



GA4: Environmental Committee

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Issue: Taking measures to prevent global (micro)plastic pollution

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I. Introduction

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest environmental problems of the century. Even though the production of plastics is relatively new, the production of disposable plastic products is rapidly increasing. Especially, accelerated production and consumption of plastic products after World War II are overwhelming the world's capacity to deal with them.

Plastic was one of the key elements for transforming to the modern age. Without plastics, today's world would probably be unrecognizable. The production of plastics has enabled people to produce life-saving devices in the area of medicine, facilitate the construction of lighter cars and jets, made space travel possible, saved millions of lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water. Hence, plastic actually contributed to the development of humankind. However, the production and consumption has become excessive as people realized its benefits.

According to the research, half of all plastics ever manufactured have been produced in the last 15 years. By 2015, plastic production was about 448 million tons and this amount is increasing exponentially; the experts estimate that the production will double by 2050 ("Cumulative"). Also, almost 300 million tons of plastic waste are produced each year yet 60% of this waste ends up in landfills or natural environments. Hence, this non-biodegradable plastic waste threatens the environment. The data indicates that this waste originates primarily from three regions: East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and, lastly, North America. Hence, the Americas, the focus region of the conference, play a crucial role in the issue.

At present, one of the most alarming states of plastic is microplastic. Microplastics are small plastic pieces that are less than 5 mm in length and they are major contributors to plastic pollution. According to the studies, microplastics accounted for 11% of the ocean plastic pollution in 2016 and it would double to approximately 3 million metric tons a year in 2040. Besides the oceans, they are widely distributed to the environment and it is possible to find microplastic waste from high up Mount Everest to the deep sea. They are even inside of humans and other animals and they are endangering the whole ecosystem.

Microplastics are used in many areas and they are harder to track and recycle due to their small size. Even though it is prohibited in some countries, many Member States allow the usage of microplastics in personal care products. Many of these products include microplastics and they end up in landfills or oceans



as plastic waste. Besides personal care products, microplastics are also used in industry and industrial sources are part of the microplastic waste. Moreover, microplastics can also come from the breakdown of bigger plastic pieces. Many sectors produce microplastic waste and it is significant to take all these sources into account to solve the issue.

II. Involved Countries and Organizations

People's Republic of China

In 2019, China produced more than 80 million tonnes of plastic products, becoming the world's largest plastic producer and consumer. As a result, China is one of the biggest contributors to plastic pollution. According to the studies, around 90% of plastic waste that pollutes the world's oceans comes from 10 rivers around the world, 6 of which are in China. Therefore, China's plastic production is critical in global plastic pollution.

The Chinese government is also fighting this plastic waste problem and has been taking some serious steps to decrease plastic waste. The first step taken by the Chinese government was in 2008 when the government banned retailers from giving out free plastic bags and prohibited the production of ultra-thin plastic bags. These measures reduced the use of plastic bags by more than two-thirds in the following years. Then, China banned the import of foreign plastic waste in 2017. Before that, China was the world's largest importer of plastic waste, importing more than half of it.

Concerned about this massive waste production, in January 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission announced a new plan that aims to decrease plastic usage significantly over the next five years. It includes many measures to cut down plastic usage. According to the new plan, non-degradable bags will be banned all over China by 2022, the production of plastic bags less than 0.025mm thick will also be prohibited and hotels will not offer free single-use plastic items by 2025.

The United States of America

The United States (US) is the world's second-largest plastic producer with approximately 38 million tons per year. However, according to newly conducted research, the US is the world's largest generator of plastic waste despite not being the world's largest manufacturer. The findings of the research show that the US produced about 42 million metric tons of plastic waste in 2016 (Parker). Also, the US ranks third for contributing marine litter in coastal nations. The US does not have good management of plastic and it creates problems with plastic waste. The US recycles less than 10% of its plastic waste yet it exports a considerable amount of its recyclable plastic waste to developing countries that do not have the necessary



infrastructure to manage it. Until 2018, the US was shipping half of its plastic waste to China and other developing nations for recycling; however, after China banned the importation of foreign plastic waste, this amount drastically decreased. The majority of the remaining American plastic waste is left to the environment. Data shows that the United States contributed almost 2.24 million metric tons of plastic waste to the environment in 2016. Moreover, single-use plastic bags are banned in only eight states. The US prohibited microbead-containing personal care products in 2015 with the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015, aiming to decrease microplastic waste.

