



Committee: General Assembly

Topic: Ensuring the Help of Ocean Cleaning

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The General Assembly occupies a central position as the main deliberative, policy-making and representative body of the United Nations. The General Assembly (GA) was established on October 24th, 1945, the same date the United Nations was founded. The General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, the only one in which all Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. The General Assembly is made up of 193 United Nations member states that are represented in this committee to discuss and work together to solve international problems covered by the UN Charter, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc. The General Assembly has initiated political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal actions which have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world. In September, all the Members meet in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session. There might also be Special sessions, and Emergency sessions, those may be requested by the United Nations Security Council on the vote by any of the seven members, or by the majority of the members of the UN.

The ocean is one of the most important components in the world's ecosystem and keeping them clean is necessary to maintain a healthy planet. The global ocean covers 75% of the earth's surface and contains 97% of the earth's water. The remaining 3% is found as water vapor in the atmosphere and water in rivers, lakes, glaciers and polar ice caps.

According to the First Census of Marine Life, the ocean is more altered by human impacts, such as climate change, oil spills, and contamination, than by natural changes. All life on land depends on the health of the ocean, since more than 50% of oxygen

comes from the ocean if the ocean is not kept clean, this would affect all human beings. The ocean also plays a great role in climate change, since it is responsible for the transport of heat from the equator to the poles, regulating our climate and weather patterns. Other important things that the ocean is responsible for, is to absorb 3% of all additional fossil carbon emitted by human activities, 90 percent of excess heat, and 30% of all carbon dioxide produced by humans.

“Although the world’s oceans are vast, their capacity to withstand damage caused by human activity is limited, compromising their critical contribution to the future of sustainable development”, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared on COP21.

It is more than clear that humanity depends on healthy oceans, the United Nation (UN) General Assembly has already recognized oceans as an important part of sustainable development. In the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) there is an objective specially dedicated to oceans (Objective 14) this objective specially talks about the protection of the oceans, including pollution, overfishing, and conservation.

All Member States have also identified protecting oceans as something needed to create a better, cleaner future for the planet. Since 2009 UN has met and urges committees to ensure that the oceans are kept clean and healthy.

Most of the garbage that enters the ocean is plastic, there are actually about 150 million tons of plastic in the ocean, this is because of single use plastic such as water bottles, supermarket bags and straws, and about eight million metric tons of plastic items that we throw away and do not recycle, are not biodegradable and can take up to 1,500 years to degrade and this is polluting the beaches, entangling the marine life and being ingested by fish and seabirds.

Only 5% of all ocean water is protected, with a low level of competition for the SDG target, which is to protect 10% by 2020 and, in reality, it is too low to complete the 30% goal in highly protected areas by 2030 this goal was also set by SDG. This situation is worst on high seas since by 2017 only a 1% was under protection

Since the Industrial Revolution the atmospheric carbon dioxide has been rising dramatically and this has caused the carbon dioxide the ocean takes to increase, and because of this, 90% of the oceans apex predators have become extinct, and the

bottom of the food chain species have been negatively affected by the acidification due to CO₂.

The General Assembly needs a solution as soon as possible, as the World Economic Forum (WEF) expects that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans, and it is also expected that by 2050 we would be generating the triple amount of plastic we are generating nowadays, since right now we are making 20 times more plastic than we were 50 years ago.

In 2015 almost 90% of seabirds have ingested plastic, this causes the death of more than one million seabirds. UNESCO also estimated that about 100,000 marine mammals have died because of plastic pollution, the amount of animal deaths would grow each year if the General Assembly doesn't find effective solution.

One solution to this problem is to suggest to all governments to implement a National Ocean Policy or Ocean Plans such as those that the former president of the United States of America, Barack Obama proposed in (year), which are the following:

- Develop human capacity and qualified work necessary to conduct oceanic research and manage ocean resources.
- Improve remote sensing systems for ocean observations to support maritime domain awareness.
- Protect, conserve and restore coastal and oceanic habitats.

These are just three of many proposals that are on the National Oceans Policy Implementation plan. set up exchanging machines to collect waste to be recycled, and allow individuals to receive a benefit like public transportation tickets..

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