Forum: Environment Commission
Question of: Measures to Address Marine Pollution and Plastic Waste in International Waters.
Main Submitter: Singapore
CO-Submitter: Russia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Kenya, Albania, New Zealand, Poland, Columbia, Chile

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Deeply alarmed by Marine to Address Marine Pollution and plastic waste in international waters,

Fully alarmed by citizens to buy products without unnecessary plastic,

Having considered installing drinking-water refill stations and promoting reusable water bottles,

Aware of encouraging the government to gather volunteers interested in this effort,

Recognize extended Producer Responsibility,

1. Urges Member States to establish domestic restrictions on the production and sale of single-use plastic goods:
    a. To phase out selected types of disposable plastic items:
        i. To disallow the manufacturing of thin single-use plastic cutlery,
        ii. To forbid the sale of single-use plastic straws and stirrers,
        iii. To donate unnecessary plastic materials to people who need them,
    b. To set quotas to cap total national single-use plastic output:
        i. To define yearly maximum amounts for domestic single-use plastic production,
        ii. To adjust production limits gradually to lower plastic volume over time,

iii. To keep a record of plastic used frequency in a chart to see what we can eliminate using other materials except fo r plastic;

2. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Program and interested stat es to provide voluntary technical and financial assistance:
    a. Encouraging states to exchange knowledge and successful method s,
        i. Providing support to improve local waste collection syste ms so that people could work efficiently,
        ii. Sharing examples of waste reduction programs that have wo rked well in other country's programs,
    b. Encouraging to create volunteer groups to clean up plastics in ocean,
        i. Government could afford for volunteers for benefits,
        ii. Providing support to improve local waste collection syste ms so that people could work efficiently, organize meetin gs and workshops to discuss solutions;

3. Ask all member states to support plastic recycling education in schoo ls through, but not limited to:
    a. School recycling activities:
        i. Encourage students to collect and recycle plastic bottle s, paper, and old clothes,
        ii. Organize school activities about recycling plastics, fabr ics, and waste paper,
        iii. Plastic sorting workshops:
        iv. Teach students to recognize different types of plastic, s uch as PET, HDPE, and PVC,
        v. Teach students how to read recycling labels on plastic pa ckaging,
    b. Plastic pollution poster campaigns:
        i. Ask students to design posters to show the importance of reducing plastic use and recycling properly,
        ii. Display these posters around schools to spread environmen tal knowledge,
    c. Plastic pollution awareness:

i. Invite environmental experts to explain how plastic waste pollutes the oceans, harms animals, and affects the environment,
ii. Organize presentations and discussions to help students understand the dangers of plastic pollution;

4. Calls for member states to establish and apply national plastic pollution reduction policies through international cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by:
   a. Establishing national policies to reduce plastic production through:
      i. Setting a target of reducing unnecessary single-use plastic container production by 10% annually, with adjustments based on each country's economic and industrial capabilities,
      ii. Requiring manufacturers to submit annual reports documenting their production levels and reduction progress,
      iii. Providing manufacturers with opportunities to correct violations and impose penalties for repeated protest under national laws,
   b. Strengthening government supervision and application of plastic production regulations through:
      i. Assigning qualified inspectors from national environmental authorities to conduct regular inspections, prioritizing factories with higher pollution risks,
      ii. Applying progressive penalties, including warnings, corrective orders, fines, and temporary suspension of operations in severe cases,
      iii. Providing developing countries with technical assistance and inspector training through UNEP,
   c. Supporting businesses in transitioning toward environmentally sustainable production methods through:
      i. Supporting the development and use of alternatives such as reusable containers, recycled materials, and paper-based packaging,
      ii. Sharing transition costs through government subsidies, financial assistance, and contributions from manufacturers,

d. Strengthening international financial and technical cooperation and monitoring
   implementation progress through:
   i. Utilizing voluntary contributions from developed countries, existing international environmental funds, and international development finance institutions to improve recycling facilities and waste management infrastructure in developing countries,
   ii. Promoting the exchange of environmentally friendly technologies, scientific research, and successful national policies among Member States through UNEP,
   iii. Encouraging Member States to submit annual reports on plastic production and waste reduction, while providing technical assistance and additional submission periods to countries facing difficulties,
   iv. Organizing annual regional conferences to share policy outcomes and identify countries requiring additional financial or technical assistance,
   v. Developing standardized reporting guidelines under UNEP to ensure consistent and transparent reporting among Member States,

5. Recommend member states to establish and improve comprehensive waste collection and treatment systems, and prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and oceans through, but not limited to, the following measures:a.
   a. Improving waste collection systems in cities near rivers and coastal areas;
      i. Prioritize rivers and cities that have the greatest amount of plastic waste into the ocean,
      ii. Determine the main sources of plastic,
   b. Developing and improving waste treatment and recycling facilities,
      i. Establish additional recycling facilities in areas lacking sufficient waste management services,
      ii. Improve the recycling system for the less developed area,
   c. Developing environmental standards for waste treatment facilities:

i. Require national authorities to regularly inspect waste treatment facilities to ensure compliance with environmental standards,
ii. Improve waste disposal methods when facilities fail to meet the required standards,

d. Promoting the understanding and implementation of waste classification and disposal among ordinary citizens:
   i. Organize educational projects in schools and local communities,
   ii. Provide clear information on how to separate different types of waste and use appropriate recycling bins,
e. Requesting international organizations and developed countries to provide assistance to developing countries:
   i. Provide financial and technical support to improve local waste collection and recycling infrastructure,
   ii. Share environmental waste treatment technologies and successful waste management practices;

6. Encourage Extended Producer Responsibility, which means producers will have to help pay for the collection and safe disposal of their packaging by:
   a. Making companies accountable for the waste they produce by:
      i. Encouraging states to make companies sign up to plastic waste collection and recycling programs, so they cannot just ignore the waste after they sell it,
      ii. Encouraging companies to donate to local recycling programs,
      iii. Making producer put large clear labelling on items indicating what type of plastic (PET, HDPE etc.) they are,
   b. Collaborating with companies to create recycling program:
      i. Organize recycling events in the local communities supported by companies which earn money from plastic,
      ii. Install plastic recycling bins within public areas such as parks, bus stops and shopping areas so no wastes will be on ground,

iii. Give incentives or discounts to consumers returning a certain amount of used plastic package, for example a coupon after returning ten bottles,
iv. Provide separate bins for each type of recyclable item to make the recycling easier,

c. Encouraging companies to use eco-friendly packaging:
i. Replace unnecessary plastic packaging, like extra wrapping, with recyclable or reusable packaging like packages that can be break down easily,
ii. Support companies developing sustainable packaging,
iii. Reduce overall amount of plastic in packaging and encourage companies to use biodegradable materials where appropriate,

d. Using financial policies to reduce plastic waste:
i. Encourage government to place additional taxes on companies using too much plastic packaging,
ii. Charge producer a fee to cover the costs of collecting and dealing with plastic waste, because the companies that make the plastic should pay for it,
iii. Offer tax breaks to companies investing in eco-friendly packaging technology.