The new administration in the US also aims to tackle the issue of plastic pollution. President Biden attended the G-7 Summit in June and agreed with other G-7 leaders to strengthen their action plan in cooperation with the UN Environment Assembly. Also, a potential new international agreement to provide a solution to marine plastic litter was discussed at the summit (Hagen). Additionally, Biden's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working on eliminating the use of microplastics from the oil and chemical industry. Hence, Biden's administration seems to be working towards a solution to microplastic pollution.

India

As the second-largest populated country in the world, India generated 3.3 million metric tonnes of plastic waste in 2018. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also states that this is the estimated value and the actual waste might be higher than the estimated (Singh). The report of CPCB shows that the wealthiest cities of India produce more plastic waste than others; Goa is the leading city with 60 grams per capita per day and Delhi follows with 37 grams per capita per day. The report proves that plastic waste increases as the affluent population expands.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) states that India recycles almost 60 percent of its plastic waste; however, this may not reflect the real statistics since 60% is even higher than the capacity of a developed country (Singh). Moreover, most of the plastic waste claimed as having been recycled by the Indian government is actually broken down into smaller materials. Hence, India has a poor plastic waste management system and it only recycles one-fourth of the whole waste.

In order to establish a better management system, the UNDP initiated a Plastic Waste Management Programme in 2018. This program promotes the collection, segregation, and recycling of plastic waste. It is currently operating in 36 cities and it has already collected and processed 66,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste ("Plastic Waste"). The estimated end date for the programme is 2024 and the programme aims to solve the plastic waste management problem by then.



Brazil

According to the World Bank's plastic waste report, Brazil is the fourth largest plastic waste producer in the world with 11.3 billion tons. The WWF states that Brazil collects 91% of its plastic waste; however, it only manages to recycle 1.28%. The world-wide average recycling rate of plastic waste is around 9% and this data indicates Brazil has one of the lowest rates. Thus, approximately 10 million tons of plastic waste end up in landfills or open dumps each year.

Contrary to the WWF, the Brazilian Plastic Industry Association (Abiplast) claims Brazil consumes 6.5 million tons of plastic. Moreover, the Foundation Institute of Administration (FIA) and the University of São Paulo (USP) declare that 550 thousand tons of plastic waste is recycled, the recycling rate accounts for 25.8%. However, the World Bank says Abiplast applies different methodologies in its data and the problem lies with reinserting the plastic waste for reuse. The recycling system's deficiency originates from the lack of proper technology and low market value for recycled plastic.

III. Focused Overview of the Issue

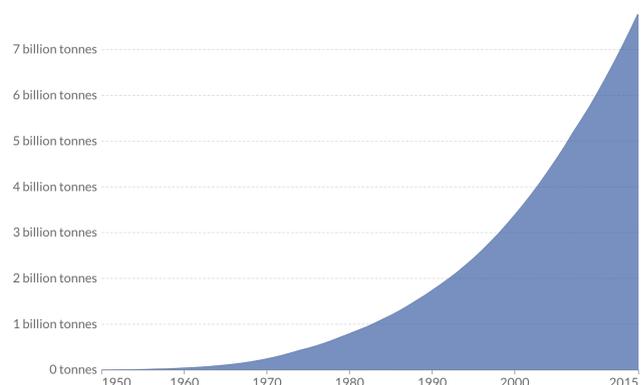
Ever since the first man-made plastic demonstrated by Alexander Parkes, the production and consumption of plastic has started to increase exponentially. In fact, this invention came with many conveniences. It enabled humankind to produce life-saving devices in the areas of medicine, lighter cars, and jets, made space travel possible, saved millions of lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water. However, the production of plastic got out of control and plastic waste has become one of the massive environmental issues.

Structurally, plastic is a polymeric material meaning that its molecules are very large and resemble long chains. There are many types of plastics but essentially, they can be separated into two categories: natural plastics and synthetic plastics. Natural plastics include materials like silk and rubber which are biodegradable in nature.

