



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)

GA Plen/1/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Our ocean, our future, our responsibility

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)

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1 *Affirming* the importance of the ocean for both human survival, as it provides the fundamental
2 human right of access to water as defined by General Assembly resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, and
3 global ecosystem sustainability, as it is the world's largest carbon sink and stores over 90% of heat from
4 human-created climate change per the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP),

5 *Alarmed by* the growing impact that plastic waste has on our oceans, with the volume of plas-
6 tics in the ocean estimated by UNEP to be a minimum of 75 million tons,

7 *Calling attention to* the contribution that improper waste management makes to plastic waste
8 in our oceans,

9 *Acknowledging* that not every Member State has the capacity and resources to adequately
10 reduce their plastic waste generation,

11 *Noting* the ample resources of the Member States that are controlling their plastic waste gen-
12 eration and these countries' openness to collaborate on this issue,

13 *Defining* recyclable plastics as plastics that are collected for recycling, have market value, can
14 be sorted into defined streams for recycling and must have the ability to become a raw material that is
15 used in the production of a new product per the Association of Plastic Recyclers and Plastics Recycling
16 Europe,

17 *Emphasizing* the existence and potential for development of economically sustainable alterna-
18 tives to single-use plastics such as products made of plant materials or stronger, recyclable plastics,

19 *Encouraged by* plastic initiatives around the world such as the United Nations Environment Pro-
20 gramme (UNEP) under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC), and
21 the Ocean Foundation's plastic initiatives,

22 *Acknowledging* that certain Member States are reliant on plastic production to sustain their
23 economy and retain the sovereign right to enforce this resolution as necessary,

24 *Welcoming* perspectives from nations in all geographic locations on the issue of plastic pollu-
25 tion,

26 1. *Strongly recommends* the expansion of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Negotiating
27 Committee on Plastic Pollution to include a specific interest in implementing effective plastic waste
28 management infrastructure, incorporating sustainable and effective plastic waste management sys-
29 tems and working with Member States with developing plastic management systems through:

30 (a) Defining a sustainable and effective plastic waste management system as belong-
31 ing to a Member State that is ranked as "very low" on the World Population Review's Mismanaged Waste
32 Index regarding plastic pollution;

33 (b) Facilitating cooperation between Member States with both sustainable and effective
34 plastic waste management systems and fellow Member States in order to provide the best possible
35 guidance in plastic waste management, and;

(c) Intending upon providing direct mentorship, guidance and financial assistance to countries that are developing sustainable and effective plastic waste management systems from countries that have already implemented them;

2. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations in their area to share information and resources regarding plastic waste reduction and alternatives;

3. *Urges* Member States who are unable to sufficiently provide funding for research and information sharing related to plastic pollution to work with companies and nonprofit organizations to secure appropriate funding;

4. *Implores* Member States to reduce single use plastic materials through private and public sector regulatory practices through:

(a) Encouraging food industries to use reusable dishes and silverware;

(b) Encouraging Member States to ban certain plastic consumer products such as plastic bags, straws, and bottles;

5. *Recognizes* sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic consumer products such as products made of plant material like paper bags and products made of stronger, highly recyclable plastics like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and encourages Member States to develop these plastic alternatives by:

(a) Continuing in the research and development of the aforementioned plastic alternatives, and;

(b) Emphasizing the use and manufacturing of the aforementioned plastic alternatives;

6. *Strongly reaffirms* commitments to the UN Plastics Treaty that addresses the waste management of plastic, life cycle of plastic and alternatives to it and encourages Member States to expand on its initiatives by:

(a) Promoting other plastic initiatives such as that by the Ocean Foundation;

(b) Growing domestic foundations such as the Prince Albert II Foundation in Monaco that allocates funding and encourages project building for environmental issues;

7. *Strongly encourages* Member States promote and invest in plastic recycling initiatives by:

(a) Urging Member States to aid in the creation of domestic recycling programs and centers to grant access to recycling;

(b) Encouraging Member States to help in the funding of subsidies for green manufacturing and recycling centers;

(c) Suggesting that Member States expand education efforts to properly teach citizens about recycling, its importance, and the best ways to do so;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to prioritize ongoing scientific research into plastic alternatives and waste cleanup initiatives and to allocate domestic funds for these causes.

Passed, Yes: 76 / No: 8 / Abstain: 7