MCGSMUN 2025

OCULUS PROCALLAE

Eye of The Hurricane

United Nations Environment Programme

Addressing Ocean Acidification and Microplastic Pollution: Strengthening Global Commitments for Marine Conservation

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates and Students,

We welcome you to the committee simulation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) committee at the Mayo College Girls' School Model United Nations Conference 2025. As members of the Executive Board, we are honoured to moderate discussions on some of our time's most pressing environmental challenges.

The health of our planet is at a critical juncture, and among the most urgent threats we face today are ocean acidification and the increasing presence of microplastics in marine ecosystems. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the ocean has absorbed approximately 29% of global CO_2 emissions since the pre-industrial era. Over the last decade (2008–2017), human activities have released around 40 gigatons of heat-trapping emissions annually—an amount equivalent to the weight of 252 million blue whales. This relentless influx of CO_2 is fundamentally altering ocean chemistry, endangering marine biodiversity, and threatening coastal communities.

At the same time, plastic pollution has reached an alarming scale. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 ranks microplastic pollution as the 10th greatest global threat, which needs urgent and coordinated action. Microplastics (tiny plastic) particles from industrial waste, consumer products, and plastic degradation are infiltrating marine food chains, posing severe risks to aquatic life, ecosystems, and human health.

This committee session provides a crucial platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and innovative policymaking. With the agenda focused on **Addressing Ocean Acidification and Microplastic Pollution: Strengthening Global Commitments for Marine Conservation,** we urge you to - deliberate on sustainable solutions, assess the role of international governance, and explore technological advancements to combat these environmental threats. As future leaders and policymakers, your ideas and perspectives should be driven by compassion, empathy and a deep commitment to protecting Mother Earth. However, this is only possible when you introspect, look within yourself, and see where you stand on your inner development that connects you with yourself and your surroundings.

Model United Nations conferences go beyond academic exercises, serving as a platform to cultivate leadership, refine negotiation skills, and understand a deep sense of global responsibility beyond borders. Therefore, we hope that the discussions in the committee take place with diplomacy supported by thorough research, scientific insight, and a strong dedication to sustainability. We hope

this experience empowers you to think analytically, act consciously, and champion a future where the conservation of marine life is a collective commitment.

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Mandate of the Committee

1.1. Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on environmental issues, uniting 193 Member States to address the triple planetary climate change crisis, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Established in 1972, UNEP provides scientific research, policy recommendations, and international cooperation mechanisms to guide global environmental governance and promote sustainable development. With its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP is uniquely positioned as the only UN headquarters in the Global South.

1.2. Governance Structure

UNEP operates under the governance of two key bodies: the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

The UNEA is the world's highest-level environmental decision-making body, bringing together all 193 UN Member States, major stakeholders, and environmental experts to establish a global environmental agenda. It meets biennially to adopt resolutions, negotiate international environmental agreements, and approve UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, which set strategic priorities for global environmental governance. UNEA plays a crucial role in shaping international efforts to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution through legally binding instruments, policy guidance, and coordinating environmental actions at regional and national levels.

The CPR consists of representatives from UN Member States who are permanently based in Nairobi. This body is responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of UNEA resolutions, reviewing UNEP's budget and work programme, and providing continuous oversight of its activities. The CPR works closely with UNEP's Executive Director to facilitate dialogue among governments, improve coordination with other UN bodies, and ensure that environmental policies remain aligned with global sustainability goals. By acting as a bridge between UNEA sessions, the CPR fosters long-term environmental accountability and supports UNEP in fulfilling its mandate.

1.3. Core Mandates of UNEP

Global Environmental Policy Leadership

- Spearheading the development of multilateral environmental frameworks to address climate change, pollution, and ecosystem degradation.
- Strengthening international collaboration to create binding environmental agreements and promote sustainable development.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

- UNEP facilitates the negotiation, implementation, and enforcement of key international treaties, including:
- The Paris Agreement (Climate Change).
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment.
- The Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (Chemical and Waste Management).

Scientific Research and Environmental Assessments

- Conducting comprehensive environmental studies to provide data-driven insights into global environmental challenges.
- Publishing flagship reports such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and Emissions Gap Report to inform policy decisions.

Capacity Building and Technical Support

- Assisting developing nations in adopting resilient and sustainable environmental policies.

