

Martingrove Model United Nations



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Regarding Ocean Degradation

The Environmental Council,

Aware of the global economy's contribution to pollution, release of toxic chemicals, nuclear waste, plastics, acid rain, and oil spillage, and how this worsens oceanic degradation,

Deeply concerned by overfishing, ocean acidification, and the severity of coral loss, and the urgent need to mitigate these challenges,

Taking into account that in 2016, the cost of ocean cleanup was around \$25 million USD, a figure which grew to \$35 million in 2019 and continues to do so,

Noting with deep concern the vulnerability of the oceans as well as the effects that permanent damage of the environment can have on humanity, prompting mass migrations and water warfare,

Recognizing that unsustainable growth of the global economy may lead to the long-term degradation of oceans resulting in species extinction, limited fresh water, and health problems for countless organisms including humans,

Further noting the potential economic opportunities presented by the task of remedying oceanic degradation,

Welcoming the development of projects such as Operation Clean Sweep – Denmark Program, The Ocean Cleanup, and The Global Plastics Flow Study in combating the increase in marine litter across Europe,

Noting with approval the measures taken and implemented nationally by Palau, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Chile against ocean pollution,

Cognizant of the costly fee associated with the restoration of the world's oceans, an especially difficult undertaking for developing countries,

Desiring action from nations to come together to invest in, protect, and restabilize ocean's worldwide, bringing a decrease and hopeful end to ocean degradation,

1. *Urges* all nations to increase their funding to battle ocean degradation to at least 4% of their GDP by 2030;
2. *Urges* all nations to commit to a moratorium on single use plastics by the year 2023;
3. *Strongly recommends* countries with adequate environmental measures already in place to assist others by increasing the accessibility of education on ocean degradation as well as other environmental damages;
4. *Urges* nations to establish and enforce policies to prevent overfishing in marine protected areas;
5. *Calls for* both a reevaluation and a minimum 15% increase in ocean surface area designated as marine protected, as well as an immediate ban on the passage of oil tankers through these areas;
6. *Stresses* the ever-increasing need for all countries to take prompt necessary measures to slow down and eventually cease contributing to ocean degradation as society and the global economy continue to grow and become industrialized.

Submitter: Iceland

Seconded: New Zealand

Negated: United States of America