

Documentation of the Work of the **United Nations
Environment Assembly (UNEA) NMUN Simulation***



**National Model United Nations
Washington, DC
8 – 10 November 2024**

** National Model United Nations (nmun.org) organizes simulations of the UN. The resolutions in this document were the work of dedicated college and university students attending our conference. They are not official UN documents, and their contents are not the actual work of the UN entity simulated.*

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

Director	Catherine Tomczyk
Assistant Director	Steven Vanhulle
Chair (if applicable)	Tammy Nguyen

Agenda

1. Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution
2. Environmental Sustainability in the Tourism Industry

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
UNEA/1/1	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	50 in favor, 5 against, 38 abstentions
UNEA/1/2	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	49 in favor, 11 against, 33 abstentions
UNEA/1/3	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	49 in favor, 11 against, 33 abstentions
UNEA/1/4	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	53 in favor, 8 against, 32 abstentions
UNEA/1/5	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	44 in favor, 12 against, 36 abstentions
UNEA/1/6	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	41 in favor, 22 against, 30 abstentions
UNEA/1/7	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	39 in favor, 22 against, 32 abstentions
UNEA/1/8	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	42 in favor, 17 against, 34 abstentions
UNEA/1/9	Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution	44 in favor, 17 against, 32 abstentions

Summary Report

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

1. Environmental Sustainability in the Tourism Industry
2. Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The session was attended by representatives of 93 Member States.

On Friday, the committee adopted the agenda in the order of topic 2 followed by topic 1, beginning the discussion on “Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution.” By Saturday, the Dais received a total of 11 working papers covering a wide range of sub-topics, such as the environmental impacts of microplastics, marine plastic pollution, and economic sustainability. The atmosphere was enthusiastic and inquisitive as they revised the provided feedback and would continue as they worked on merging toward consensus amongst the committee. Delegates were committed to getting into working groups on Saturday, in which they discussed areas including, but not limited to, technology funding/tracking of plastic waste, supporting domestic recycling initiatives, corporate accountability, tourism/strict regulations, and regional outreach programs, among others.

On Sunday, the Dais approved nine draft resolutions. The body adopted all nine. The resolutions addressed a wide range of issues, including fishery management, microplastic contamination, sustainable production and consumption, and awareness and education campaigns about marine plastic pollution.



Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing the need to regulate waste management and single-use plastic production by establishing a task force to eliminate single-use plastics,

Drawing from the successful initiatives of Member States to ban or reduce single-use plastic domestically,

Realizing the importance of incentivizing corporations to support and adhere to environmental goals and initiatives,

Emphasizing the role of multinational corporations in the manufacture and international distribution of single-use plastics and their responsibility to partake in end-of-life management,

Noting the vital importance of the *1989 Basel Convention* and its 2019 amendment to the regulation of transboundary movement of hazardous plastic waste, which ensured developed states took greater responsibility for their plastic consumption and curtailed “plastic dumping” in the developing world,

Stressing the need for international collaboration between Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to share and contribute knowledge, resources, and funding to focus our efforts towards addressing the reduction of marine plastic pollution,

Acknowledging the financial burden small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) would take on forgoing the use of single-use plastics and the power of education as a seed for sustainability, innovation, and economic development and a necessity to condition society towards caring for their communities,

Bearing in mind the dual threat to marine biodiversity and human health that pollution poses at all stages of its lifecycle,

Highlighting the adoption of General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 to address the pertinent issues of global sustainability in all sectors but specifically highlighting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, life below water,

Affirming the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) efforts to increase global and domestic capacity to develop and implement mainstream Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) towards plastic pollution through the partnership of the Norwegian Retailer’s Environment Fund (NREF),

Recalling the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution UNEA/RES/5/14 to focus our initiative on ending plastic marine pollution globally and establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee mandating a legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution,

Deeply disturbed by the continued production of single-use plastics, which the UNEP reports account for 36% of all plastics produced and of which 85% become unregulated waste,

Observing the need to spread awareness and create advertising incentives for corporations through the implementation of digital media tools and creative solutions, utilizing modern technology, social media campaigns, and local televised broadcasting networks,

Welcoming Member States who are like-minded in the effort to eliminate single-use plastics and address marine plastic pollution,

1. *Urges* Member States to establish a new opt-in treaty, Single-Use Plastic Elimination Resolution (SUPER), which will be enforced through the Task Force to Eliminate Single-Use Plastics:
 - a. By compelling Member States to establish their legislation following international law and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC);
 - b. By collaborating with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to establish economic incentives to ensure accountability of Member States;
 - c. By funding the Task Force through voluntary contributions by Member States signed onto the treaty and consultations with the United Nations;
 - d. By making the Task Force responsible for engaging in waste management and joint clean-up initiatives to protect the Member States' biodiversity and promoting the creation of jobs to aid in clean-up initiatives;
2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt legislation and frameworks that enable businesses to eliminate the use of single-use plastics through incentives like free advertisements, endorsements, and an excise tax on single-use plastic products;
3. *Calls for* greater collaboration between Member States and multinational corporations involved in the manufacture and international distribution of single-use plastics to monitor and regulate virgin plastic production, which is a new resin created as a byproduct of gas or oil, incorporate corporate initiatives into National Action Plans (NAPs), and ensure sustainability initiatives are consistently applied in both developed and developing nations;
4. *Commends* the implementation of EPR schemes by Member States and NGOs, such as the NREF, and endorses the implementation of take-back initiatives, nationally and transnationally, to reinforce the implementation of plastic circularity and multinational responsibility;
5. *Requests* the UNEP to facilitate cross-country EPR collaboration, particularly between more developed countries (MDCs), LDCs, and SIDS, to share best practices and improve the efficiency and reach of EPR programs globally;
6. *Invites* Member States to continue supporting the Basel Convention on controlling transboundary movements of plastics and hazardous waste and consider extending the definition of hazardous materials to non-biodegradable plastic products, such as polystyrene foam;
7. *Endorses* the existing Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) as a comprehensive platform for Member States to share ideas, research, and resources by:
 - a. Compelling further collaboration between Member States to facilitate informed, educated decision-making and the exchange of information;
 - b. Harnessing to a greater extent the expertise, resources, and enthusiasm of all Member States in this unique program of collaboration in efforts to protect the marine environment;

- c. Asking sponsors to donate to the GPML to provide more scholarships to students of LDCs and SIDs who are pursuing or wish to pursue graduate studies or research relating to materials engineering or marine environmental science;
- 8. *Emphasizes* the importance of sanitation, urging Member States, particularly those with large coastal populations, to develop waste management infrastructure by investing in recycling programs, proper garbage disposal programs, public water treatment systems, and higher sanitation standards with funding in consideration of the United Nations general budget and voluntary contributions of financial aid from developed countries and the World Bank;
- 9. *Invites* the creation of UNEP educational and promotional content regarding the detrimental effects of single-use plastics on the world's oceans and seas and potential solutions to work towards eliminating them, to be presented through various digital channels that target younger generations, specifically those ages six to 35, with content carefully tailored to target specific age groups by:
 - a. Fostering advisory relationships between the task force and media outlets to advise on strategies to promote efforts towards reducing single-use plastic production through content creation that is engaging, educational, and supportive of sustainable practices that:
 - i. Involve informational interviews with international experts on marine plastic pollution, reflecting multiple perspectives from various regions of the world;
 - ii. Utilize animated media geared towards younger children to present the ideas of sustainable consumption entertainingly and appropriately;
 - iii. Collaborate with existing influential content creators to reach broader audiences;
 - b. Calls upon Member States to enact tax breaks for media companies that create content promoting environmental awareness regarding marine pollution and follow guidelines within their partnerships with the task force and clientele;
 - c. Tailoring content to reflect the perspectives and media allowances in different regions of the world, with oversight by digital media experts appointed by the task force and initial collaborations with PBS, Plastic Oceans International, and local televised channels.



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Aware of the widespread misinformation, or lack thereof, regarding the proper disposal of plastics causing the pollution of waterways for Member States, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reports that by reusing and reducing plastic waste, the number of new plastics entering the ocean can be reduced by 80% in 2040, which will lower human health risks and loss of marine life,

Expressing its concern about 800 million metric tonnes of plastic being polluted into the oceans annually, with over 800 coastal and marine species being adversely affected, according to the UNEP,

Recognizing the non-profit organization Greenpeace's project of 12 billion metric tonnes of plastic pollution entering natural environments by 2050,

Taking into consideration that the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO) found in 2019 that 35% of global fish production is the result of overfishing and further degrades biodiversity harmed by pollution,

Keeping in mind that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conducted a study finding that plastic-based products are frequently an energy-intensive process that is responsible for 1.8 billion tonnes of all carbon emissions,

Remembering the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WACT) that focuses on waste data collection to help Member States identify effective waste management strategies and allocate resources to build proper infrastructure,

Calling attention to consequences on economy and technology development in finding alternatives to plastic, suggesting the analysis of economic restrictions and how they have increased the usage of non-eco-friendly materials according to the National Library of Medicine in 2021,

Bearing in mind that researchers from the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators estimate a loss of 500 billion USG to 2.5 trillion USD per year due to a 1-5% loss in marine ecosystem services as a result of plastic pollution,

Concerned that the global economy loses over 12 billion USD yearly to fisheries and other businesses due to unmonitored plastic usage,

