



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** UNEA

**Topic:** Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including plastic

**Chairs:** Galilea Gallegos Pozo, Ana Sofia Quinteros Botello & Barbara Antunez Medrano

Oceans and seas cover around two-thirds of the earth's surface. Many plants and animals rely on them for survival, and they play an important part in the chemical and biological balance of life. Regrettably, the ocean is currently beset by a slew of environmental issues, all of which contribute to marine pollution. Maritime pollution is a major environmental problem that affects almost every country on the planet. The ill-advised use of the marine environment has a significant influence on marine life and ecosystems. As a result, more pollution is being poured into the oceans, posing serious issues for marine life and ecosystems. In today's society, the overall amount of poisons and waste released by humans is rapidly increasing.

One of the biggest causes of maritime pollution is the use of plastic. At least 14 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year. It threatens marine health, the health of marine species, food safety and quality, human health and coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change. Marine rubbish, harmful ocean pollutants, sewage dumping in oceans, and industrial waste are some of the other sources of marine pollution. Heavy metal poisoning, such as lead and mercury, kills predators like sharks and whales, and waste gets stuck in marine animals' digestive tracts. Sea turtles are a good example of this; they frequently eat plastic bags, and plastic straws can be fatal to them since they can become trapped on their nose.

Humans are a major source of marine pollution. In fact, land is thought to be the source of 80% of all marine pollution. Plastic bottles and bags, food containers and wrappers, and other human garbage are frequently seen in the water. Thousands of pounds of rubbish are poured into our oceans every day. Each year, 100,000 sea animals are killed as well as 1 million of sea birds. Some garbage goes ashore or floats in the sea, and most of it is eaten by marine animals.

According to a study of The international environmental association (WWF), China and Indonesia are the main sources of plastic pollution. The study roughly calculate that around 5 million tons of plastic waste enter to the sea each year in China and Indonesia. Other countries are also contributing their share of mismanaged plastic and plastic marine debris. Following to Chin, Indonesia has insufficient disposal of 32 million tonnes of plastic waste, of which an estimated 1.29 million tonnes are flowing into our oceans. The Philippines is in third place behind Indonesia, with Vietnam in fourth and Sri Lanka in fifth.

The few actions that are implemented are from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) aims to prevent marine pollution in a variety of methods. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency is helping Latin American and Caribbean governments develop and implement national action plans for marine debris. "The EPA promotes watershed-based management, prevents aquatic pollution, manages ocean dumping sites, assesses coastal conditions, establishes successful partnerships, and facilitates community-led science-based activities to conserve and restore ocean and coastal ecosystems." These programs contribute to the protection of human health, the environment, and the economy by ensuring clean and safe waters.

Finally, ocean pollution is a global issue that must be addressed. It is critical to evaluate all forms of pollution in the water since it is a place where marine creatures can thrive and is also one of humanity's most essential sources. In order to reduce this problem, nations all over the world must communicate with one another in order to coordinate laws and make them more powerful.

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