- Providing financial, technical, and policy resources to ensure effective implementation of MEAs and environmental governance mechanisms.

Public Advocacy and Global Awareness Campaigns

- Leading worldwide initiatives, including:
- The Clean Seas Campaign (reducing marine plastic pollution).
- The Regional Seas Programme (coordinating regional ocean conservation efforts).
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (addressing air pollution and climate change).
- The Faith for Earth Initiative (engaging faith-based organizations in environmental conservation).

1.4. UNEP's Role in Marine Conservation

UNEP is a pivotal player in addressing ocean acidification and microplastic pollution, working to strengthen international commitments to protect marine ecosystems. Collaborating with scientific institutions, NGOs, and governments, UNEP develops evidence-based policies and solutions for marine conservation. By integrating Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) into global environmental governance, UNEP ensures the protection and restoration of ocean ecosystems. It spearheads initiatives such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) to tackle plastic pollution, the Coral Reef Initiative to enhance the resilience and protection of coral reefs, the Marine Protected Areas Programme to expand and manage conservation zones—the Blue Economy Framework to promote sustainable marine-based economic growth. UNEP collaborates closely with other UN agencies such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to marine conservation. Through these efforts, UNEP remains at the forefront of marine conservation, promoting stronger policy frameworks, enhanced international cooperation, and innovative solutions to ensure the health and sustainability of the world's oceans.

AGENDA

Addressing Ocean Acidification and Microplastic Pollution: Strengthening Global Commitments for Marine Conservation

2.1. Planetary Boundaries:

Planetary boundaries, often referred to as the "Planetary Boundaries Framework," is a concept in Earth system science and environmental studies that identifies a set of critical environmental limits beyond which human activities could disrupt the stability and functioning of the Earth's systems.

- These boundaries help to define a safe operating space for humanity within the Earth's ecological constraints.
- The concept was introduced by a group of scientists in 2009 and has gained recognition as a framework for understanding and addressing global environmental challenges.

