Security Council (Training)

Topic: **“ Strengthening International Action to Combat Plastic Pollution and Protect Marine Ecosystems”.**

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Writer’s note:

Welcome delegates to the Security Council of LIMUN 2027. We are thrilled to have you here at this edition of the United Nations. This is one of the most important organs that the UN has so be prepared for great debates. As this could be the first of several simulations, more detailed explanations will be provided on the day of the event. We are excited to see what you will achieve. Good luck, delegates, and once again, welcome!

I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 following World War II to succeed the League of Nations and maintain international peace and security. The Council held its inaugural meeting on January 17, 1946, at Church House in London. It was granted the power to issue binding resolutions, impose sanctions, and authorize military action. Five victorious powers from World War II the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, China, and France became the permanent members with veto power. Britain advocated for France to add a European voice, and the Soviet Union agreed because France might balance U.S. influence.

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

a. Introduction of the topic

Pollution by plastics is an environmental concern that poses a risk to marine ecology across the world. Over the last half of the twentieth century, there has been tremendous growth in the production and usage of plastics, which has led to massive plastic waste being released into oceans and rivers. Plastic pollution has serious effects on marine flora and fauna as well as on fishing and tourism.

b. Evolution of the topic

The issue of plastic pollution has become an international issue as the use of plastics grew in the twentieth century. The MARPOL Convention was introduced in 1973 to address ship-related pollution including plastic pollution. SDG 14 was established by the

United Nations in 2015 to conserve marine life. The rise in worries related to plastic waste resulted in the UN resolution passed in 2022 that led to discussions on the establishment of an international plastic pollution treaty.

c. Relevant Events

MARPOL Convention:

International laws were adopted under the convention that would help to prevent pollution by ships, which included restrictions on the disposal of ship garbage in the ocean.

Sustainable Development Goals:

The adoption of SDG 14 made the protection of marine environments a matter of international concern.

Global Plastics Treaty Talks:

International talks were initiated by the countries to develop an international law regarding plastic pollution.

Global Plastic Treaty Talks Continue:

Discussions held in Geneva in August 2025 did not yield any result; further negotiations took place in February 2026.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

a. Panorama

Plastic pollution still poses a danger to marine life as well as the ecosystem of the ocean. Plastic debris may trap marine species or be mistaken for food. Furthermore, there have been reports of microplastics in marine settings, and there are worries about their impacts on wildlife and even people. In addition, there is an issue of inequality between the countries because some have developed systems for waste collection and recycling, whereas other nations have not enough resources to deal with it.

b. Points of View

United States:

The United States has encouraged programs to reduce plastic pollution within its territory and internationally. Nevertheless, its policy regarding global agreements has raised questions about national flexibility and obligations of the individual states.

China:

Being one of the biggest producers and consumers of plastics, China plays a critical part in international cooperation to solve the problem of plastic pollution. It has introduced

policies to decrease some types of single-use plastics and increase the efficiency of waste management considering national peculiarities of the situation.

European Union:

The European Union has implemented policies related to the reduction of single-use plastics and improvement of waste management to ensure a circular economy and support international efforts to establish legally binding agreements to control the problem of plastic pollution.

Norway:

Norway has been supporting international cooperation and further steps for addressing plastic pollution. Norway focuses on waste reduction and more efficient management of plastic waste from production to disposal.

Maldives:

As a small island nation, the Maldives is vulnerable to pollution. Its economy and population are highly dependent on a healthy marine environment, which makes the problem of waste management particularly important for this state.

IV. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

a. UN

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme:

The UNEP co-ordinates international initiatives for the environment and assists countries in tackling plastic pollution. They provide scientific data and assist in formulating environmental policies.

UNEA – United Nations Environment Assembly:

The United Nations Environment Assembly in 2022 adopted Resolution 5/14 which started negotiations on an international binding agreement on plastic pollution.

b. External actions

Ocean Conservancy:

Ocean Conservancy is an organization that is responsible for protecting the ocean through conducting research and initiating coastal cleanup projects to raise awareness.

The Ocean Cleanup:

This organization is concerned with developing new technology that helps get rid of the plastic from rivers and oceans and prevents further waste disposal into water bodies.

World Bank:

The World Bank assists nations with projects that contribute towards better waste management and pollution control.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation:
Ellen MacArthur Foundation encourages nations to embrace a circular economy where plastics should be redesigned for reuse and recycling rather than disposal.

V. CONCLUSION

Marine pollution by plastics poses a major and lasting challenge to the sustainability of marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of people dependent on the ocean. However, despite the creation of international agreements like MARPOL, the 2030 agenda, and negotiations on a global treaty on plastic pollution, plastic waste remains an issue for the oceans. It is necessary to take action due to the transboundary character of this phenomenon and differences between the nations' natural resources, environmental policies, and economic interests.

As for future actions, it is important for Member States to think about how to promote international cooperation, enhance the waste management system, prevent marine pollution, and assist developing countries. Also, it is worth considering how the Security Council could be involved in addressing environmental threats which pose a threat to international peace and security. The challenge is to create effective and well-coordinated means of protecting marine ecosystems.

VI. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are the reasons behind plastic pollution in marine environments?
2. How can nations work together to ensure that plastic waste does not cross boundaries?
3. What is the part that the Security Council can play in solving the problem of plastic pollution?
4. How can nations combine economic growth with environmental conservation?
5. How can developing nations be helped in improving their waste management capabilities?
6. What steps can help in decreasing the use of single-use plastics?
7. How can the pollution by international shipping and fishing vessels be curbed?
8. How can nations tackle the problem of microplastic pollution?

9. What is the part that the private sector can play in the reduction of plastic pollution?

10. How can international cooperation preserve marine ecosystems in the long run?

VII. REFERENCES

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