaterally analyzing data obtained from NGOs that already work in conjunction with the Environmental Data Explorer, such as the World Development Indicators, after a period of two years in progressive environmental aid of the oceans;
  - b. Utilizing the data reported as a standard for the continuation and implementation of the 3PPP under UNEP;
4. *Emphasizes* the concurrent importance of Member States’ sovereignty and the need to implement incentives to encourage private sector participation.