Alarmed that abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) make 70% of ocean microplastics with an annual increase of 75-95 million tonnes of garbage in marine environments due to the improper management of waste such as ship-breaking plastic disposal and chemical leaching of shipping vessels, as outlined by the Global Ghost Gear Initiative,

Noting the significance of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Action Plan in addressing marine plastic litter from fishing vessels and shipping and its potential as a model for international efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution,

Desiring a globally implemented blue economy and circular economy to directly address marine plastic pollution as 1.4 billion people rely on marine wildlife as a primary source of their diet, prioritizing Pure Earth's statement that 2.3 billion people are negatively affected by a lack of water quality data,

Emphasizing the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 4/9, where Member States committed to encouraging the private sector to find affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use products,

Deeply concerned by LDCs being neglected on the issues of coastal cleanup best practices since funds from the World Bank that help incentivize these frameworks place more emphasis on more developed Member States that outline Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15,

Seeking objectives that focus on biodiversity loss in global bodies of water as not doing so hinders the achievement of SDG 14,

Considering the importance of United Nations General Assembly A/RES/76/300,

Acknowledging that the UNEP reports that by reusing and reducing plastic waste, the number of new plastics entering the ocean can be reduced by 80% in 2040, which will lower human health risks and loss of marine life,

Bearing in mind the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, which unites the tourism industry toward addressing plastic pollution,

1. *Reaffirms* the implementation of a community-based approach to educate the population on proper disposal, reuse, and recycling of trash, specifically plastics, desiring a collaborative approach utilizing community outreach programs in schools and hospitals;
2. *Emphasizing* the importance of the UNEP states their main mission is to find solutions to the humanitarian planetary crisis to foster security, foster climate stability, and to forge a pollution resource center, with the goal being to educate and create incentives to promote the proper disposal of plastics by:
 - a. Implementing environmental education services in rural or more marginalized areas to empower individuals to take affirmative action to restore their environment, focusing on marginalized or impoverished areas to motivate individuals to take meaningful action to protect their communities and environment joined with incentives for adopting sustainable practices;
 - b. Recommending incentive programs aimed at promoting a more eco-friendly lifestyle;
3. *Encourages* collaborating with the UNEP to form the creation of the Reusable Receptacle Stations (RRS) through:
 - a. A partnership with participating Member States to replace household plastic items with their eco-friendly counterpart;
 - b. Possible implementation by the Greenpeace for its work in creating a sustainable environment;
4. *Strongly implore* the establishment of community-based initiatives with local governments of Member States centered on sustainable practices, such as creating protected areas to mitigate the risk of the loss of biodiversity that allow for fishing only, to enable local organizations and residents to address environmental challenges specific to their regions collaboratively;
5. *Reiterates* the importance of Member States and industries to research environmentally friendly materials that can be used to create biodegradable single-use plastics and business strategies that take into account the environmental impact of the product's creation;

6. *Further encourages* an increase in research collaboration among Member States and research fund pooling to analyze how marine plastic pollution affects river systems and inland populations within the goals of SDGs six, 13, and 14;
7. *Proposes* a voluntary fund to increase the cooperation between Member States to increase the production of non-plastic reusable, bio-based, or biodegradable, eco-friendly materials with different contributions based on:
 - a. Suggesting Member States to increase both domestic and collaborative efforts in the research and development of new eco-friendly materials;
 - b. Sponsoring financial voluntary support to develop sustainable strategies to transition away from plastic to eco-friendly materials, especially in LDCs or Member States with limited resources;
 - c. Assisting Member States with developing their respective economies during this transition while encouraging inter-collaboration;
 - d. Drawing from the Environment Fund of the UNEP to fund capacity building operations, i.e., the sharing and transfer of technological innovations between Member States, and results-based planning and management, to achieve all SDGs;
 - e. With assistance from the Green Climate Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is invested in aligning finance with sustainable development by promoting innovative methodologies, standards, and practices to facilitate new norms and values in Member States;
8. *Inviting* the creation of the Waste Awareness and Value Enhancement Task Force (WAVEs) to find comparative alternatives for detrimental plastics:
 - a. Funded by the Ocean Foundation to provide fiscal support;
 - b. Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - c. Emphasizing the necessity of an audited, international, legally binding instrument aimed at marine plastics;
 - d. Developing standardized analysis protocols with the assistance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide comprehensive reports on status and trends;
 - e. Increase support and engagement from all Member States in the field of research in response to Marine Plastic Pollution, primarily focused on:
 - i. Development of an alternative to plastic polymer containing paint, which accounts for 58% of ocean microplastics;
 - ii. Developing new ways to combat current plastic pollution, such as remote drones capable of removing the plastic already found within our oceans;
 - iii. Expediting the transition from plastics to biodegradable material following the SDGs in a way that is inclusive to all Member States, especially those previously dependent on plastics;
9. *Recommends* Member States adhere to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative by conducting media campaigns to raise community awareness:

- a. Through the implementation of ship-breaking waste disposal accountability administered by institutions that incentivize sustainable practices;
 - b. Plastic waste must be accounted for through receipts of plastic content in vessels and its disposal to encourage proper disposal, compensation for vessel owners will be met with discounts on port fees;
 - c. Suggesting the international community to adopt measures modeled after the Action Plan set out by the IMO to reduce fishing vessels' and shipping contributions to marine plastic pollution;
10. *Reiterates* the basis of Nuclear Technology (NUTEC) Plastics to monitor plastic waste and improve accessibility to waste data sharing through innovative technologies:
- a. Using the latest technologies to measure waste management performance at municipal and national levels, focusing on municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal facilities and material footprint;
 - b. Encouraging financial support from NGOs and community-based organizations by introducing circular financing for solid waste management;
 - c. Obtaining available data from statistics offices to use population densities and waste management results to mold appropriate waste methods to improve waste monitoring;
11. *Reiterates* the importance of Member States and industries to research environmentally friendly materials that can be used to create biodegradable single-use plastics and business strategies that take into account the environmental impact of the product's creation;
12. *Further requests* for improved waste management and recycling strategies paired with environmental education services could implore communities to take action against plastic pollution in Member States' environments by:
- a. Implementing environmental education services in rural or more marginalized areas to empower individuals to take affirmative action to restore their environment;
 - b. Focusing on marginalized or impoverished areas to motivate individuals to take meaningful action to protect their communities and environment, joined with incentives for adopting sustainable practices;
 - c. Combined with manufacturing more waste management and recycling facilities with assistance from voluntary Member States and pollution initiative programs such as the UNEP and UNDP;
 - d. Underlining the importance of working closely with universities to collaborate on scientific research;
 - e. Creating a network of resources, such as a marine task force that could potentially act as a line of defense between marine wildlife and polluters;
 - f. Creating an assembly of scientific resources to restore degraded ecosystems to improve biodiversity;
13. *Endorses* the creation of a Global Plastics Treaty that aligns with the targets of SDGs 12, 13, and 14 through the implementation of a sustainable blue economy to assist Member States in transitioning to a sustainable, resilient, and equitable blue economy with "Rapid Readiness

Assessment” facilitating the application of nature-based solutions sub as blue carbon approaches;

14. *Invites* Member States to change their priority from short-term economic viability to focusing on long-term sustainability, primarily with the utilization of multi-use recycled plastics;
15. *Trusts* Member States to implement an international framework through multilateral action that follows the example set by national organizations like the Ghanaian National Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation by targeting coastal marine pollution and creating sustainable blue economy practices;
16. *Proposes* a comprehensive, multi-step for all Member States to benefit from with improved education and new anti-single-use plastic measures, and keeps in mind:
 - a. According to data collected in 2019 published in 2021, Member States, on average, spend 3.7 trillion USD on mass plastic production, so they will be saving money that could potentially be used to begin to tackle the marine plastic pollution problem;
 - b. Working on encouraging Member States to work with well-known corporations to try to create a new plan to set a goal to implement biodegradable alternatives in the production process by the year 2060;
17. *Further suggests* a specific focus on the re-establishment of international policy, with a focus targeted toward multilateral cooperation modeled after the African Circular Economy Alliance;
18. *Directs attention* to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, whose actionable commitments should serve as an example to all Member States on promoting a better circular economy.



Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Admires the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all Member States, especially regarding addressing the current marine plastic pollution,

Concerned by a lack of attention on LDCs, that struggle with practices in reusing and recycling plastic waste initiatives combating marine plastic pollution,

Alarmed by the amount of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) within bodies of water and the overall negative human health impacts, such as increased cancer, immune deficiencies, and possible liver damage,

Bearing in mind the efforts of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Marine Microplastic Concentrations Map project that enables users to keep track of microplastics through the NCEI database,

Viewing with appreciation the Department of Economic and Social Affairs International Environmental Education Program on Micro-plastics local initiatives to educate the public and other relevant stakeholders on community action to promote data gathering and sharing on marine plastic debris,

Acknowledging the need for partnerships between developing and developed countries through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development,

Emphasizes the potential of circular economies to help promote SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, by increasing employment opportunities while also decreasing plastic pollution,

Deeply Concerned with the amount of single-use plastics available on markets and the adverse environmental effects they have on marine environments,

Noting with approval the call for regulatory legislation that promotes plastic circularity by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) One Plastics Initiative and further supported by the European Union's Extended Producer Responsibility directives,

Stresses the importance of reducing microplastics in our marine ecosystems, specifically through the usage of technologies for the implementation of a circular economy,

Keeping in mind the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) "Common Approach to Pollution," which focuses on ensuring the right to clean water and healthy marine life,

Drawing attention to SDG 9, Infrastructure, Industrialization and Innovation, and SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, which supports the establishment of sustainable infrastructure communities and fostering innovation,

Recognizing the efforts of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on developing a legally binding instrument regarding plastic prosecution design, disposal, and international cooperation with fellow Member States,

Recalling the Clean Seas Campaign and its efforts to establish international collaboration regarding policies to promote the creation of accountability instruments on an international, regional, and national level similar to a global plastics treaty,

Noting the importance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Member States through policies, research, public education, and the private sector,

Further acknowledges the partnership of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which emphasizes sustainable usage of the ocean's resources for sustainable development,

Admires the global effort of beach cleanups and educational programs adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/122 and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and Oceanographic Institute of the University of Sao Paulo (IOUSP),

1. *Calls upon* the Member States to create a companion system between nations with the highest sustainability rankings and those with the lowest sustainability rankings, like the Global Plastic Partnership, which is in line with SDG 14, to motivate Member States to:
 - a. Offer incentives to Member States that have already made significant progress toward reducing plastic production in collaboration within marine coastal regions in the UNEP that lowers the effects of microplastic pollution with the help of enterprises such as micro-credit and green bonds;
 - b. Secure funding through IMF for Least Developed Countries (LDC) by encouraging developed Member States to contribute with financial resources and other forms of assistance such as new job opportunities;
2. *Invites* Member States to work multilaterally within the state-level national frameworks, like the global action partnership, in arms to create community-driven enterprises and allocate funds that will establish cooperation at the national level to encourage local and state-level awareness on the issue, with the help of private sector stakeholders such as The International Finance Corporation (IFC);
3. *Proposes* the creation of an interactive digital map app called "EcoMap" that tracks PFAS pollution and expresses the impacts on public and private water systems, taking into account the efforts of the "NCEI Marine Microplastic Concentrations Map" by allowing users to track the locations and amounts of microplastic collected through logging efforts and providing Member States a database to compare and track the overall trends of PFAS;
4. *Urges* the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs International Environmental Education Program on Microplastics to increase awareness among citizens at the local level and expand these intravenous by promoting technological education initiatives available to all Member States to mobilize citizens to take action against plastic pollution by:
 - a. Introducing the creation of an app named "EcoFoodScan" in partnership with Plastic Soup to educate local communities on the amounts of plastic-contaminated food and water that is being consumed;
 - b. Creating online seminars that would follow professional advice and could be rewarded by Member States with incentives such as meal vouchers to all those who help and fuel curiosity towards this issue;
5. *Supports* the further implementation of SDG 14, which addresses marine plastic pollution by:

- a. Forming an international research union of voluntary scientists to strengthen marine technology and science in other Member States by:
 - i. Facilitating partnerships between multiple stakeholders who can share resources of technology, finance, and knowledge with all Member States in the efforts for innovative solutions for marine plastic pollution;
 - ii. Promoting technologies with other participating Member States by creating mutual terms for both sides to develop and transfer technology into their lands and ports;
 - b. Enhancing technologies and research by advocating for the investment of STEM sectors of industry and jobs in all Member States;
 - c. Encouraging universal access to technology and the internet for public usage;
6. *Strongly encourages* Member States to develop job opportunities that align with the goals of circular economies to eliminate plastic pollution by considering SDG 8 through:
- a. Developing jobs that reduce the use of plastic with the establishment of local recycling facilities that set up community-based recycling plants through jobs that develop biodegradable products that reduce the amount of plastic that enters waterways;
 - b. Aiming at lowering unemployment levels by targeting vulnerable populations that have high levels of unemployment and investing in vocational training programs that target reducing waste and improving recycling;
 - c. Partnering with NGOs such as Ceres to further promote sustainable business practices and solutions by offering incentives to businesses that adopt circular practices and adopting legislation similar to extending producer responsibility to discourage businesses from having non-renewable practices;
7. *Endorses* the suggestion of developing internationally standardized extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulations that promote responsible production practices for the end-of-life management of plastics and materials through:
- a. The hopeful establishment of a non-profit producer responsibility organization, operating under voluntary supervision from the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), for single-use plastic/non-biodegradable plastic waste streams owned by producers to integrate EPR schemes and eco-modulation directly into their business structure;
 - b. Incentivizing the development of biodegradable alternatives by optimizing end-of-life management and communication between producers through open discussions regarding sustainable practices to replace single-use plastics;
8. *Calls* for an establishment of a program similar to the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) that will highlight global guidelines and standards for identifying, monitoring, and reporting microplastic contamination levels in ocean waters and marine life by:
- a. Encouraging Member States to implement restrictions on single-use plastic products;
 - b. Helping the implementation of technology that intercepts plastic as it travels from its source to the ocean;

- c. Assisting underdeveloped Member States in implementing these guidelines in such ways may include providing teams from the EMG to inspect the implementation of these guidelines by allocating the brunt of the effort to combat large patches of plastic pollution, such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP);
9. *Recommends* Member States to implement clauses within international trade agreements, such as the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), that encourage responsible plastic production and disposal methods to reduce transboundary microplastic pollution by:
 - a. Cooperating with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to urge companies to engage in international trade that meets standards that limit single-use plastics by utilizing biodegradable plastics as well as encouraging recycling;
 - b. Implementing a framework similar to the EMG's "Common Approach to Pollution" to encourage Member States to collaborate on waste management technologies and best practices, specifically in regions where microplastic pollution impacts shared water bodies and ecosystems;
10. *Strongly advises* the expansion of INC efforts to address marine plastic pollution initiatives and propose a framework for the creation of the Regional Marine Plastic Committee (RMPC) that would focus on:
 - a. Geographical research as relating to population density, climate, and overall geography of each region;
 - b. A balance of LDCs and resource distribution regarding economic standing and diverse factors that can be researched to determine a country's overall access to resources;
 - c. Member State interests in sustainability regarding overall alliances and political matters, and factoring in historical and cultural background;
11. *Encourages* Member States within the RMPC to establish a zero-waste policy and voluntary regional accountability policies that will engage citizens in responsible plastic consumption and disposal;
12. *Suggests* Member States expand the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris at a global scale with the RMPC to promote plastic-free water initiatives guided by:
 - a. Creating public-private partnerships (PPPs) to provide training to stakeholders in the private sector by expanding on the Southeast Asia (SEA) Circular Project that reduces single-use plastics which eventually end up in the water by promoting methods to implement sustainable alternatives such as compostable packaging;
 - b. Implementing educational workshops to give a full-encompassing scope on the effects of plastic pollution by providing hands-on experience and centralized data composed of voluntary knowledge from fellow Member States;
 - c. Repurposing plastic waste towards community capacity-building initiatives by potentially partnering with NGOs such as the Global Ecobrick Alliance that utilizes plastic waste to create plastic bricks to build local communal infrastructure to promote circular waste management, preventing plastic in local marine environments sourcing plastic waste from bodies of water;
13. *Proposes* the establishment of Comprehensive Advanced Technology Harnessed for Environmental Recovery and International Networking Efforts (CATHERINE) that aims to use

advanced technologies, community engagement, and international collaboration to create a multilayered approach to develop innovative bioremediation techniques that use specially engineered microorganisms that are capable of breaking down microplastics into non-toxic substances to address marine plastic pollution with the help of research institutions such as the UFRJ and the IOUSP by:

- a. Increasing public awareness and community involvement with educational community centers, public campaigns using digital media, and citizen science initiatives that will encourage local communities to participate in data collection and pollution mitigation efforts;
- b. Integrating CATHERINE into existing frameworks like UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign and the GMPL to promote global cooperation to address marine plastic pollution.



Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Expressing its deep concern about the significant impact that marine litter, including plastic from both land- and sea-based sources, can have on the marine environment, ecosystem, fisheries, natural resources, tourism, and economy,

Taking into consideration the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 4/6, which addresses the consequences of microplastics in the oceans, such as the microplastics found throughout the food chain and possible adverse effects on human health via our food supply,

Affirming the binding actions of the UNEA resolution 5/14, which calls for a legal agreement to end the waste and dumping of plastic materials,

Considering the International Union for Conservation of Nature report indicating that over 400 million tons of plastics are reproduced every year,

Being conscious of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for action to conserve and sustainable use of marine resources following Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 Life Below Water,

Fully aware of international agreements on marine plastic pollution, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, London Convention Protocol, International Maritime Organization, and Marpol Convention V that have provided an excellent framework for maritime efforts against plastic pollution,

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/296, which advocates that the ocean is fundamental to all functions of life on earth and must be addressed sustainably,

Highlighting the works of the sixth session of the UNEA that aimed to establish a multi-stakeholder approach to water policy, specifically regarding pollution,

Recalling the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter to reduce plastic pollution and implement legal national strategies that have made strides in increasing awareness over these complex issues,

Taking into account the harmful effects of the commercial fishery industry by the dumping of Ghost Gear, abandoned or lost fishing gear, which includes but is not limited to buoys, netting, and masks,

1. *Encouraging* the development of technologies with the aid of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) that advance the efforts to combat Ghost Gear in marine industries by:
 - a. Creating biodegradable nets and traps within the fisheries industry;
 - b. Making a tracking and tagging system for buoys, vests, and anchors within the commercial shipping industry;
2. *Seeking* to work alongside the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote a tracking system for waste management within the aquaculture industry that holds individual stakeholders accountable:

