



*American Model United Nations*  
**General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)**

GA Plen/II/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation—a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent)

*The General Assembly Plenary (Concurrent),*

1 *Seeing* that international waters comprise nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans,

2 *Stressing* that Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are essential to conserving biodiversity and that only 1% of  
3 international waters are currently designated for protection,

4 *Reaffirming* the year United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCO) re-  
5 port, "Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of International Freshwater Resources: A Global Review,"  
6 (SC.2003/WS/48),

7 *Recognizing* the need to allow all Member States the capacity to conserve and manage marine resources,

8 *Acknowledging* that 80% of international ocean pollution stems from subsequent waterways pollution,

9 *Bearing in mind* that 5,250,000,000,000 pieces of plastic are floating within the oceans and this number is  
10 set to double by 2030, which is causing the deaths of large amounts of marine life including whales, fish, turtles and  
11 seabirds,

12 *Recognizing* that the pollution of seas is caused by heavy use of non-biodegradable plastics and harsh chem-  
13 icals in manufacturing and agriculture, and that in order to properly address this issue, their use in national and  
14 transnational manufacturing and supply chains should be limited as much as possible,

15 *Reaffirming* the sixth Sustainable Development Goal of protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030,

16 *Keeping in mind* the importance of collaborative agreements and collective effort regarding the achievement  
17 of water sustainability and security,

18 *Emphasizing* the importance of complete transparency when reporting findings on the state of international  
19 and transboundary waters,

20 *Affirming* key measures in the 1992 convention United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
21 "The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Helsinki  
22 Convention",

23 *Aware of* the need to safeguard transboundary water resources from harms such as pollution and overfishing,

24 *Further emphasizing* that MPAs on the high seas and transboundary waters are necessary to uphold the  
25 goals of the 1993 Convention on Biological Diversity,

26 *Noting* that transboundary rivers and watersheds may be affected by water infrastructure projects - such as  
27 dams, levees and other water barriers as well as projects that disturb sediments and introduce nitrogen imbalances  
28 in downstream waterways, which are detrimental to biodiversity and quality of human life,

29 *Noting further* the plentiful transboundary watershed systems, the integrity of which is vital to national  
30 stability,

31 *Seeking* to achieve the sustainable use and consumption of resources in areas of disputed ownership,

32 1. *Requests* that the United Nations General Assembly Plenary set standards for environmental impact  
33 assessments for water usage activities taking place on all transboundary waters in consultation with the World  
34 Health Organization;

- 35           2. *Encourages* the creation of multilateral and regional water agreements for the sustainable use of water  
36 resources and collaboration with use of transboundary and shared waters;
- 37           3. *Further encourages* the formalizing of communications on water infrastructure between Member States  
38 to promote international dialogue and peacekeeping;
- 39           4. *Recommends* the International Maritime Organization (IMO) establish stricter laws regarding pollution  
40 within the seas, especially in regards to plastic, industrial chemicals and other man-made pollutants;
- 41           5. *Supports* the establishment of mediating bodies such as Transboundary Water Commissions as forums  
42 for collaboration on transboundary and international water matters by 2025;
- 43           6. *Further invites* Member States to join The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
44 Watercourses and International Lakes (1999) to ensure the sustainable use of transboundary water resources by  
45 facilitating cooperation;
- 46           7. *Requests* that potential water infrastructure projects on transboundary water systems are, from con-  
47 ception, communicated to all potentially affected downstream nations, emphasizing collaboration and transparency  
48 throughout this process;
- 49           8. *Urges* Member States to commit to transparency when reporting on international and transboundary  
50 waters in regards to pollution, biodiversity and all other indicators of water health;
- 51           9. *Advises* that State consent be obtained by upstream Member States from affected downstream Member  
52 States before implementing water barrier infrastructure;
- 53           10. *Advises further* that the benefits from water infrastructure projects, such as electric power from hydro-  
54 electric dams or drinking water from the creation of reservoirs, be shared across borders to promote goodwill among  
55 states and as an additional incentive to obtain the consent of downstream Member States;
- 56           11. *Recommends* the implementation of joint transboundary institutions for water governance, the creation  
57 of which will promote transboundary dialogue and ensure multilateral decisions that are enforced with the full interest  
58 of multiple transboundary States;
- 59           12. *Requests* the Secretary General to submit a report updating the committee on the implementation of  
60 this resolution in one year's time.

Passed, Yes: 70 / No: 2 / Abstain: 8