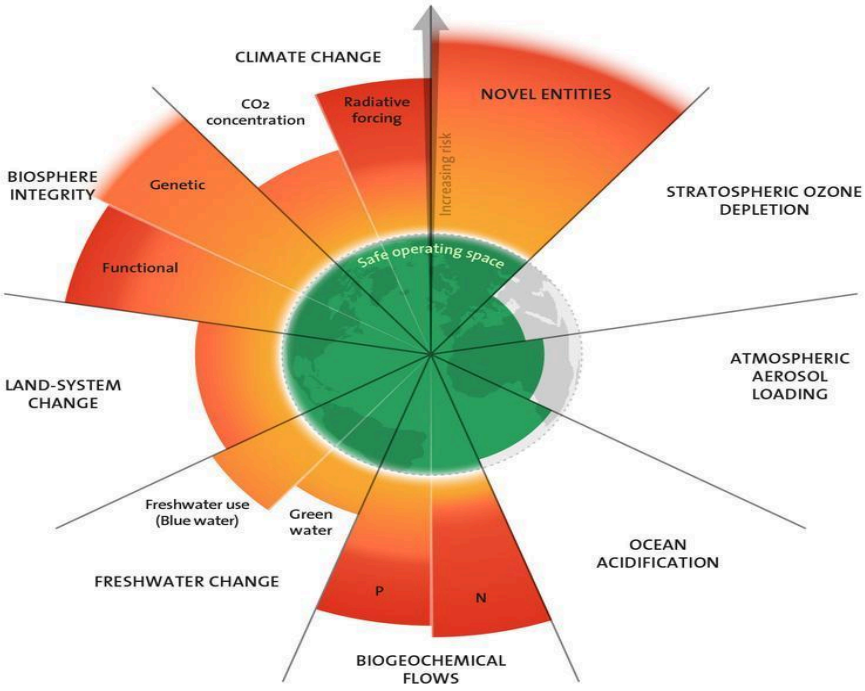

Fig 1: Nine Planetary Boundaries

2.1.1. What are the nine planetary boundaries?

1. **Climate Change:** This boundary relates to the concentration of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4), in the atmosphere. The boundary aims to limit global warming to a level that avoids catastrophic climate change impacts.
2. **Biosphere Integrity:** This boundary focuses on the preservation of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems. It aims to prevent species extinctions and maintain the functioning of ecosystems, as biodiversity is crucial for ecosystem services that support human well-being.
3. **Stratospheric Ozone Depletion:** This boundary addresses the depletion of the ozone layer in the Earth's stratosphere, which protects living organisms from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Efforts have been made to reduce the use of ozone-depleting substances, leading to the partial recovery of the ozone layer.
4. **Land System Change:** This boundary concerns the conversion of natural ecosystems into agricultural land, urban areas, or other forms of land use change. It aims to prevent the loss of crucial ecosystem services and the disruption of carbon and nutrient cycles.
5. **Freshwater Change:** This boundary relates to the consumption of freshwater resources. It focuses on maintaining sustainable water use to ensure the availability of clean water for various human needs and ecosystem health.
6. **Biogeochemical Flows:** This boundary covers the global cycling of essential elements like phosphorus and nitrogen. It seeks to prevent excessive nutrient pollution, which can lead to problems like eutrophication and harmful algal blooms in water bodies.
7. **Ocean Acidification:** This boundary addresses the increasing acidity of the oceans due to the absorption of excess atmospheric CO2. Ocean acidification can harm marine ecosystems and fisheries.
8. **Atmospheric Aerosol Loading:** This boundary relates to releasing human-made aerosols (tiny particles) into the atmosphere, which can have both cooling and warming effects on the climate. Managing aerosol loading is essential for understanding and mitigating climate change.
9. **Novel entities:** This boundary pertains to releasing synthetic chemicals and pollutants (microplastics, endocrine disruptors, and organic pollutants) into the environment. It aims to reduce chemical pollution that can harm ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

2.1.2. Breach of Plan*eta*ry Boundaries

The latest planetary boundaries framework update finds that six of the nine boundaries are transgressed, suggesting that Earth is now well outside the safe operating space for humanity.

- The researchers set the value of atmospheric CO2 concentration contributing to 2climate change at 350 parts per million (ppm). Currently, this has reached 417 ppm.
- For biosphere integrity, the researchers kept a limit of less than 10 extinctions per million species-years. Human-induced species extinctions have far exceeded the safe limit.
- The study estimated that the extinction rate was greater than 100 per million species-years. It is estimated that around 8 million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction.
- In the last 150 years, over 10% of the genetic diversity of flora and fauna has been wiped out.
- The global forest land area has dropped below the safe limit of 75%, currently at only 60%.
- Both blue water (surface and groundwater) and green water (available water for plants) have experienced impacts beyond their safe thresholds.
- Flows of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen in the environment have surged beyond safe limits.
- Human influence on novel entities, including microplastics, endocrine disruptors, and organic pollutants, has transgressed the zero boundary.
- Stratospheric ozone depletion, aerosol loading, and ocean acidification were found to be within the planetary boundary.

2.2. The Growing Threat to Ocean Ecosystems: Ocean Acidification and Marine Pollution

The world's oceans are facing unprecedented challenges due to human-induced environmental changes. The most critical threats are ocean acidification and marine pollution, significantly impacting marine biodiversity, global fisheries, and coastal communities. These interconnected crises are driven by rising carbon emissions, plastic waste, and other pollutants, leading to severe disruptions in marine ecosystems.

2.2.1. Ocean Acidification: A Consequence of Rising CO_2 Levels

Understanding Ocean Acidification

The world's oceans act as a natural carbon sink, absorbing approximately 30% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. While this process helps mitigate climate change, it drastically alters marine chemistry, leading to ocean acidification. Since the pre-industrial era, ocean pH has decreased by 0.1 units, representing a 26% increase in acidity. If CO_2 emissions continue unchecked, ocean pH could drop by 0.2 to 0.4 units by 2100, reaching levels not seen in millions of years.

The Ocean Acidification Process

i. CO_2 from the atmosphere dissolves into seawater.

ii. It reacts with water to form carbonic acid (H_2CO_3).

iii. Carbonic acid dissociates into hydrogen ions (H^+) and bicarbonate ions (HCO_3).

iv. The increase in hydrogen ions reduces the availability of carbonate ions (CO_3^{2}), which marine organisms need to build calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) shells and skeletons.

