

Committee: MS MUN

Topic: Combating the Illicit Exploitation and Trafficking of Natural Resources

Sponsors: Australia

The MS MUN Assembly,

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, specifically regarding the conservation and management of living marine resources,

Deeply concerned by the growing threat of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, which undermines national economies, threatens food security in the Indo-Pacific region, and degrades marine ecosystems,

Alarmed by the links between the illicit trafficking of natural resources—including timber, wildlife, and critical minerals—and transnational organized crime, which fuels corruption and instability,

Recognizing the importance of secure, resilient, and transparent supply chains for critical minerals to ensure the global transition to clean energy,

1. **Urges** all Member States to implement stringent national legislation to prohibit the importation of illegally harvested timber and associated wood products, modeled on due diligence frameworks that ensure supply chain transparency;
2. **Calls upon** Member States to ratify and effectively implement the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches, thereby blocking ill-gotten resources from entering global markets;
3. **Encourages** the strengthening of regional cooperation mechanisms, such as the Pacific Fusion Centre, to enhance information sharing and maritime domain awareness, ensuring that nations can effectively police their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);
4. **Recommends** that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) increase technical assistance to developing nations to improve their capacity to detect, investigate, and prosecute crimes related to the theft of mineral resources;
5. **Decides** to establish a working group to develop international standards for the ethical certification of critical minerals, ensuring that global supply chains remain free from resources obtained through coercion, theft, or conflict;
6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its next session regarding the economic impact of resource theft on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).