COMMITTE: Environmental commission

QUESTION: The impacts of climate change on coral reefs and the marine environment

MAIN SUBMITTER: Luxembourg

CO-SUBMITTERS: Czech Republic, Vietnam, South Sudan, Cuba, Australia, Belize, Bangladesh, North Korea, Canada, Cape Verde, Spain, South Africa, Chad, Moldova,

The Environment Commission,

*Recalling* UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972), The first World Climate Conference (1979), The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (1988), The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFFFC) entering into force (1994), The Kyoto Protocol is formally adopted at COP3 (1997), World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), The IPCC’s Fourth Assessment report is released (2007), Rio+20 Earth Summit (2012), previous relevant United Nations resolution 69/220 (2014), UN Climate Change conference (COP21) (2015), Resolution 70/235, Resolution 70/472 (2015),

*Recalling* that the World Ocean Conference recognized the importance of improving the understanding of the impacts of climate change on the ocean and the need to consider ocean dimensions to inform adaptation and mitigation,

*Reaffirming* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

*Taking into account* the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development especially the principle in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution,

*Pointing out* that up to 30% of the worlds coral reefs have been destroyed by the bleaching,

*Aware* of the fact that Australia lifted their protection of certain areas of the Great Barrier Reef in 2014 enabling coal mining companies to seize control,

*Alarmed* by the massive amount of fish death in April 2016 when 17 tonnes of dead fish washed ashore, caused by the discharging of toxic industrial waste caused by the Formosa H Tinh Steel Corporation,

*Noting with deep concern* that between 60-100% of the corals in the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), the biggest coral reef in the world is severely bleached,

*Realizing* that the large amount of CO2 in the Earths atmosphere effects the marine environment the most,

*Understanding* that the Crown of Thorne Starfish has been greatly detrimental towards coral reefs and are extremely difficult to remove without damaging the coral reefs, but is successfully done with the use of COTSBOTS,

1. Encourages the introduction of increased amount of parrotfish population to stop algae competing with coral;
2. Approves the agreement in the COP21 (Paris Climate Conference), which aims to limit the rise of world temperatures to 1.5’C since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change and to undertake (productions thereafter in accordance with the best available science);
3. Asks nations to meet every 5 years to set targets determined by new scientific research results;
4. Recommends to make efforts into replenishing and supporting the world’s ecosystems by means such as but not limited to:
   1. Reducing the CO2 air content by planting trees near coastlines,
   2. Reducing the greenhouse emissions by living a more healthy lifestyle;
5. Calls for conservation efforts in building resilience in the reef ecosystems;
6. Supports the unification of organisations whom protect coral reefs through means such as but not limited to:
   1. involving local research by supporting local scientists,
   2. global partnerships in which research should be used to create:
      1. practical solutions,
      2. impacted communities;
7. Urges the increase of productions of eco-friendly COTSBOT, which will be funded by the UN;
8. Regrets damages to the sea floor through:
   1. toxic layers through aquafarming,
   2. bottom trawling;
9. Wishes to be actively sized in the matter.