Impacts of Ocean Acidification:

i. **Coral Reef Decline:** The reduced pH levels hinder the ability of corals to form their calcium carbonate skeletons, leading to weaker and slower growth. For example, since 1950, ocean acidification has resulted in a roughly 13% decrease in the skeletal density of massive Porites corals within the Great Barrier Reef.

ii. **Disrupted Food Chains:** Ocean acidification can disrupt marine food chains by altering the availability and distribution of prey and predators. For example, alterations in pH levels can affect the sensory mechanisms of fish larvae, potentially hindering their ability to detect and evade predators.

iii. **Impaired Reproduction and Population Decline:** Ocean acidification threatens marine species by potentially reducing their reproductive success, which, in turn, can lead to declining population sizes. For example, increased acidity can result in the improper development of sea urchin and oyster larvae, impacting their ability to reproduce and sustain their populations.

iv. **Shift in Species Dominance and Biodiversity Loss:** Ocean acidification's regional impact on marine ecosystems varies, causing shifts in species dominance and significant biodiversity

loss. For example, in Papua New Guinea, carbon dioxide seeps replaced branching corals with boulder forms and, in some areas, entirely replaced corals with sand, rubble, and algae beds.

v. **Increased Vulnerability to Other Stressors:** Weakened by acidification, marine organisms become more susceptible to other stressors like rising ocean temperatures and pollution, intensifying their challenges.

vi. **Cascading Effects of Vulnerable Ecosystem Decline:** As vulnerable ecosystems decline due to ocean acidification, the associated species that depend on these habitats for shelter and sustenance risk losing their homes, which can have cascading effects throughout the food web. For instance, the complete depletion of coral reefs can result in the loss of up to 25% of marine species dependent on these delicate ecosystems.

Global Initiatives to Curb Ocean Acidification

i. **Rio+ 20 Summit:** The United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in 2012 stressed ocean acidification as a threat to the marine environment.

   - The outcome document '**The Future We Want**' highlighted the oceans' critical role in all three pillars of sustainable development, and commitment to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems.

ii. **UNESCO IOC:** The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is the custodian agency for SDG 14, Target 3, to minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification. Through its role in supporting the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), the IOC helps the Member States to coordinate the resources from different countries and organizations needed to understand and tackle the problem of ocean acidification.

iii. **International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP):** The IOCCP collaborates with the GOA-ON and other institutions to enhance the capability to observe and predict present-day and future responses of ecosystem processes, biogeochemistry, and climate change feedback.

iv. **IAEA OC-ICC:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) established the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) in 2012 to focus on science, capacity building, outreach and communication about the status and trends of ocean acidification, promoting science-based decision-making.

Way Forward

i. **Enhance Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** MPAs have been established at the South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf and in the Ross Sea region, with three additional MPAs proposed in the Weddell Sea, East Antarctica and along the western Antarctic Peninsula.
    - If realized, this network of MPAs would protect around 60 per cent of Antarctic shelf waters, and India will continue to support setting up two MPAs in Antarctica to protect marine life and ecosystem services.

ii. **Continued Scientific Cooperation:** Support and participate in international initiatives, such as the GOA-ON, to coordinate efforts in understanding and combating ocean acidification on a global scale.
    - Further, collaboration should be increased with organizations like the IOC of UNESCO and the IAEA to share knowledge and resources.

iii. **Sustainable Fishing Practices:** Encourage and enforce sustainable fishing practices to maintain balanced marine ecosystems and prevent the collapse of fisheries.

iv. **Reducing the Consumption of Carbon-oriented Energy Sources:** Carbon emitted from fossil fuels can be reduced by minimizing the use of such fuels. Thus, there is a need for increasing adoption of renewable energy sources and diversification of energy sources, such as solar and wind, as alternative energy sources.

v. **Raise Awareness:** Increase public awareness about the impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and reducing carbon footprints.

2.2.2 Microplastics: Definition and Sources

Microplastics are plastic particles smaller than 5mm, commonly found in oceans, lakes, and food chains. These particles originate from multiple sources and persist in the environment for extended periods due to their non-biodegradable nature.

Sources of Microplastics

- **Primary Microplastics**: These are intentionally manufactured small plastic particles found in:

- **Microbeads**: Present in personal care products such as toothpaste, facial scrubs, and exfoliators.
- **Plastic Pellets (Nurdles)**: Used in industrial plastic production and manufacturing processes.
- **Synthetic Fibers**: Released during the washing of polyester, nylon, and acrylic textiles.

