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Sustainable development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/78/461, para. 53)*]

- 78/146. Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/149 of 20 December 2010, 68/208 of 20 December 2013, 71/220 of 21 December 2016 and 74/213 of 19 December 2019,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the relevant recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972,¹

¹ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one.



Taking note of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,² and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002,³ and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012,⁴

Recognizing the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵ and its programme of work to reduce marine and coastal biological loss, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements and regional seas conventions to address marine pollution and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in decision 15/4 at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its target 7,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),⁶ held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, in which Member States confirmed that they remain resolved to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources and committed to reducing disaster risk,

Recalling also its resolutions [73/254](#) of 20 December 2018 and [76/224](#) of 17 December 2021, in which it promotes global partnerships that are critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners,

Recalling further the efforts to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including preventing and significantly reducing, by 2025, marine pollution of all kinds,⁷

Recalling the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal,

Encouraging all parties to support the preparations for the next United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France in June 2025,

Recalling its resolution [72/73](#) of 5 December 2017, in which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,

² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁶ Resolution [78/1](#), annex.

⁷ See resolution [70/1](#).

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁸ which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Noting the importance of cooperation on chemical munitions dumped at sea as an effort that contributes to the improvement of the overall marine environment,

Recalling relevant international and regional instruments such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,⁹ the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,¹⁰ the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,¹¹ the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean,¹² the Agreement on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific,¹³ the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area¹⁴ and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic,¹⁵

Noting the national, regional and international activities, including scientific research,¹⁶ data collection and sharing, awareness-raising, reporting on encounters and technical advice, related to munitions dumped at sea, *inter alia*, in the frameworks of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

Emphasizing that, in the report on the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Third Review Conference), adopted at The Hague on 19 April 2013, the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction were invited to support voluntary sharing of information, raising awareness and cooperation on this issue, and stressing the value of such voluntary efforts, building upon the discussions held at the Review Conferences of 2018 and 2023,

Noting that Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society have undertaken activities to discuss and promote the issues related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including international cooperation and the exchange of experiences and practical knowledge,

Noting also that the first and second World Ocean Assessments (World Ocean Assessment I and II), adopted respectively in 2015 and 2021, also highlight the issue of marine pollution, including from munitions dumped at sea, and have been taken

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁹ Ibid., vol. 1974, No. 33757.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 1046, No. 15749.

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 1506, No. 25974.

¹² Ibid., vol. 1102, No. 16908.

¹³ Ibid., vol. 1648, No. 28325.

¹⁴ Ibid., vol. 2099, No. 36495.

¹⁵ Ibid., vol. 2354, No. 42279.

¹⁶ See, for example, the findings of the Baltic Sea research project entitled “Chemical Munitions, Search and Assessment (CHEMSEA)”, which is conducting research on environmental effects related to chemical munitions dumped at sea. The findings summarize all results obtained by the project.

into account by the General Assembly in its resolutions [70/235](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/257](#) of 23 December 2016, [72/73](#) of 5 December 2017, [73/124](#) of 11 December 2018, [75/239](#) of 31 December 2020 and [77/248](#) of 30 December 2022,

Noting further the concerns about the potential long-term environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources,

Recognizing the mandates and capacities of competent United Nations system entities in the fields of marine environment monitoring, research and information-sharing, as well as pollution preparedness and response,¹⁷

Recognizing also the ongoing efforts aimed at awareness-raising, information-sharing and capacity-building at various levels, as well as partnership and cooperation on the issue among relevant regional and international bodies, including the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, as well as the regional seas conventions and others,¹⁸

1. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, including the views submitted and contained therein;*

2. *Notes the importance of raising awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;*

3. *Invites Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to keep under observation the issue of the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, to continue outreach efforts to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to that issue and to cooperate, including by strengthening existing efforts within regional seas conventions and other international, regional and subregional activities, as appropriate, related to risk assessment, monitoring, information-gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents;*

4. *Encourages voluntary sharing of information on waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea through conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses and publications aimed at the general public and industry in order to reduce related risks;*

5. *Also encourages partnerships between Governments, industry and civil society for raising awareness about, reporting on and monitoring of waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;*

6. *Invites Member States to consider providing assistance and sharing expertise aimed at building capacities related to risk assessment, monitoring, information gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents resulting from waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;*

7. *Encourages Member States to share experiences, good practices and information on the technologies available to treat, conserve or safely destroy the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;*

¹⁷ Competent United Nations system entities include, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Secretariat.

¹⁸ See [A/78/276](#).

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue analysing all available information and additionally, if appropriate, to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, also with a view to providing a global review of available technical means of minimizing potential environmental effects related to the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including through their elimination, based on the scientific data and information compiled with due regard to equitable geographical representation,¹⁹ and further exploring the possibility of establishing a database,²⁰ as well as identifying the appropriate intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system for further consideration and implementation, as appropriate, of the cooperative measures envisaged in the present resolution, building on and without duplicating existing activities, and with a view to achieving efficiency and synergies, taking into account the mandates and capacities of relevant international and regional organizations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, prepared using responses of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as other available information, with the circulation of the related questionnaire among Member States with due advance notice, and decides to include the item entitled “Sustainable development” in the provisional agenda of its eighty-second session, unless otherwise agreed.

*49th plenary meeting
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¹⁹ The absence of inputs from certain regions will not invalidate the review, noting the request for the Secretariat to observe the principle of equitable geographical representation.

²⁰ Such a database could contain relevant and voluntarily shared information on, *inter alia*, the location of dumping sites, the type, quantity and, to the extent possible, the current condition of chemical munitions, the recorded environmental impact, best practices on risk prevention and response to incidents or accidental encounters and destruction or impact reduction technologies, including by means of data collection and management.