**FORUM:** Environment Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing Measures to Combat Plastic Pollution

**SUBMITTED BY:** Spain

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Reaffirming* general assembly resolution 70/1 which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Noting* with deep concern that nearly ninety percent of all pollution is plastic based,

*Deeply concerned* that the health of humans and animals is in jeopardy,

*Fully aware* that since the 1950's one billion tons of plastic have been discarded into the oceans; this plastic will persist up to hundreds, and even thousands of years before it disintegrates,

*Noting with deep concern* that the amount of plastic waste is growing exponentially and has become a major problem worldwide,

*Transmits* that by 2050 there will be as much plastic as fish in the ocean, and that 99% of seabirds will have ingested some form of plastic,

*Alarmed* that only 30% of the waste thrown away in bins is recycled,

*Taking into account* the financial effects of plastic waste on the tourism industry, namely losses of hundreds of millions of dollars every year,

*Bearing in mind* plastic is specifically designed to defeat the natural decaying process of materials, therefore being non-biodegradable, assurably residing in our environment for hundreds of years,

*Recalling* the #CleanSeas campaign launched by UN Environment at the Economist World Ocean Summit in Bali in February 2017, which aims to eliminate major sources of marine litter by 2022,

1. Invites contributions by member states, to assist The Ocean Cleanup, an organization working on filtering almost all plastic debris from the oceans, these contributions can consist of, but are not limited to:
   1. financial support
   2. scientists or staff to further the development of projects
   3. staff to preserve and/or monitor the current projects;
2. Encouraging member states to require stores and factories to be more aware about their plastic usage and reduce this, through measures such as but not limited to:
   1. selling paper or reusable bags instead of plastic bags
   2. decreasing single use plastics, instead using more sustainable alternatives such as:
      1. food packaging made from bioplastics, such as polylactic acid and starch-based polymers
      2. glass containers
      3. paper or cardboard packaging
      4. bamboo
      5. jute or canvas
      6. more durable plastics such as plexiglass
   3. increasing the price on products that excessively use plastic packaging;
3. Calls upon the increase of the amount and efficiency of plastic waste collection and management systems in countries where they are insufficient, through making funds available;
4. Recommends the placement of separated waste bins for plastic, paper and residual waste in all major public spaces, including:
   1. airports
   2. train stations
   3. shopping centres
   4. parking lots;
5. Further recommends that all people are informed of the damaging effects of plastic pollution on our planet, through:
   1. guest speakers in education and workspaces
   2. videos online
   3. flyers
   4. school organized projects raising awareness
   5. food packages labeled with information on:
      1. if and which types of plastics are included in the material
      2. the effects of plastic on the global ecosystem and economy
      3. how best to recycle aforementioned package
   6. environmental awareness weeks with all kinds of activities to inform people about the effects of their behaviour on the environment;
6. Further invites countries to support tighter control on oil extraction and transportation used for the production of plastic;
7. Affirms the research and production of special filters able to filter the sewage of any plastic and other harmful products before releasing into the ocean;
8. Requests governments to discourage the usage of plastic in ways such as but not limited to,
   1. increasing taxes on disposable plastic
   2. increasing taxes on products packaged in plastic
   3. oblige companies to charge customers for plastic bags;
9. Calls for an international agreement on the matter of plastic pollution, the United Nations Treaty on the Reduction of Plastic Pollution, or UNTRPP, signed by all member states, aiming to cut plastic pollution in half by the year 2025;
10. Proposes the UN will provide funds to all member states, taking into account the amount of pollution in each state, to support initiatives to clean the ocean, forest, or other affected ecosystems, and rid them of plastic pollution, and will monitor the usage of this money through an independent bureau;
11. Asks all 20 countries in the list of top 20 countries by mass of mismanaged plastic waste, as shown on the website of Earth Day Network, to closely monitor their plastic waste emissions, in order to conform to the standards set by the UNTRPP;
12. Strongly encourages plastic producing companies to make sure at least 70% of their production consists of either recycled or biodegradable plastics, or plastics that can be recycled in the future;
13. Suggests to remain actively seized on this matter.