- a. By expanding upon FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG) to promote the reduction of fishing gear that is dumped by fisheries;
 - b. Creating an exemplary actors program that will provide Member States with the knowledge to make informed decisions when it comes to choosing fisheries that are considered to be making strides in reducing plastic pollution within their practices, such as moving towards biodegradable options and utilizing new technologies;
3. *Calling for* the collaboration between the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the UNEA to bilaterally address pollution in this expansive field by:
 - a. Focusing specifically on the cruise ship industry, enacting programs on the ships that incentivize sustainable behavior and actions of the tourists, making the sustainable choice the desirable choice, such as reusable cups provided on board in which guests are encouraged to use and participate in on-board challenges and games, so the single-use plastic cups and bottles can be reduced on the ships;
 - b. Enacting new waste management standards to encourage recycling plastics on cruise ships to focus on limiting the amount of plastic pollution released into bodies of water;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of reducing plastic waste in marine life tourism, with a focus on protecting endangered marine species:
 - a. This can be tackled by working with sustainable marine tourism organizations such as Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean and supporting them in their environmentally friendly practices like education for tourists on proper marine tourism practices;
 - b. Creating guidelines that emphasize the need to eliminate plastic pollution, which is followed by a statistical review of each member state on their position relative to the guidelines, and rewards those found to be in good standing with a green certification;
 - c. Partnering and supporting organizations like the World Wildlife Foundation who have resources and drive to help endangered species;
5. *Implementing* a program with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that supports the investment in advanced technologies that include bioremediation for breaking down microplastics in bodies of water into non-toxic substances;
6. *Suggests* the creation of a fund derived from voluntary contributions of Member States to help developing countries with the investment and funding of organizations such as The World Bank to create the projects, in which:
 - a. The fund will be managed by the UN to make sure countries are using them appropriately to reduce marine plastic pollution; however, the funds will be mainly based on donations done by opt-in collaborations of wealthier nations through matching donations among participating marine plastic cleanup organizations and international organizations to help developing countries acquire advanced technology;
 - b. A funding mechanism that can help developing states can include the National Science Foundation and the World Bank;
7. *Recommends* a partnership with Universities and Scientific Organizations to develop research on how to conduct these technologies, such as degradation mechanisms, photocatalytic

degradation, and tracking materials; then implement them through a partnership that can be used for data collection by the Center for Marine Debris Research (CMDR) which is a joint institute between the NIST and the Hawaii Pacific University located in Hawaii to study and solve marine plastic pollution:

- a. By partnering with organizations that have established research programs and will contribute to the development of technologies voluntarily;
 - b. When gaps in data are identified, partnerships with universities and research institutions could be established to conduct targeted studies;
8. *Calls* for the development of effective waste management facilities among Member States with a focus on waste sorting, plastic recovery, and recycling:
- a. Identify significant sources of plastic pollution, track waste pathways, and monitor pollution hotspots through the use of operational oceanography data;
 - b. Member states will elect to report findings through the UNEA to ensure transparency and coordinate clean-up efforts effectively;
9. *Fully supports* the establishment of a capacity-building framework done in collaboration with the 5 Gyres Institute, which has both international and local capacity, to support Member States in effectively educating their population on the dangers of marine plastic pollution:
- a. This framework will provide Member States with the right tools and offer a range of educational resources to help their communities understand the impact of plastic pollution on marine environments and public health while also promoting a culture of sustainability and environmental protection among their citizens;
 - b. Starting educational campaigns for people of all ages by using scientific data obtained from university research, established databases, environmental organizations, and satellite monitoring to increase awareness;
10. *Invites* Member States to advocate for active community involvement in coastal clean-up initiatives:
- a. Involving funding local efforts for coastal clean-up initiatives and incentives for plastic collection and recycling by also highlighting the environmental and economic impacts of marine litter on tourism, fisheries, and coastal ecosystems;
 - b. Encouraging the promotion of the digital UNEP: Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution, Marine Litter (UNEP GPML) and United Nations Development Programme Accelerator Labs to strengthen scientific knowledge, inform citizens, and raise awareness of marine pollution.



Code: UNEA/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging the Human Rights Council's (HRC) resolution 48/13 and General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/300, which recognize the right to a sustainable environment for all individuals,

Reaffirming the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14 that established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to work on developing an international legally binding instrument for ending plastic pollution, including in marine environments,

Deeply conscious of the effect that marine plastics have on the economic, environmental, and individual welfare among Member States,

Firmly convinced that enhanced accountability of large companies, especially members of the World Council of Fisheries Societies (WCFS), in accordance with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that proposes a marine conservation regulatory framework to reduce the levels of plastic pollution within the ocean significantly,

Bearing in mind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically 12 on responsible consumption and production and SDG 14 about life below water, emphasizing plastic waste management and marine resources for sustainable development,

Acknowledging the large role industrial fishing plays in Marine plastic pollution issues, including the presence of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG),

Noting with gratitude General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/118 recognizing that effective management of fisheries is challenging in some regions due to unreliable or incomplete data caused by unreported or misreported fish catches and fishing efforts,

Recognizing the critical role that the fishing industry plays in the economy of numerous Member States based on the reports by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of 225 states and territories investing in the trade of fisheries and aquatic products in 2020,

Noting with deep concern the detrimental effect of microplastics, defined as plastic particles smaller than five mm in size, on the marine environment and surrounding coastlines,

Fully alarmed by the findings of the Pollution to Solution report undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which reported on the amount of microplastics that humans consume through waterway contamination from daily processes,

Deeply conscious of the significant impact of single-use plastics according to UNEA resolution 3/7, which accounts for 89% of the plastic waste polluting our oceans,

Realizing the importance for members of regional fisheries management organizations to meet their data collection and reporting responsibilities fully, ensuring submissions are complete, reliable, and timely, an illustrative example is the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which has implemented the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF),

1. *Encourages* Member States to promote reducing plastic in production through the work of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), specifically primary plastic polymers,

problematic and preventable plastic products such as single-use or multi-layered plastics, preventing the use of substances harmful to human health through tax incentives and subsidies to businesses;

2. *Strongly requests* Member States to enhance and extend responsibility and accountability among large-scale public and private fishing corporations for the role they play in marine plastic pollution by enacting corporate obligations devised through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) such as:
 - a. Usage and the promotion of implementation of an alternative to plastic polymer-based paint, such as Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) free paint for boats, containers, and equipment;
 - b. Participating or contributing to cleanup programs and conservation efforts, such as The Oceans Cleanup, and protection of endangered species, like the IUCN;
 - c. Increasing consciousness of marine conservation towards current and future practices, such as improving mindfulness of waste responsibility and using non-plastic alternatives to fishing equipment, such as biodegradable monofilament lures and hemp rope nets;
 - d. Developing collaborative regional approaches within the fishing industry, similar to the WCFS, with an emphasis on environmental consciousness, that engage with all stakeholders in both research and implementation;
3. *Establishes* an international framework that works specifically towards the prevention and clean up of ALDFG through:
 - a. Encouraging the cooperation of the UNEP and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, a global multi-stakeholder public-private partnership, in collaboration with members including members of the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and national governments for data and information exchange to monitor and track ALDFG;
 - b. Integrating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, which focuses on improving the management of fishing operations, including the management of ALDFG;
4. *Invites* Member States in regulating and monitoring of the fishing gears with a particular focus on industrial fishing corporations both on the international level and the local, including those disposed of by illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing by:
 - a. Implementing policies to make gear marking mandatory for industrial fishing corporations, encouraging Member States to combat IUU fishing as the plastic waste disposed of by IUU fishing remains untrackable;
 - b. Educating fisheries on gear marking and retrieval of ALDFG, done accordingly with the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear to aid in identifying sources of ALDFG, including identifying ALDFG caused by IUU fishing through the raising of awareness of the threat of ALDFG, such as entanglement and ingestion of marine species, obstruction of navigation of fishery ships, and reduction of the attraction of beaches;
5. *Calls for* further research for the development through the UNEP of biodegradable and alternative products for the implementation into policies to aid the fishing industry in replacing

plastic fishing gear, encourage biodegradable and alternative products in place of single-use plastics, and support the use of bio-based and biodegradable product packaging;

6. *Recommends* Member States to implement international policies focusing on the innovative implementation of microplastic water filters for commercial and residential purposes specific to combating microplastics by:
 - a. For instance, washing machines utilized in the service industry and residential purposes, residential water consumption, public water fountains, and other related applications;
 - b. Preventing microplastics in wastewater and sewage systems from flowing into the marine system through the use of the membrane bioreactor (MBR), further acknowledging that the wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) cause the discharge of microplastics into the marine ecosystem and encouraging further research in preventing microplastics in wastewater;
7. *Recommends* the establishment of a regulation on the maximum microplastic content in food and water in the market, with:
 - a. The cooperation of UNEP and FAO;
 - b. The promotion of the use of reusable and/or biobased and biodegradable food and water containers;
8. *Advocates* for the implementation of a Community Recycle Bank Initiative to combat single-use plastic pollution through:
 - a. Asking Member States to implement Community Recycle Bank Initiative incentives into their communities and economy, similar to Australia's Deposit Container Scheme;
 - b. Suggesting the incentivization of small businesses and individuals to actively collect single-use plastics from their local oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes;
 - c. In exchange for the offering of benefits such as larger loans, credits on electricity bills, and other valuable rewards to encourage individuals and businesses to be active in the participation of the Community Recycle Bank Initiative;
9. *Suggests* the use of Member States collaborating on an International Plastics Database in which Member States have the opportunity to track, record, and implement measures in a one-stop hub that can keep a record of microplastics, single-use plastics, with Member States' contributions to the International Plastics Database enhancing the depth and reliability of the hub, fostering informed decision-making and effective clean-up initiatives.



Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which alludes to the international protection of clean and safe water in Article 25 when stipulating the importance of an individual's access to health, food, and resources as necessary for themselves and their family,

Reaffirming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda (2015), especially as it concerns SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water), all of which are crucial to ensuring an increased standard of living that leaves no one behind,

Emphasizing that the world's current rate of progress towards achieving the SDGs will lead to failure to fully achieve most if not all of these goals, to the detriment of the environment and to populations around the world, especially the most vulnerable,

Acknowledging that by reusing plastics and reducing plastic use, we can cut the number of new plastics entering the ocean by 80% in 2040, which will lower human health risks and loss of marine life, which can become a reality through the formation, usage, and implementation of the Sustainable Fishing Network (SFN),

Alarmed by the continued reliance on plastics by conglomerates that are responsible for about 50% of the plastic in the world's oceans,

Reaffirming the existing commitments to the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal,

Understanding that the global sustainable packaging market is projected to reach USD 306.3 billion by 2025, reflecting a growing commitment to environmentally responsible packaging solutions through customers of sustainable brands like Crown Cork & Seal Co. and Ball Corporation,

Inspired by the use of sustainable packaging by conglomerates like Sora Enso or Tetra Pak, which includes, but is not limited to, compostable materials like cardboard, mushroom packaging, beeswax wrapping, cloth, bamboo, glass, and aluminum, including other metals,

Approving the current government-backed community lead recycling practices and programs such as the "Pisces Relay" action program in Indonesia, the Container Deposit Scheme in Australia, the Omani "OneBottle" recycling initiative, and the Icelandic Government Recycling Fund as they make impacts via their grassroots processes,

Concerned by the escalating costs on global fisheries and waterways, evidenced by the 2014 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report that estimated the financial damage caused by plastic waste as equating to USD \$13 billion per year to marine ecosystems, with the amount of plastic waste in the ocean expected to increase by 23-37 million metric tons per year, the potential cost of inaction could reach USD \$100 billion by 2040,

Conscious of the disproportionate impact of the global waste management industry on Developing States, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Fully aware of the current lack of rigid, effective regulation and legal oversight over the management and disposal of plastics by multinational corporate organizations and non-governmental organizations, numerous of whom have set precedents of basing harmful environmental activities in marine environments with less stringent regulation, such as international waterways and waters surrounding offshore organizational branches,

Keeping in mind the precedent created by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), founded by General Assembly resolution 61/110 on *United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, that acquires geographic informational data for tracking disaster relief efforts,

Considering the immense potential utility provided by the valuable data acquired from existing multinational remote sensing platforms such as Satellite pour l'Observation de la Terre (SPOT) and the creation of the Satellite-based Hyperspectral Remote International Marine Plastics Tracker (UN-SHRIMP),

Believing in the efforts and policies of the Clean Seas Campaign, which emphasizes education on pollution and ecological conservation, establishes a foundation for an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, strengthens collaboration between both national and international bodies which involve 69 Member States, currently representing the largest international coalition to combat marine plastic pollution, and actively tracks plastic pollution in various areas of the world,

Distressed by the presence of large oceanic garbage patches and their subsequent effect on Indigenous wildlife of the region,

Taking note that according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, an average of 20% of marine plastic pollution in our global oceans originates from the fishing industry, specifically ghost fishing gear, which is discarded, lost, or abandoned fishing gear,

Referring to the 101 Member States that have instilled plastic bag bans or imposed a fee on the use of plastic bags, prompting a switch to more sustainable options, such as cloth or paper,

Welcomes the expansion in technology and innovative solutions that promote the understanding of the health and the state of marine and freshwater ecosystems, UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, SDG 12 and SDG 14, and the role that the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing technology have in allowing for more frequent, accurate, and closer monitoring of the health of global marine ecosystems,

Supporting the created Open Data subgroup under the Statistical Commission, in its decision 49/105 in 2018, and GIS Geospatial Hub and the Geospatial Network, which was established by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (decision 7/115) at its seventh session (2017) and its Terms of Reference were endorsed (decision 8/115) at its eighth session (2018),

Acknowledging the work of the existing financial support program 'Eco-Vital' in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the European Union (EU), as an innovative ocean plastic cleaning program in the Middle East,

1. *Recommends* that the UNEP establish an international ban on the exportation of plastic waste for processing and management so that plastic-producing states become financially responsible for the entire life cycle of plastic products by:
 - a. Defining the exportation of plastic waste as the collection, exporting, and trade of plastic refuse for the purpose of processing, recycling, and disposal;

- b. Encouraging the international community to consider an amendment to the Basel Convention to reclassify all non-biodegradable plastics as hazardous materials within the next annual UNEP Conference of Parties (COP);
 - c. Urging Member States to provide annual statistics data on the production, waste generation, importation, and exportation of refuse plastics and primary plastic polymers;
 - d. Implementing trade provisions to prevent countries that are not parties to the agreement from exporting virgin and refuse plastics to countries that are party to the agreement to avoid undermining the treaty's effectiveness and creating an unfair market environment;
2. *Encourages* the development of capacity and profitability for Member States' domestic recycling initiatives by:
 - a. Developing financial incentives through preferential treatment for manufacturers in the reuse of plastic materials in their products;
 - b. Engaging in further development and continued government support for community-led initiatives that target local recycling issues and potential opportunities;
 - c. Suggesting that the UNEP provide yearly reports on Member State's actions in this regard to be able to celebrate successful initiatives and allow for idea sharing of effective measures;
 - d. Utilizing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to aid member states dependent on the global waste management industry in transitioning away from the export market for plastic waste;
3. *Strongly requests* for the UNEP to assist in the gradual reframing of multinational conglomerates' packaging policies that contribute to the 75-199 tons of plastic currently in the ocean:
 - a. To be adopted by nation-states with large conglomerates based in them, includes conglomerates that rely heavily on plastic packaging for importing and exporting goods;
 - b. With the adoption of sustainable packaging, following the precedent and research designed for the creation and distribution by conglomerates and multinational companies such as Ball Corporation (aluminum), Crown Cork & Seal Co. (metal), Stora Enso (wood), and Tetra Pak (aseptic carton);
4. *Further invites* the international community to join the Clean Seas Campaign, which presents a strong infrastructure to mitigate the effects of plastic pollution in marine environments but would be further strengthened with increased multilateral cooperation;
5. *Further recommends* the formation of the SFN in order to reduce marine plastic pollution through:
 - a. The regulation of potentially environmentally hazardous plastic fishing resources moving on and off of marine fishing vessels to ensure proper disposal of resources and to limit the amount of ghost gear on the ocean's floor;
 - b. Checkup and maintenance of worn down plastic fishing gear to remove it from the vessel before breaks in in-action;

- c. Encourages funding by the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and implementation by the Oceanic Society;
- 6. *Suggests* the creation of a multinational remote sensing platform, named UN-SHRIMP, to track marine plastic pollution sources and large accumulation centers:
 - a. With funding collaborations from nongovernmental organizations such as the Environmental Defense Fund;
 - b. Using satellite and international tracking to monitor the decrease of the 20% of global fishing ocean pollution;
 - c. Operating under the oversight of the UNEP to manage data acquisition and sharing:
 - i. Structured through existing satellite networks in orbit;
 - ii. Organized into a new database system as a part of the UN-SHRIMP program;
- 7. *Establishes* a people-first GIS data collection project, titled Fisheries Integrated Sustainability, Habitat, and Plastic Surveillance (FISHPS) and will be a project of the United Nations' pre-existing Geospatial Network. Each nation is then able to use this data to better tailor their environmental conservation programs:
 - a. Which will consist of members of the Geospatial Network, will conduct training of fishermen, with specific targeting of training of small-scale fisheries in vulnerable communities and ecosystems, to monitor the location and density of the plastic patches in waters in which they operate, the location, density, and fish stock of Indigenous species population, and the location and levels of microplastics in the water using sample collection;
 - b. Allowing those participating in data collection will be provided compensation per quota of data collected;
 - c. As data collected will be easily accessible and open source, hosted on the UNEP's and the United Nations' Open Data pre-existing websites and maintained by the Open Data Working Group;
- 8. *Endorses* the formation of a UNEP subcommittee that facilitates cooperation and transparency between corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and state governments for the management and mitigation of excessive polluting practices occurring in marine environments:
 - a. With implementation through UNEP offices positioned globally:
 - i. Will utilize geospatial technology databases for the tracking and recording of polluting activities observed in international marine environments;
 - ii. Will seek funding through non-governmental organizations such as the Green Climate Fund;
 - b. Informed through the UN-SHRIMP and FISHPS data networks;
- 9. *Advises* the imposition of a set of guidelines for a national strategy by the UNEP on plastic pollution-producing industries to encourage the switch to non-plastic materials by utilizing:

- a. Searching for alternatives to plastic, including—but not limited to—compostable materials like cardboard, mushroom packaging, beeswax wrapping, cloth, bamboo, and glass;
 - b. Referring to current sustainable packaging practices such as those developed by Michigan State University's (MSU) School of Packaging, Tetra Pack, Ecoactive Design, Notpla, and more;
10. *Expand* the existing innovative plastic cleanup program from the EU '*Eco-Vital*', from a Middle Eastern initiative to further target Asian-based countries to create cleaning macroplastic and microplastic initiatives around coastal counties by:
- a. Developing technology initially to start with the cleanup of larger textile initiatives around Asia and Middle Eastern Countries;
 - b. Reaching out to organizations for additional funding for the *Eco-Vital* initiative, as well as utilizing the UNEP's pledged amount of \$60 million to battle plastic pollution.