Because they do not remain intact in the

environment, they do not harm nature very much. "Chart 1: World's Plastic Production from 1950 to 2015 ('Cumulative Global')"

Synthetic plastics, on the other hand, are usually synthesized from fossil fuels and do remain intact in the environment because they generally cannot be broken into their molecules, Also, some chemicals inside the





synthetic plastics become toxic when they are subjected to heat, light or other outside effects. Therefore, when man-made plastics are left to the environment, they damage the ecosystem.

For several reasons, the world can no longer handle plastic waste. Firstly, as the chart points out, plastic production is increasing daily. Production rose from 2.3 million tons in 1950 to 448 million tons by 2015. However, the waste generated from them is exceeding the world's waste capacity and it creates massive pollution.

Even though almost every plastic damages the environment, microplastics are one of the major contributors to plastic pollution due to their small size. Microplastics account for a considerable part of plastic pollution, The Pew Charitable Trusts' report indicates that this percentage and the amount of microplastic in the oceans would double to approximately 3 million metric tons a year by 2040 if necessary precautions are not taken. Additionally, they are widely distributed to the environment due to their small size. Hence, microplastics are one of the most dangerous types of plastics and pose hazards to all ecosystems.

1. Sources of Microplastics

There are two types of microplastics: primary and secondary. Primary microplastics are the particles that are manufactured to be smaller than 5 mm so they are originally microplastic without any breakdown process. Since they are originally smaller than 5 mm, they directly enter the environment as microplastics. Primary microplastics include microbeads, plastic pellets, and plastic fibers. In the case of secondary microplastics, a breakdown process is required to form them from bigger plastic pieces. This breakdown generally happens when the larger plastic pieces undergo weathering or through exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight. Therefore, secondary microplastics usually require some outside effect to be microplastics and they do not directly enter the environment as microplastics. Because it is possible to create microplastics in both ways, there are many sources of microplastics that later become microplastic waste.

One of the biggest sources of microplastics is consumer products. Microplastics are included in many personal care products in different ratios. Even though many consumers are not aware of it, deodorants, shampoos, mascara, and many other products have microbeads inside them. These microbeads cannot be filtered out or recollected; hence, they directly become plastic waste. Because they cannot be separated during the sewage treatment, they end up in oceans or other bodies of water. Likewise, synthetic textiles include microplastic fibers. According to a study by Brown, wastewater collected after synthetic textiles were washed contains more than 100 fibers per liter of water (*Microplastics*). This wastewater also ends up in water bodies as microplastic waste. Even though some countries prohibit the



use of microbeads in personal care products, many others still allow it which contributes to microplastic pollution in huge amounts.

Besides consumer products, microplastics are used in the industry. Plastic resin pellets are used as an industrial feedstock for plastic products. Also, many industrial applications, including ingredients in printer inks, spray paints, injection moldings, and abrasives, require microbeads. Even though it does not create waste as large as personal care products, a proportion of microplastics used in industry enter the environment as waste. Especially, poor management of the operations that include microplastics causes direct entrance of microplastics into the environment.

Lastly, plastic fragments are one of the biggest sources of microplastics. If plastic fragments are subjected to a certain temperature or ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, they can break down into pieces and form microplastics. Principally, marine litter includes many plastic pieces that are ready to become microplastics. Even plastic bag waste can be a source of microplastics.

2. Effects of (Micro)plastics

Plastics cause the deaths of millions of animals every year especially due to entanglement; many animals get caught by plastics every day. Some plastic pieces prevent them from breathing, while some pieces limit their movements and cause them to starve. In the case of microplastics, many animals breathe in or digest these microplastics. Even though sometimes these tiny plastic pieces are expelled without consequence, they can also block digestive tracts or pierce the organs of animals, eventually causing their deaths. Moreover, if their stomachs are packed with plastics, animals do not feel hunger which leads to starvation. Some plastics can even inflame the tissues and lead to cancer. Additionally, studies and tests confirm that microplastics can disrupt reproductive systems and prompt some species, such as oysters, to produce fewer eggs.

