



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)

GA Plen/1/3

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

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)

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1 *Recalling* the commitments outlined in the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Declaration,
2 titled *Our ocean, our future, our responsibility: united for urgent action and the principles of the 2030*
3 *Agenda for Sustainable Development,*

4 *Acknowledging* the need to protect the ocean as stated in the adoption of General Assembly
5 (GA) resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, which outlines the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean,

6 *Reaffirming* the principles outlined in GA resolution 79/145 of 12 December 2024, which promotes
7 sustainable fishing practices to prevent overexploitation of marine resources, safeguard food security
8 and preserve biodiversity for future generations,

9 *Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 14, which illustrates that the ocean is an integral sys-
10 tem for humanity and serves as a major source of oxygen, food, security, livelihoods, cultural identity
11 and economic development,

12 *Emphasizing* current skills and use of marine and coastal resources to improve the standard of
13 living of all life within these ecosystems,

14 *Realizing* that every minute one garbage truck full of plastic is dumped in our oceans according
15 to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

16 *Noting with deep concern* that ocean pollutants pose a threat to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
17 which support crucial species and ecosystems and maintain the health of our oceans,

18 *Aware of* the understudied impacts of deep sea mining and the growing interest by govern-
19 ments to mine mineral deposits, including polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt rich
20 ferromanganese crusts for their commercial value,

21 *Stressing* the urgent need for the protection of essential thermal domes, considering that com-
22 mercial shipping boats have disrupted migration patterns and compromised genetic flow which af-
23 fects migratory patterns, loss of resilience to climate change and environmental shocks,

24 *Affirming* the purpose of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to promote inter-
25 national cooperation and coordinating programs in research on our oceans and coastal areas,

26 *Recognizing* the work done by the International Seabed Authority to manage the potential rise
27 of unregulated deep sea mining,

28 *Asserting* that illegal and unregulated fishing and bottom trawling is a threat to long-term food
29 security due to their destruction of juvenile fish habitats, benthic nurseries and spawning grounds which
30 cause irreversible destruction of deep benthic ecosystems, slow-growing species and essential carbon
31 storage sediments,

32 *Emphasizing* the efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations
33 Plastics Treaty which look for alternatives to plastic, namely biodegradable materials, to protect marine
34 life, keep water sources clean and prevent microplastic related illness,

35 *Supporting* the work of the UNEP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
36 on tracking migration patterns of marine species,

37 *Expressing its appreciation for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in their financial assistance*
38 *in helping developing countries work and address multilateral challenges and work towards meeting*
39 *international environmental goals,*

40 1. *Strongly encourages* the global cooperation of marine research throughout our global com-
41 *munity to promote the protection and restoration of fragile ecosystems;*

42 2. *Encourages* the strengthening of the United Nations Plastic Treaty to ensure its effectiveness
43 *by setting country-level implementation measures, introducing procedural tools for responsiveness,*
44 *strengthening global cooperation, and representing frontline communities;*

45 3. *Calls upon* Member States to phase out bottom trawling within MPAs by integrating national
46 *blue economy plans in seamounts, cold-water corals, coastal seagrass meadows, and other vulner-*
47 *able marine ecosystems by:*

48 (a) *Adopting a moratorium on bottom trawling for no more than 18 months and no less*
49 *than 6 months;*

50 (b) *Urging the expansion of the IOC-UNESCO in order to focus on global mapping of*
51 *trawl-damaged seabeds, with priority being given to regions demonstrating significant turbidity plumes,*
52 *carbon-sediment release and nursery-ground destruction, to future prohibitions;*

53 4. *Urges* coastal and flag Member States to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance of
54 *trawling activities to prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated bottom-trawl fishing by:*

55 (a) *Using vessel tracking systems (AIS/VMS);*

56 (b) *Strengthening community-based reporting networks and;*

57 (c) *Promoting regional fisheries management organizations;;*

58 5. *Suggests* developing Member States work with international partnerships such as the GEF to
59 *develop a financial and technical transition package for coastal communities economically depen-*
60 *dent on bottom-trawl fleets, including gear-switch subsidies, vessel buyback programs and training*
61 *for sustainable fishing practices;;*

62 6. *Recognizes* the need for the CMS to expand cooperative programs that use satellite tagging
63 *and data-sharing to map migratory and genetic corridors in collaboration with Member States, in order*
64 *to preserve gene flow and support long-term species resilience by:*

65 (a) *Expanding temporary area-specific limitations for vessel movement during critical*
66 *migration and breeding periods of marine life in the form of MPAs;*

67 (b) *Encouraging regional transparency when self-monitoring vessel-tracking systems*
68 *such as AIS or VMS to confirm adherence to established rules;*

69 (c) *Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning frameworks to maintain economic sta-*
70 *bility in sea trade while prioritizing long-term ocean conservation;*

71 7. *Encourages* the strengthening of the Ocean Data Information System in the areas of data
72 *quality and accuracy, standardizing data, accessibility and sustainability;*

73 8. *Stresses* the need for a coordinated global network of MPAs that, rather than existing as
74 *isolated reserves, are ecologically connected along the migratory routes of key marine species:*

75 (a) *Calls for the establishment and restoration of coastal-seagrass meadow, mangrove*
76 *forest, and coral reef MPAs;*

77 (b) *Calls for the establishment and restoration of coastal-seagrass meadow, mangrove*
78 *forest, and coral reef MPAs;*

79 (c) *Invites the FAO and UNEP to collaborate with coastal and island Member States to*
80 *map high-priority "blue-corridors" to designate important "food-oasis" seamounts as high-priority*
81 *MPAs;*

82 9. *Urges* investment in regional no-trawl containment rings around high-productivity benthic
83 ecosystems, including seamounts, thermal domes, cold-water corals and continental shelf nurseries,
84 suggesting a minimum buffer of 20 kilometers where bottom-trawl gear is prohibited to prevent edge-
85 damage and spillover collapse;

86 10. *Encourages* the prohibition of foreign industrial bottom-trawling fleets from operating within
87 the exclusive economic zones of developing nations unless co-management agreements ensure fair
88 compensation, sustainable quotas and gear-switch transitions for local fishers;

89 11. *Urges* international collaboration between coast guards, maritime authorities and regional
90 fisheries management organizations to monitor and regulate marine harvesting activities;

91 12. *Supports* the expansion of port state measures and vessel monitoring technologies;

92 13. *Requests* the addition of further no-take zones in vulnerable coastal areas, coral reef regions,
93 the 'twilight-zone' and global marine flyways that limit or ban fishing, drilling and mining;

94 14. *Asks* Member States to regulate the amount of ghost gear being left in their Exclusive Eco-
95 nomic Zones by considering:

96 (a) Requiring ID tags on all nets to track owners of abandoned nets;

97 (b) Utilizing cleanup teams to retrieve abandoned nets within their oceanscape;

98 (c) Creating recycling and buy-back programs for broken and out-of-date fishing equip-
99 ment;

100 15. *Promotes* multilateral cooperation in preventing plastic waste, as well as other forms of
101 ocean pollution, such as nuclear waste and oil through:

102 (a) Asking for working waste reception systems to be developed on ports and coasts;

103 (b) Encouraging collaboration with Member States to remove marine pollutants from
104 the ocean as well as preventive measures that are sustainable;

105 (c) Keeping nuclear waste and other pollutants out of all nuclear free zones in our oceans.

Passed, Yes: 71 / No: 1 / Abstain: 8