Code: UNEA/1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledges that according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, an estimate of 20 million metric tons of plastic litter end up in the environment,

Noting plastic can only be recycled one or two times before it becomes too toxic to be reused and must be placed in landfills with other forms of garbage,

Acknowledging the Cartagena Convention, which regionally operates in the Caribbean has been improving and protecting marine and coastal biodiversity reducing pollution, promoting sound environmental management, safeguarding vulnerable ecosystems, establishing protocols for specific threats like oils spills and invasive species, all in efforts of coordinating,

Emphasizing the lack of fiscal capacity, identified by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity equitably, to address the issues of marine plastic pollution in economically challenged states,

Having examined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) successful plan to reduce plastic pollution in the South China Sea by a cooperative plan that helped plastics being reduced significantly in the South China Sea in five years,

Acknowledging that despite developed nations ranking highly in generating the most plastic waste, 34 billion kilograms annually, having better infrastructure to mitigate marine plastic pollution; the primary contributors to ocean plastic pollution are concentrated in developing Asian nations, and most countries exporting plastic waste, according to Statistics from Our World in Data, contribute to 5% of marine plastic pollution,

Observing that United Nations sanctions, such as the sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic Korea (DPRK), have forced the Member State and other Member States alike to turn to textile and coal industry which has largely contributed to marine pollutants as stated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as limiting the resources available to environmental research on marine plastic reduction and development of technologies that help mitigate plastic pollution,

Acknowledging Cartagena Conventions policies, which are Pollution prevention (PP), Environmental Management (EM), Ecosystem Protection (EP), Pollution Emergencies (PE), Development Project Guidelines (DPG),

1. *Recommends* the creation of a two-step program called SEA-QUEST with the first step assessing the cleaning efforts of a Member State, the second step suggests initiatives that could help pollution reduction mechanisms used by willing Members States with:
 - a. Implementation by the UNEP as they have made efforts to address and solve marine plastic pollution;
 - b. Funding by the World Bank as they have had funding efforts for waste management;
2. *Encourages* Member States to consider implementing similar pollution policies such as PP, EM, EP, PE, DPG similar to that of the Cartagena Convention by:

- a. Reviewing policies that Member States see fit the needs to their land and citizens;
 - b. If willing, allowing other Member States to assist in extending help through volunteer work;
3. *Underscores* the necessity of establishing a fund modeled after Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) ratified under the Kyoto Protocol of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
 - a. Supported by NGOs and more developed nations, similarly to the CDM, the fund would allow more developed Nations to administer marine plastic reduction projects within their own nations and developing countries. However, in alignment with the same standards of the CDM, projects can only be implemented if approval is given by the Designated National Authorities;
 - b. Which would allow Member States—and firms within them—to meet commitments by buying credits modeled after Certified Emission Reduction (CER) units providing them the fiscal capacity to adequately finance domestic solutions towards addressing marine plastic pollution such as microplastic filters and macroplastic cleanup projects;
 - c. Provided that the fund would last till 2035 to provide adequate time for LDCs and other economically challenged Member States to work on marine plastic pollution;
4. *Invites* Member States with shared seas to create a multi-party regional panel to discuss how to best address their individual and regional needs, using ASEAN's Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris as a model of how to form these panels;
5. *Calls upon* Developed Member States with large plastic waste productions to contribute fiscal resources to a collaborative fund, mandated and allocated by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, intended in providing aid to bordering Developing Member States which would:
 - a. Develop technological advancements to create sustainable practices;
 - b. Further research in regards to environmental sustainability in LDCs;
 - c. Help create infrastructure in LDCs that helps to prevent spillage and environmental disaster;
 - d. Go to Developing Member States bordering Developed Member States with large waste productions in order to create an equitable amount of sustainability in a shared body of water;
6. *Endorses* the implementation of a study within the UNEP which would consider:
 - a. How economic sanctions affect a Member State's capacity to assess and address marine plastic pollution;
 - b. Developing methods and solutions for Member State's to work around sanctions while maintaining sustainable production practices;
 - c. Asking the UN Security Council to reconsider sanctions which directly increase unsustainable production that leads to marine pollution;
7. *Requests for* all Member States to increase support, contribution, and emphasis towards research in response to Marine plastic pollution, such as:

- a. VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) free paint, as paint containing plastic polymers accounts for 58% of microplastics within the ocean;
- b. Bioplastics, plastic alternatives made from plants which are biodegradable, and edible for marine life;
- c. Autonomous drones capable of entering dangerous lower marine environments and removing plastic pollutants while retaining human safety.



Code: UNEA/1/8

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Affirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 on *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), in which the General Assembly enacted the outline for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the declaration for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life Below Water),

Reaffirming the intentions within General Assembly resolution 77/242 on *2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development* (2023), particularly the expressed intention to explore opportunities that incorporate governments, civil society, the private sector, and the United Nations (UN) into the implementation of SDG 14,

Viewing with appreciation the Clean Seas Campaign and their efforts in removing over 34 million pounds of plastic from oceans, beaches, and rivers, as well as South Africa's Litterboom Project that collects over 33,000 pounds of plastic daily,

Acknowledging the essential role that sustainable waste management and recycling infrastructure plays in reducing the prevalence of marine plastic pollution,

Further acknowledging that the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report that 1.4 billion people worldwide rely on marine wildlife as a primary source of their diet, the committee understands partnerships with international organizations, such as the World Bank and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), will provide technical and financial support for waste management and monitoring projects,

Alarmed that abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) makeup 70% of ocean microplastics with a yearly increase of 75-95 million tons of garbage in marine environments due to the improper management of waste such as ship-breaking plastic disposal and chemical leaching of shipping vessels, as outlined by the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI),

Highlighting the Ocean Conservancy Project in the monitoring of plastic waste in rivers, reservoirs, and dams to understand the scale of plastic waste that each Member State generates,

Recognizing the establishment of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) that convenes under the UNEA to develop an international agreement on plastic pollution,

Inspired by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation on Open Science, which makes the scientific process more transparent, inclusive, and democratic and promotes an interconnected world,

Observing the lack of scientific research regarding the effects of microplastics on global health and its environmental effects, which the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) recognized as a subject of prioritization,

Noting with approval the insightful findings from research into sustainable, biodegradable alternatives to conventional plastic polymers from sources such as the FAO and a need for expansion of such research,

Bearing in mind the detrimental impact of marine plastic pollution on the global fish industries as it leads to contamination of marine life, reduced fish populations, and affects the livelihoods of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

Reaffirming also the implementation of operatives and results at future Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Climate Change Conference to monitor progress and create climate reports,

Underlining the importance of the conference of the parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) to establish climate reports and actions upholding the 2030 agenda,

Acknowledging that an annual range of 5% to 30% of global fisheries are killed due to ghost gears, which constitutes 46% to 70% of macro plastic debris according to the FAO,

Having examined the efficacy of the program by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) cooperating on the issue of marine plastic pollution, and how regional fisheries in seas heavily interact and connect Member States,

Further recognizing the GloLitter Partnership (GLP) program through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the work it has done in promoting the implementation of plastic pollution-reducing policies and the signing of treaties reducing marine plastic pollution, including through the regional workshops hosted by Lead Partner Countries (LPC),

Looking forward to the implementation of a global economic plan that urges Member States to regulate the production and usage of plastics within their borders,

Recognizing The Basel Convention which states their focus is to prioritize human health, and the adverse effects on the environment that may result from the generation, transboundary movements, and management of hazardous wastes,

1. *Encourages* the creation of the World Education Initiative for Research and Development (WEIRD) under the United Nations Environment Assembly, working through the INC on plastic research initiatives by:
 - a. Welcoming collaboration and data sharing amongst Member States and research divisions to encourage unified progress similar to the PEW Research Center, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the World Health Organization (WHO);
 - b. Introducing bi-annual research symposiums in which Member States can bring together their experts on plastic pollution and share ideas and potential solutions, utilizing this to track framework progress and targets and assess the most critical issues related to plastic pollution for every Member State;
 - c. Finding the impact of bioaccumulation and biomagnification in marine ecosystems, and their effects on behavior and population growth;
 - d. Focusing on the intersection of human culture and livelihoods and how they are impacted by marine pollution through:
 - i. Ancestral fishing practices, local customs, and pathways towards the SDGs along with traditions evolving them away from single-use practices through applied research with WEIRD;
 - ii. Meeting with experts such as anthropologists and sociologists to determine the connection between plastic and local communities;