Many animals are consumed by humans which means that microplastics can also be found in human bodies. Especially, larger microplastic pieces can harm animals and humans more due to their chemical toxicity. Many chemicals are added to plastics to make them stronger and these toxic chemicals are consumed by animals when they eat microplastics. It also passes through other animals and humans with the food chain. Furthermore, some scientists, including an ecotoxicologist at the University of Exeter, states that microplastics can be found in the air ("Microplastics Are"). Humans and some other animals breathe this air, meaning that they are breathing some microplastics. Even though it is not certain yet, studies indicate that there are many possible harmful effects of microplastics on humans and other animals. Thus, microplastic pollution is endangering the lives of all living creatures.



3. Development of the Issue

The rapidly increasing plastic waste urged the Member States to take action for decreasing the use and production of plastic. In 1997, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch was discovered and it caused a splash as the world's largest collection of floating garbage. It also revealed the reality behind the massive use of plastic. This discovery brought objections to the use of plastic and it raised awareness among the people. Hence, the Member States began to search for ways of reducing their plastic production and consumption.

In 2002, Bangladesh took the first step towards the solution by banning the use of plastic bags across the country. Many Member States also adopted this regulation to decrease their plastic waste. In addition to the plastic bag bans, the Member States tried many other ways to manage their plastic waste including; regulating the use of single-use plastics, banning the use of microbeads in personal care products, fixing their waste management technology, increasing the recycling rate, and even implementing taxation on the plastics. Even though these attempts of Member States have provided partial solutions to the issue, they could not prevent the rapid increase in the production and consumption of plastic.

Besides these attempts, the Member States also focused on scientific research that would enable them to destroy plastic waste, and some findings from these researches seem very promising for the future of plastic waste management. In 2016, Japanese scientists discovered a plastic-eating bacteria. The studies showed that the bacteria can almost degrade low-quality polyethylene terephthalate (one of the most used plastic types in the world) within six weeks (Mathiesen). This newly evolved bacteria proved that it is possible to obtain more PET-eating microorganisms since they have extraordinary adapting skills to the environment. The scientists also suggested that the evolution of an increasing number of microorganisms that eat plastic in the near future is probable.

In 2018, a mutant enzyme, which also eats plastic, was created following the discovery of the bacteria. The mutant enzyme was generated accidentally while the scientists were working on the enzyme secreted by the bacteria. It takes a few days for the new enzyme to start to break down the plastic. Scientists believe that the new enzyme can enable the full recycling of plastic. Moreover, enzymes are non-toxic and biodegradable; hence, it would not harm the environment in the recycling process. Additionally, a year ago, the engineers improved this enzyme even further and the new super-enzyme can degrade the plastic six times faster. The studies indicate that it is achievable to develop this enzyme within the next year or two (Carrington). Thus, the developments in the scientific community can lead to the solution of plastic pollution. The researches made in the last years look promising for the solution of the issue; hence, the Member States should focus on funding these research projects to come up with more feasible solutions.



IV. Key Vocabulary

Plastic: Plastic is a polymeric material meaning that its molecules are very large and resembled long chains. There are some natural polymers such as silk and rubber; however, these are not the reason for plastic pollution. Natural plastics are biodegradable and they do not persist in the environment; hence, they do not harm the environment. However, there are also synthetic plastics that have been processed to persist longer and those are the ones that cause plastic pollution because they are largely non-biodegradable.

Microplastic: Microplastics are small pieces of plastic that are smaller than 5 mm in diameter. They form a significant part of plastic waste. There are two types of microplastics: primary and secondary. Primary microplastics are the ones that enter the environment directly and they include microbeads, plastic pellets, plastic fibers. Secondary microplastics require the breakage of larger plastics to form. This breakdown generally happens when the larger plastic pieces undergo weathering or through exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight. Also, microplastics are not biodegradable; therefore, they accumulate and remain in the environment. Due to their size, they can be found in almost every environment from oceans to air and they play an important role in plastic pollution.

Microbeads: Microbead is a type of microplastic and they are approximately one micrometer (10^{-6} m) in length. Microbeads can sometimes be invisible to bare eyes. Microbeads are commonly used in personal care and cosmetics products (PCCPs). According to a survey conducted, 4,360 tonnes of microbeads were used for PCCPs in 2012 across European countries. Since it is not possible to recycle the microbeads inside the PCCPs, they become plastic waste. These microbeads are also nonbiodegradable and it takes hundreds of years to degrade them. Hence, the usage of microbeads in PCCPs was banned in many countries including Canada, the USA, Sweden, France, the UK, Scotland, Netherlands, Wales, South Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, and Australia.

