



Environment Council

EC/RES/002
19-20 February 2019

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Regarding Micro-Plastic Pollution

The Environment Council,

Deeply concerned, that the rise in micro-plastic pollution throughout the world, through its devastating impact on global aquatic wildlife and its everlasting effects human health, presents one of the greatest threats to this planet and its inhabitants,

Noting with regret, the widespread impact of micro-plastic pollution on all levels of modern life, from economic consumption and resource management to natural biodiversity and human health,

Bearing in mind, how sustainability initiatives and ecological restoration projects desperately being sought in several countries are consistently undermined by widespread micro-plastic pollution,

Fully aware, that the developing world, specifically the Indian sub-continent and sub-Saharan Africa, are primary regions of concern where the rise in micro-plastic pollution threatens economic development, food security, health, socio-political stability, and life expectancy, effectively reversing any recent progress made against poverty and sanitation,

Noting with deep concern, that fertilization is the leading cause of microplastic pollution in developing nations, where sewage sludge containing harmful microplastics is often used to treat food as a replacement for federally-approved fertilizer, due to the absence of appropriate financial and economic resources,

Considering, the various possible ways in which microplastic contamination can occur, including aquatic pollution caused by surface runoff, aerial contamination by wind and natural

weathering processes, terminal soil pollution through permeable rock, as well as groundwater aquifer contamination,

Noting regretfully, that microplastics have been detected in households, where aerial contamination has been found to occur through the erosion of synthetic carpets, furniture, and the processing of clothing,

Deeply disturbed, that microplastics have been found in large quantities in regular tap water, bottled water, restaurant beverages, and the air we breathe,

Aware, of the potent health risks presented by microplastics, including their ability to transmit harmful bacteria, their high chemical content as a result of industrial processing, and their ability to pass unnoticed into the bloodstream as a result of their atomic size,

Disturbed, by the fact that research on the issue of microplastics remains unreasonably limited, so as to leave the process of microplastic contamination, as well as the potential hazards of contamination, largely unknown,

Believing, that with 330 million metric tons of plastic produced annually, the potential for microplastic pollution throughout the environment will only further escalate,

1. *Urges*, the development of national policies and regulations on plastic pollution that address the following issues:
 - (a) Openly addressing microplastic pollution as a global issue and educating citizens on its dangers;
 - (b) Reducing plastic wastage by improving recycling services and the accountability of these services;
 - (c) Regulating the methods and quantities by which waste is disposed, and actively reducing the environmental impacts of waste disposal;
 - (d) Informing citizens on ways to reduce plastic consumption and consequently, avoid the repercussions of plastic pollution;
2. *Urges*, all developed nations, as well as those directly affected by microplastic pollution, to instill government research agencies, and to sufficiently fund these agencies in order to support the research of microplastic pollution in the following ways:

- (a) Further investigate the process by which microplastics contaminate the soil, the atmosphere, and bodies of water;
 - (b) Study the environmental hazards of microplastic pollution;
 - (c) Explore, with urgency, the effects of microplastic contamination on human health, including the ways in which microplastics enter the bloodstream;
 - (d) Investigate ways to actively reduce microplastic pollution, both in the household and on waste disposal sites, and to provide treatment against microplastic contamination;
3. *Strongly recommends* that all member states adopt various techniques of minimizing plastic consumption by finding more sustainable alternatives to plastic, including bioplastics and glass;
4. *Calls upon*, any developed nation that has not already done so to achieve, within reasonable time, the target of 0.9% of their Gross Domestic Product for the overall development of environmental sustainability framework and the ultimate reduction of plastic pollution.

Submitter: Australia

Secunder: Indonesia

Negator: Afghanistan