- e. Creating a pathway for the SIDS under the FAO program which includes:
 - i. The expansion of mobile technologies, remote-sensing services, and distributed computing for plastic tracking mechanisms;
 - ii. Improving SIDS access to information, inputs, and markets, increasing production and productivity, streamlining supply chains, and reducing operational costs;
2. *Endorses* determining the safe levels of microplastics in water that impact human health and working to expand current research through cooperation with the IMO by:
 - a. Having the WHO publish research relevant to human health, such as defining safe levels of microplastics in water and seafood consumption guidelines;
 - b. Releasing relevant information as collaborative research projects publish evidence-backed, peer-reviewed results;
 - c. Calling for research on efficient methods of tracking microplastic levels in drinking water;
3. *Supports* the establishment and development of community centers based on applied study methods garnered through WEIRD which will be directed towards fisherman's communities and local entrepreneurs, the youth, and women where these centers should:
 - a. Serve as hubs for sustainable marine practices which fosters a collection point for marine plastic in these communities;
 - b. Facilitate educational workshops and outreach programs for families monitored by WEIRD, which will empower mothers and young people to lead local environmental, cultural, and educational initiatives that foster a global community around the elimination of plastics and a greater relationship between sustainability and the conservation of life systems as an integrative whole;
4. *Suggests* the establishment of regional ghost gear interception programs across coastal regions around the world to mitigate the impact of abandoned fishing gear on marine ecosystems through:
 - a. Targeted removal operations in high-impacted zones and cultivate a more STEM-capable supportive global network;
 - b. Association with multilateral developments like the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign to secure funding and technical support for these efforts, particularly in high-risk coastal areas;
 - c. Encouraging strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which:
 - i. Support Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) waste management systems and apply them in region that are high risk;
 - ii. Affirm the identification of high-impact zones for ghost gear removal and training local communities in gear retrieval to officially decrease plastic pollution;

- d. Affirming the need for technical support through the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) and other environmental support to:
 - i. Partner with federal agencies like the NOAA and NGO to support the setup of ghost gear interception systems;
 - ii. Create a centralized data platform for sharing information on ghost gear incidents among Member States to improve tracking, data sharing, and coordination of retrieval efforts;
 - iii. Invite the use of satellites and sensor-based technologies to detect and track abandoned or lost fishing gear in real time with special emphasis along coastlines;
 - e. Inviting international organizations, partnerships, and Member States to engage in research, data collection, and the dissemination of best practices on waste reduction strategies by:
 - i. Suggesting the requirement of including manuals instructing fishermen to report the detachment of their fishing gear to the UNEA;
 - ii. Encourage Member States to promote the reduction progress of ghost gear and marine plastic pollution, with annual reporting to the UNEA to ensure accountability;
5. *Further encourages* the expansion of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, developed under the UNEP's Beat Plastic Pollution Campaign, to implement educational initiatives in UN Member States that cultivate informed consumer decisions and better health outcomes by:
- a. Mobilizing grassroots initiatives and Tide Turner volunteers to continue hosting educational presentations in urban and rural community centers to teach the circular approach, which emphasizes recycling and reusing plastics;
 - b. Diversifying education programs in LDCs to focus on reusing plastic containers due to a lack of existing recycling plants;
 - c. Allowing the Tide Turners to encourage sustainable consumer decisions by recommending purchasing products that are recyclable or have a reusable design;
 - d. Establishing advocacy programs for the awareness of plastic alternatives, such as biodegradable materials, and elevating the usage of such materials on a commercial scale;
 - e. Inviting the UNEP and the Tide Turners to conduct stronger, targeted social media campaigns with the Beat Plastic Pollution Campaign regarding the impact of plastics worldwide;
 - f. Funding larger educational events with the UN Environment Fund and existing funding networks for the Tide Turners program;
6. *Invites* Member States to adopt machine learning and use of emerging technology such as Artificial Intelligence in the national waste management system to:
- a. Create a scientific research program allowing companies to study microplastics through the marine food chain and their potential effects;

- b. Collaborate with organizations such as the FAO to study the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and communities reliant on seafood;
 - c. Partner with NGOs such as Ocean Conservancy to implement plastic tracking technologies in rivers that are overflowing with plastic;
 - d. Promote GGGI recovery programs to participate in retrieving and trying ghost gear;
- 7. *Calls for* the expansion of the Litterboom Project to nations that are affected by plastic pollutants in rivers, helping reduce marine life and LDCs who do not have the resources for research and development addressing plastic pollution;
- 8. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their national policies and strategies in alignment with SDG 14.1 by:
 - a. Establishing clear targets for reducing marine plastic pollution, including single-use plastics and microplastics;
 - b. Enhancing collaboration with regional and global initiatives such as the CleanSeas Campaign, including:
 - i. Further encouraging the implementation of the Plastic Elimination and Cleanup Effort (PEACE) subgroup, focusing on large-scale cleanup efforts like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the North Atlantic Garbage Patch;
 - ii. Aligning with HOPE (Helping Oceanic Populations Endure), rehabilitating and relocating wildlife affected by plastic pollution;
 - c. Developing and implementing national action plans specific to each country that include:
 - i. The creation of monitoring systems using advanced technologies such as tracking technology and AI to prevent plastic leakage;
 - ii. River filtration and waste interception mechanisms modeled after the Litterboom Project;
 - d. Supporting public-private partnerships and community-driven initiatives to promote sustainable waste management and circular economy practices, including:
 - i. Advancing innovation in biodegradable materials and the improvement of recycling technologies;
 - ii. Encouraging community programs like Tide Turners to foster sustainable consumer behavior;
- 9. *Requests* the creation and improvement of waste management systems such as the prevention of plastic waste from entering bodies of water and its disposal in proper areas, increasing the capacity for collection and storage of plastic waste as well as developing further methods to:
 - a. Enhance already existing programs and establish new ones in countries where there is a lack of recycling and waste management facilities;
 - b. Deploy waste interception tools, such as trash booms, in rivers and drainage systems;

- c. Expand and modernize recycling facilities to process a wider variety of plastics;
- 10. *Further requests* the creation of a detection network using satellites or a high-frequency radio to support infrastructure improvement efforts by:
 - a. Regularly monitor coastal waters, ghost gear, hot spots, and polluted rivers;
 - b. Recognizing and report ghost gear, alerting nearby recovery teams or vessels to be retrieved;
 - c. Allowing cleanup crews to retrieve the gear before it disperses, aided by a tracking network;
- 11. *Suggests* Member States to further collaborate with UNEP's Basel Convention, to develop more useful and effective ways to properly manage Member States Regional plastic waste by:
 - a. Encouraging developed and developing nations to approach each other on equal footing in discussion over plastic pollution and its effects on their surrounding territories;
 - b. Inviting developed nations in need of assistance, which will allow both Member States to work and collaborate in unison for the benefit of the Member State in need of assistance;
- 12. *Recommends* the exploration of a Plastic Reduction Credit System (PRCS) under the oversight of the UNEP in partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for:
 - a. Suggesting policies and goals based on Member States' quantity of plastics imported and produced, utilizing research from the UNEP, which can encourage the adoption of multilateral policies that organize the distribution of plastic credits along their plastic-producing industries;
 - b. Encouraging the support of fellow Member States to contribute recycling methods for proper and effective production of plastic through donations of credit taxes to encourage innovation and industry within LDCs;
- 13. *Further recommends* the introduction of microplastic pollution reduction through 'The Plastic Solutions Fund' to develop membrane filtration systems to clean up microplastics in LDCs and utilize 'The Ocean Cleanup' NGO to use their new advanced membrane filtration systems by 2030;
- 14. *Further endorses* the strengthening of ASEAN's Southeast Asia's Circular Project in other regional bodies to implement best practice sharing marine initiatives which focus on expanding pre-existing programs such as:
 - a. The Environmental Alliance of America's Eco-Labeling Initiative aims to implement a universal eco-labeling system for effective plastic recycling, promoting transparency to empower consumers to make fully informed and responsible choices;
 - b. The GloLitter Partnership Workshops are based on regional action plans on monitoring marine plastic reduction progress through member states;
- 15. *Further encourages* the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships with the UNESCO Ocean Decade Advisory Council and other NGOs that implement an Asian-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) roadmap to expand training initiatives for sustainable economic development through a circular economy.



Code: UNEA/1/9

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Commending the success of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in entering negotiations on an internationally legally binding agreement,

Alarmed by the production and irresponsible disposal of over 7800 million metric tons of plastic resin and fibers produced since 1950,

Conscious that up to 10% of plastic debris enters marine bodies and is projected to outweigh fish in the ocean by 2050, as provided by the World Economic Forum in 2016,

Reaffirming that 5 drops of 2% iodine can purify one quart of water and that water can be purified of physical pollutants by creating a filter with cloth, gravel, and sand,

Appreciating the success of the Mediterranean Action Plan, a multilateral environmental agreement which established an institutional framework addressing marine environmental degradation, commendable for its recognition of the unique geographical interests of countries located in the Mediterranean Basin,

Viewing with appreciation the support of the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC) and the Sustainable Development Goal Academy (SDG Academy) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as laid out in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

Upholding the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) (1998),

Endorsing the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in marine environment as mandated in UNEA resolution 5/14 (2022),

Reaffirming the Montreal Protocol, namely its establishment of a multilateral fund, as a model for financing regulation frameworks of microplastics such as polymers and additives to address environmental marine plastic debris,

Noting with approval the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) (2008) banning the disposal of plastics at sea,

Encouraged by the European Union's Microplastics Directive, which prohibited the distribution of single-use plastics such as plates, cutlery and straws through specific targeting of cosmetic and medical industries,

Calling attention to advances in biochemical technology that allow for an alternative to plastic disposal, such as the plastic-eating bacteria *Ideonella sakaiensis* 201-F6, found by Japanese biochemists, as well as environmentally friendly substitutes for plastic use,