Marine Litter: The UNEP defines marine litter as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material that is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine environment” (*Microplastics 2*). Marine litter mainly consists of plastics, microplastics, glass, metals, and rubber. It generally arises from land-based activities including tourism, sewage, and illegal or poorly managed landfills. Additionally, sea-based sources account for 20% of marine litter. Marine litter puts marine life in jeopardy by polluting the seas, limiting the movements of marine creatures. Also, some marine creatures ingest plastics from the marine litter and these ingested plastics pass through the other animals and even humans through the food chain.

Biodegradable: In order for plastics to be completely biodegradable, they should be broken down into their constituent molecules: water, carbon dioxide, and often methane. However, it does not generally happen in



nature because for most common plastics, 70° C should be achieved for biodegradation. The ultraviolet radiation from sunlight enhances the rate at which plastic particles are broken down, but once the plastic particles are covered by sand, water, or biofilms, this rate decreases. Thus, most plastics are considered non-biodegradable in nature.

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
1862	The first man-made plastic is demonstrated by Alexander Parkes.
The 1940s	Plastic usage starts to increase with World War II
June 1972	The UNEP is formed as a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment
22 March 1989	The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is adopted.
The 1990s	Widespread use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics begins.
1997	Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the world's largest collection of floating garbage is discovered.
2002	Bangladesh becomes the first country to ban plastic bags.
17 May 2004	The Stockholm Convention, which aims to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants, is adopted.
23 June 2014	The first session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
2014	The Netherlands becomes the first country to ban the usage of microbeads in personal care products.
December 18, 2015	The Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 prohibits the manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of PCCPs that contain microbeads in the US.
February 22-26, 2021	The fifth and last session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly with the theme of "Strengthening



	Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”
July 26, 2021	G20 Summit and Report on G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 15 March 2019](#)
(UNEP/EA.4/Res.6): This resolution tackles the issue of marine plastic litter and microplastics by calling the Member States to action. The resolution was adopted by the UN Environment Assembly on 15 March 2019 with the votes of 193 Member States. Even though the resolution provides feasible clauses towards the solution of the issue, it does not include any binding enforcement. Therefore, the implementation of the clauses mentioned in the resolution depends on the Member States.
- [Resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session on 27 June 2014](#) (Resolution Number: 1/6): This resolution was adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2014 with the votes of 193 Member States. Therefore, it concerns all Member States. The resolution 1/6, which mostly focuses on marine plastic debris and microplastics, is majorly formed by preambulatory clauses. Hence, the resolution acknowledges the problem and the solution attempts rather than providing new solutions. Because the clauses that include solution proposals are not specific, the operative clauses also lack bringing sufficient solutions to the issue. Therefore, this resolution could not contribute to the solution of the issue.
- [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Goal 14](#), (Especially, Goal 14.1) : This Sustainable Development Goal aims to reduce marine pollution by 2025. Goal 14.1 specifically focuses on marine debris and they are generally formed from plastic waste. Hence, the purpose of this goal is to prevent and reduce plastic pollution by 2025.
- [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposals](#): The Basel Convention aims to stop the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. With the Basel Convention, the import of plastic waste drastically reduced; however, it is not completely prevented. Also, in 2019, the Basel Convention was amended to include plastic waste in



a legally binding framework in order to make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated. Currently, 187 Member States ratified the convention.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

For the solution of microplastic pollution, many Member States attempted to take some precautions by themselves. There are several plastic waste types that the Member States specifically focused on reducing. The first is the use of plastic bags. The efforts to reduce them started in the 2000s and Bangladesh became the first country to ban the use of plastic bags in 2002. More than half of 192 Member States have adopted some legislation to regulate the use of plastic bags by 2018 (“Legal Limits”). The most common attempt to decrease plastic bag waste is banning free retail distribution. Manufacturing and import bans on plastic bags follow this regulation in terms of extensiveness. These attempts reduce the use of plastic bags; however, does not completely eliminate the problem. Additionally, since there is no internationally binding legislation, there are still a considerable number of Member States that do not adopt legislation to prevent the use of plastic bags.