- **Secondary Microplastics**: These result from the breakdown of larger plastic debris through:
  - **Physical Fragmentation**: Caused by wave action, mechanical forces, and environmental stressors.
  - **Photodegradation**: UV exposure weakens plastic polymers, leading to disintegration.
  - **Chemical Degradation**: Interaction with pollutants accelerates fragmentation, forming microplastic particles.

Impacts of Environment

- Microplastics are ingested by fish, crustaceans, and plankton, leading to energy depletion, stunted growth, and reproductive failure.
- Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) attach to microplastics, increasing toxicity.
- Bioaccumulation and biomagnification result in higher toxin levels in larger predators and seafood consumed by humans.

Impact on Human Health

- Microplastics have been detected in seafood, salt, bottled water, and even human tissues.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** states that while current microplastic levels in drinking water do not pose a severe risk, the potential dangers of nanoplastic absorption remain a growing concern.
- A **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) study** suggests that humans ingest up to **5 grams of plastic weekly**, equivalent to a credit card's weight.

Global Scale of Microplastic Pollution

Microplastics are an alarming component of the **8 million tonnes of plastic waste** that enter the ocean annually, comprising approximately **80% of marine debris** (IUCN). The global plastic crisis has led to:

- Microplastics being discovered in remote regions such as the Arctic, deep-sea trenches, and even the summit of Mount Everest.
- Between **1950 and 2015, approximately 6,300 million metric tons of plastic waste** were produced, with nearly **4,900 million metric tons** accumulating in landfills and the environment.

Global Initiatives to Combat Microplastic Pollution

- **Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) (2012)**: Launched under the Manila Declaration, this initiative promotes marine pollution control strategies.
- **G7 Summit (2015)**: Recognized microplastic pollution as a global environmental hazard in the Leaders' Declaration.
- **GloLitter Partnerships Project**: A joint initiative by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** and **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** to combat marine plastic litter from the maritime and fishing sectors.
- **London Convention (1972) & MARPOL Protocols**: Established global regulations to control marine pollution from ship waste dumping and maritime sources.
- **Plastic Pacts (2018 onwards)**: Business-driven initiatives in multiple countries promoting sustainable packaging and reduced plastic waste.
- **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) Resolution (2022)**: A historic global agreement to end plastic pollution and establish a legally binding treaty by 2024.

Future Outlook and Challenges

While global initiatives are critical in addressing microplastic pollution, challenges remain in enforcement, monitoring, and technological advancements for plastic waste management. Strengthening global commitments, fostering innovation in biodegradable materials, and promoting public awareness are essential to mitigating microplastic pollution and protecting marine ecosystems for future generations.

2.3 Legal and Policy Frameworks

2.3.1 International Legal Instruments

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982):** Governs the use of oceans, defining states' rights and responsibilities, including measures for pollution control and the protection of marine environments. UNCLOS also provides a legal basis for resolving disputes related to ocean governance.
- **London Convention (1972) and London Protocol (1996):** Establish international regulations to prevent marine pollution by controlling the dumping of wastes and hazardous substances at sea. The Protocol strengthens the Convention by adopting a more precautionary approach.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):** Recognizes ocean acidification as a consequence of climate change and integrates it into broader climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. The agreement encourages nations to incorporate ocean health into their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) (1973/78):** Sets global standards to prevent marine pollution from ships, including regulations on oil spills, sewage, garbage, and air pollution from vessels.
- **Basel Convention (1989):** Regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, including plastic waste, to prevent illegal dumping in developing countries. The 2019 amendment explicitly includes plastic waste under its regulatory framework.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Aims to protect marine biodiversity by addressing threats from pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change. The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework further emphasizes marine conservation and pollution reduction.

2.3.2 Regional and National Policies

- **European Union's Single-Use Plastics Directive:** Targets the reduction of plastic pollution by restricting the use of single-use plastics, promoting circular economy principles, and holding manufacturers accountable through extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.
- **ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris:** Strengthens regional collaboration among Southeast Asian nations to reduce marine litter through policy coordination, research initiatives, and waste management improvements.

- **Africa's Blue Economy Strategy:** Promotes sustainable ocean resource management, including marine pollution control and ecosystem-based conservation approaches, with a focus on economic growth and environmental sustainability.
- **National Bans on Microplastics:** Several countries, including the USA, Canada, and the UK, have enacted bans on microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products to prevent plastic contamination in marine environments.
- **India's Plastic Waste Management Rules (2016):** Strengthens regulations on waste segregation, recycling, and EPR to ensure responsible plastic waste disposal. The amendment in 2022 further enhances the responsibilities of producers and importers.
- **India's Single-Use Plastic Ban (2022):** Prohibits the manufacture, sale, and distribution of specific plastic items such as cutlery, straws, and packaging materials to curb marine and land-based pollution.

