

TOPIC:

Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and
Microplastics

SUBMITTED TO:

SUBMITTED BY:

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United Nations Environment Assembly,

Keeping in mind Section II: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development of *Agenda 21* that states that the conservation of biodiversity is an essential pillar for the development of nations, as it relates to the lack of global knowledge on oceanography and marine science having a negative effect on biodiversity health,

Expressing Satisfaction with the work of the Clean Seas Campaign, working in accordance with the *Honolulu Strategy* as a framework for a comprehensive and global effort to reduce the ecological, human health, and economic impacts of marine debris globally,

Acknowledging the capacity restraints of least developed and developing nations and the continued progress toward the accomplishment of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, specifically keeping in mind the obligation to accomplish *SDG 4.7* to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development,

Taking note of the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development's* focus on health relating to sustainable development and the negative consequences of the production and consumption of microplastics,

Reaffirming our consensus decision to adopt the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as a guideline for future development, more specifically *SDG 14.2* to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems by strengthening their resilience and taking action for their restoration,

Reiterating the human right to health declared in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as it applies directly to the health issues as a result of the contamination of food, specifically plastic contamination within seafood as a result of marine plastic litter and microplastics,

Underlining the goals of *UNEA Resolution 3/7: Marine Litter and Microplastics* on the importance of the long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics,

Deeply conscious of the commitment of *Resolution 71/312 "Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action"* to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as it relates to proper maritime shipping practices,

1. *Urges* The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to work with Member States to expand upon its list of UNESCO Chairs and Networks in

the field of Oceanography and Marine Sciences in order to widen the educational scope for addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics and its subsequent effects on biodiversity health;

2. *Calls upon* The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Clean Seas Campaign and the International Law Commission's (ILC) Programme of Work on State Responsibility to conduct a case study on India's proposed ban of single use plastics by 2022 in order to provide information for future international model legislation to help combat marine plastic litter;
3. *Strongly encourages* a joint effort by The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN-DESA) Economic Analysis and Policy Division and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to help provide capacity development assistance for least developed and developing nations to further the creation of UNESCO Recycling Schools internationally, especially as it relates to reducing the amount of marine plastic litter;
4. *Requests* a joint effort by The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) WASH Programme, World Health Organization (WHO), and The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to address the contamination of drinking water from microplastics through furthered research on the health implications of plastic fibres in drinking water, with emphasis on the effects of the known carcinogens used to make plastics;
5. *Instructs* The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN-DESA) Economic Analysis and Policy Division and The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Infrastructure Sector to help provide capacity development assistance for least developed and developing coastal nations who do not possess the capacity necessary to fund coastal cleanup task forces and infrastructure development as a result of marine plastic litter;
6. *Advises* The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to help assist least developed and developing nations send representatives to the United Nations University-Fisheries Training Programme to help ensure quality assurance systems in the seafood industry are in place, specifically to detect seafood contaminated by plastics, in order to reduce the risk of disease from human consumption;
7. *Directs* The United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) Green Industry Initiative to help Member States implement public policy initiatives for that encourage environmentally responsible private investments through more efficient packaging systems, as an effort to reduce the amount of marine plastic litter;
8. *Calls Upon* The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Technical Cooperation Programme to help least developed and developing nations implement more efficient shipping routes in order to cut down on the amount of shipping time on the oceans, subsequently reducing the amount of marine plastic litter.