Secondly, some Member States try to decrease the amount of single-use plastics by placing some bans. Only twenty-seven countries, including China, Pakistan, France, Italy, Uruguay, Canada and Saudi Arabia, took measures to reduce single-use plastic use. However, none of these Member States totally bans single-use plastics. Hence, single-use plastic waste cannot be eliminated due to exceptions on some products (“Legal Limits”).

Lastly, the Netherlands and many other Member States prohibited the production of personal care products that include microplastics. Member States, including Canada, France, Italy, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the USA, have established legally binding legislation to ban the use of microbeads. Besides the Member States’ attempts on a national level, some companies and NGOs are trying to reduce the use of microplastics on a voluntary basis.

Even though these attempts have decreased the plastic waste of these Member States to some extent, they are insufficient to provide a global solution to the issue. Not all Member States have taken action to decrease the production and consumption of plastic because there was no internationally binding treaty. Therefore, the individual efforts of Member States could not bring a solution to the global microplastic problem.

VIII. Possible Solutions



Firstly, it is crucial to consider all sources of microplastics while writing a resolution to solve the issue. Personal care products are one of the major sources of microplastics; therefore, it is significant to prevent the use of microbeads inside of such products. The production and sale of personal care products that include microplastics should be banned all over the world. Also, these products should be inspected to ensure that microplastics are not used in the production.

Moreover, decreasing secondary microplastics use is also fundamental for the solution of this issue. For instance, banning the use of plastic bags all over the world would be a major step. Implementing fees on plastic products can be a disincentive for citizens to purchase these products. Besides, giving incentives to the companies that minimize their plastic waste would be an effective way to decrease plastic production and consumption. Public awareness is also one of the keys to the solution of plastic pollution. The delegates should aim to raise awareness about the negative effects of microplastics and plastics, in general, to deter the citizens from using plastic products.

Single-use plastics play notable roles in plastic pollution; therefore, the production of single-use plastics must be decreased. Using alternative eco-friendly materials instead of plastics can be a way to decrease the production of single-use plastics. Also, recycling plastic materials is vital in the solution of plastic pollution. It should be ensured that all Member States possess a proper recycling system to manage their plastic waste. The delegates should consider that all Member States have different infrastructure potentials and it is essential to support all Member States that are willing to have a better and proper recycling system.

Furthermore, the delegates should consider setting standards about plastic production and consumption since there are no certain regulations. It is crucial that all Member States are reaching a consensus on these standards and all Member States are following these standards.

Lastly, already existing plastic pollution is a major issue. Hence, the Member States can collaborate with some NGOs to clean already existing waste in the environment. Additionally, all Member States must cooperate towards the solution of (micro)plastic pollution.

IX. Useful Links

[National Ocean Service on "Microplastics"](#): This is National Ocean Service's website on microplastics and it briefly explains microplastics and The NOAA Marine Debris Program on microplastics. It also includes an insightful video about microplastics.



[Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide](#)

[Policy Change](#): This is a report from the UNEP on microplastics. It serves as a guide to policy change towards the solution of the issue for the Member States. Therefore, the delegates may benefit from this report for further possible solution ideas.

[Study on the Magnitude of Microplastic Pollution](#): This source is an examination of research conducted on microplastics and it proves the magnitude of the issue.

[Effects of Microplastic Pollution All Around the World](#): This is an article on the effects of microplastics. The delegates may refer to this source to further comprehend the effects of microplastics in different regions.

[The UNEP on Microplastics](#): This is a report of GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) which is on the “Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment.” The delegates may use this source for further research because this report is sponsored by the IMO, FAO, UNESCO-IOC, UNIDO, WMO, IAEA, UN, UNEP, UNDP.

[The UN News on Plastic Pollution](#): This link is for the UN News on plastic pollution and the delegates may use this platform to find news about their delegations or to understand the scale of the problem better.

[European Commission on Microplastic Pollution](#): This is a report on microplastic pollution which is prepared by the European Commission; therefore, it is a useful source to examine the European Commission’s policy on the issue.

[Microplastics and Related SDGs](#): This article mentions the SDGs that are coherent with the solution of microplastic pollution. Therefore, this source is helpful to see the UN’s efforts towards the solution of the issue.



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