Emphasizing the importance of promoting sustainable product design guidelines that increase the reuse and recycling of plastic products by decreasing the demand for new plastics, reducing their harm to the ecosystem, including marine environments,

Understanding that microplastics from the textile industry enter water streams from five types of industries, those being dyeing, washing, pharmaceuticals, battery, and printing,

Mindful of the abundance of microplastics in the waterways of Bangladesh coming from secondary sources derived mainly from textiles, which supply 44B USD to Bangladesh's economy and create 3000 tonnes of waste per day,

Drawing attention to the relationship between microplastics water pollution in marine ecosystems and the impact of biomagnification to the health of the people due to unsustainable fishing practices,

Implementing the regulatory framework "Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose" with the purpose of the removal of plastics from the textile industry, knowing that plastics that end up in the ocean come from the textile industry,

Appreciating the role of current Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and United Nations workers to regulate already implemented frameworks as a neutral body to guarantee the frameworks are being carried out effectively,

Considering the criteria set in place by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), which is dedicated to the design and distribution of multi-stakeholder pooled financing instruments supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and humanitarian action projects,

Recognizing the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) Programme success in allocating funding for and addressing plastic pollution through new technology,

Acknowledging the lack of comprehensive, localized data on the extent and effects of marine waste pollution in Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Convinced that a Member state-led means of knowledge sharing between different countries will encourage new and diverse approaches to the same problem,

1. *Encourages* the creation of the Global Power for Environmental Change (GPEC), overseen by the UNEA and a UN Special Rapporteur, to develop an international framework addressing all phases of the plastic life cycle, namely production, distribution, consumption, and discarding;
2. *Suggests* the establishment of an intergovernmental fund between willing Member States, mirroring the multilateral financial model as established in the Montreal Protocol, with:
 - a. The fund and its contributions are allocated to Member States based on needs and risk assessments conducted by a board of experts determined by UNEA and MPTFO;
 - b. Fund Member States determining their individual financial contribution based on national capacity;
 - c. Fund Member States being held to criteria ensuring accountability and the responsible usage of given resources, namely:
 - i. A fund Member State must indicate the financial investment that they are making;
 - ii. A fund Member State must contribute by a set deadline determined amongst Member State unless they are in a state of crisis and do not have the financial ability to make their contribution as determined by the MPTFO;
 - iii. A fund Member State must utilize their given resources for purposes relevant to marine waste pollution, determined by random audits conducted by the MPTFO;

- iv. If fund Member State are found to have breached the above criterion, the MPTFO has the authority to impose a probation period or remove them from the intergovernmental alliance if found necessary;
3. *Calls for* Member States to adopt National Action Plans that will implement an international framework, “Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose”, under the supervision of GPEC that provides guidelines for design and composition of products containing plastic ensuring usage of sustainable production methods by:
 - a. Setting minimum certification and labeling requirements for industries producing plastic products within the territory of the countries or sold on that market aimed at product sustainability;
 - b. Reaffirming the role of NGOs as an unbiased third party to ensure that the frameworks are not being corrupted and are being implemented at the highest level of fairness, with NGOs following up on the progress of frameworks on an annual basis as part of a research component;
 - c. Strengthening existing relationships between civil society and Member States, as they serve as neutral bodies to guide the design and implementation of the frameworks and ensuring an all-encompassing, intersectional process to allow for more equitable results;
4. *Endorses* the removal of plastics from daily usage, especially in the clothing and production industries, thereby:
 - a. Granting the possibility for Member States to live in an environment that is working towards removing plastics and microplastics from the textile industry;
 - b. Recommending to the UNEP to incrementally increase the global standard for the production of plastic in produced textiles;
 - c. Recommending to Member States to engage in private-public partnerships to decrease the amount of resulting microplastics from the different parts of the textile industry, from production to waste management;
5. *Advises* that recycled resources be repurposed rather than thrown away by ensuring manufacturers take responsibility for their products’ whole life cycle through:
 - a. Inviting policies that require labels declaring ingredients and materials to promote transparency;
 - b. Using existing software for tracking a products life cycle from production, purchase and disposal, with collected data being used to prioritize accountability, holding manufacturers responsible by taxing corporations who do not use environmentally friendly packaging;
6. *Proposes* that Member States with the means to help LDCs spread awareness to affected communities on how to decontaminate polluted water, and:
 - a. Stresses that often countries with contaminated water are facing more demanding issues and that therefore the allocation of funds needs to focus on these more significant demanding issues first;
 - b. Calls upon participating Member States that are willing and have the means to develop chemical disinfectants such as iodine and provide these tablets to countries

with heavily contaminated water to do so to help affected communities, as these countries may not have the means to provide such disinfectants due to other more pressing issues;

- c. Confirms that GPEC is a means by which Member States can collaborate about mechanisms for preventing marine plastic pollution, which would also proactively protect economies of developing countries while still combatting this issue;
7. *Urges* Member States to support and participate in the work of INC, as it is to conduct its last session in Busan, Republic of Korea to finalize the text of the future international legally binding agreement to end marine plastic pollution, by working in the spirit of transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration that allows equal participation of all relevant stakeholders such as civil society, governments, private sector, academia, scientific community, and consumers;
8. Encourages the establishment of a Global Water Summit to be held annually under GPEC, bringing together world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and NGOs to assess global progress, share innovations, and set actionable goals for sustainable water management and reduction of plastic, which:
 - a. Encourages state collaboration through partnerships between states, NGOs, and the private sector to tackle water challenges collectively;
 - b. Assess global progress towards achieving SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), with a focus on water access, pollution reduction, and resource management;
 - c. Facilitates the sharing of innovations and best practices, including showcasing cutting-edge technologies, successful case studies, and research on water conservation and plastic waste reduction;
 - d. Promotes funding and investment opportunities by connecting governments, financial institutions, and the private sector to support sustainable water and pollution-reduction initiatives;
9. *Determined* to spread global awareness amongst Member States and their communities, GPEC;
 - a. Trusts that the implementation of environmental programs in education and in institutions would enhance the understanding of the dire need to protect marine life, as well as human life;
 - b. Asks specialists and supporters to contribute to the efforts of GPEC to reach communities that may not be reached through media or educational institutions through localized civic engagement, thereby ensuring an environmentally educated society;
 - c. Recommends that countries collaborate with GPEC to spread awareness on the severity of the issue at hand;
10. *Urges* Member States to appoint trusted ambassadors to collaboratively create a digital marketing campaign titled *Global Power for Environmental Change: Engaging the Public*, aimed at addressing the marine plastic pollution crisis, thereby:
 - a. Enhancing public engagement and awareness on the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems;

- b. Building off the precedent of the United Nations Department of Global Communications and its contributors;
- 11. *Calls Upon* ambassadors from Member States to collaborate and share information on plastic pollution, in order to collect data on GPEC's progress and disseminate it to Member States' governments;
- 12. *Encourages* the organization of educational tours throughout rural areas globally to raise awareness of efforts implemented by GPEC, with the goal of fostering a cohesive educational effort to supplement the media campaign;
- 13. *Recognizing* the contribution to marine plastic pollution from traditional ways of fishing thus encouraging:
 - a. Updating techniques that have been used for millennia, specifically in small-scale fishing practices by implementing more sustainable practices and materials, such as ghostgear, and document the changes;
 - b. The sharing of traditional ways of knowing, the adaptive methods that are being undertaken, and the ways forward;
- 14. *Recommends* that Member States invest in research and adopt emerging technologies for the disposal of plastics and for the replacement of plastics with more eco-friendly materials by:
 - a. Expanding 2016 research on plastic-eating bacteria, by:
 - i. Focusing on understanding the bacteria's plastic-destroying enzymes in greater detail and searching for other bacteria strains with similar abilities to break down different types of plastic;
 - ii. Allocating funding through avenues such as the IAEA's NUTEC Plastics using their Technical Cooperation programme to invest in research;
 - b. Furthering efforts to replace single-use plastics with more eco-friendly materials such as hemp plastic and other agriculturally based biodegradable plastics in place of single-use plastics by investing in bioplastic production facilities in low-income countries to boost the production of bioplastics and offset the local economic impact of removing single-use plastics;
- 15. *Encourage* the expansion of existing literature on marine waste pollution in LDCs through:
 - a. Establishing dedicated academic institutes investigating the status quo of marine waste pollution through both qualitative and quantitative methods;
 - b. Developing comprehensive data collection systems to monitor marine pollution and create baseline studies tracking progress over time;
 - c. Implementing participatory research methodologies involving stakeholders such as local communities, fishermen, Indigenous groups, and other stakeholders, and;
 - d. Facilitating collaboration with international organizations, universities, and research institutions to foster cross-border sharing of data, methodologies, and best practices;
- 16. *Calls upon* non-state entities to help contribute to the campaign in a way that best fits both their capabilities and specialities, and suggests these contributions from non-state actors including but not limited to:

- a. Local Communities, in helping grassroots public campaigns through volunteering, canvassing, and hosting engaging events, specifically in rural areas;
- b. Universities, by helping support, both monetarily and academically, graduate and professional students to serve as ambassadors in the Global Power for Environmental Change (GPEC) including but not limited to participating in the SDG Academy's campaign efforts;
- c. Fishermen, leading the path to implementing more sustainable practices while simultaneously divesting from practices that actively contribute to the amount of marine plastic pollution in every type of body of water.