2.3.3 Enforcement Challenges

- **Jurisdictional Conflicts:** Overlapping authority among international and regional bodies leads to difficulties in enforcement and accountability, requiring enhanced legal harmonization and cooperation.
- **Compliance and Monitoring Issues:** Many developing nations face resource constraints in enforcing regulations, leading to gaps in monitoring and enforcement of marine pollution policies.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Corporations and states often exploit regulatory loopholes, delaying effective action against plastic pollution and ocean acidification. Strengthening liability frameworks is crucial to addressing these challenges.

2.3.4 Way Forward

Strengthening international legal frameworks, enhancing compliance mechanisms, fostering global cooperation, and investing in technological solutions are essential to mitigating ocean acidification and microplastic pollution. The integration of scientific research into policy-making, along with increased funding for enforcement, can significantly improve regulatory effectiveness.

Guidelines for Countries to Prepare for the UNEP Committee Agenda

As delegates representing your respective nations in the UNEP committee, thorough preparation is key to engaging in effective negotiations and formulating impactful solutions. Below are key guidelines to help you structure your research, arguments, and policy proposals:

i. Understand Your Country's Stance

- Research national policies, commitments, and statements on ocean acidification and microplastic pollution.
- Identify whether your country is a signatory to international agreements like UNCLOS, MARPOL, and the Paris Agreement.
- Analyze your country's dependence on marine resources and fisheries, tourism, and shipping industries.

ii. Evaluate the National Impact of Ocean Acidification and Microplastic Pollution

- Assess how ocean acidification affects marine biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal communities in your country.
- Examine the presence and sources of microplastic pollution within national territories and waters.
- Consider economic, environmental, and public health consequences.

iii. **Analyze Existing Domestic Policies and Initiatives**

- Review national laws on marine conservation, plastic waste management, and carbon emissions reduction.
- Identify any government-led or industry-led programs to mitigate plastic pollution and promote sustainable ocean practices.
- Evaluate enforcement mechanisms and compliance levels.

iv. Assess Regional and International Collaborations

- Determine partnerships with regional bodies (e.g., ASEAN, EU, AU) to address marine conservation challenges.

- Identify involvement in global initiatives such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) or the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC).
- Examine trade policies that affect plastic production, import/export, and marine resource management.

v. **Propose Country-Specific Solutions**

- Develop strategies tailored to your nation's capabilities and needs, balancing environmental concerns with economic realities.
- Consider proposals on sustainable waste management, green energy adoption, and stricter marine pollution regulations.
- Explore funding mechanisms such as climate finance, public-private partnerships, or international aid for sustainable initiatives.

vi. **Prepare Diplomatic Strategies and Alliances**

- Identify like-minded nations with shared concerns or policies to form potential alliances.
- Develop negotiation strategies that align national interests with global commitments.
- Anticipate counterarguments from countries with differing priorities and prepare reasoned responses.

vii. **Incorporate Scientific and Technological Perspectives**

- Support arguments with data from credible scientific reports (e.g., IPCC, UNEP, IUCN).
- Explore innovative solutions such as biodegradable alternatives, carbon capture technologies, or ocean alkalinity enhancement projects.
- Highlight technological advancements in waste management, ocean monitoring, and marine conservation efforts.

viii. **Ensure Policy Coherence with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- Align policy proposals with SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- Address cross-cutting themes such as sustainable economic growth, gender equality in environmental policy, and the role of indigenous knowledge in marine conservation.

ix. Draft a Strong Opening Statement

- Clearly articulate your country's stance, concerns, and key policy priorities.
- Emphasize commitment to international cooperation while safeguarding national interests.
- Set the stage for negotiations by presenting a well-structured and solution-oriented approach.

x. Engage Actively in Debate and Resolution Drafting

- Participate in moderated and unmoderated caucuses to build consensus.
- Contribute to drafting comprehensive resolutions that address both immediate actions and long-term commitments.
- Advocate for enforceable mechanisms and accountability frameworks to ensure real progress.

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