



THE DOMINION OF CANADA



COMMITTEE: United Nations Environment Assembly

TOPIC: Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastic

COUNTRY: Dominion of Canada

SCHOOL: Amara Jyothi Public School

According to UN, maritime pollution refers to “**direct or indirect introduction by humans of substances (especially plastic) or energy into the marine environment resulting in harm to living resources inside water as well as on the land and giving rise to health issues in human beings also causing hindrances to marine activities like fishing, impairment of the quality of sea water and reduction of amenities**”. This is a major issue in all the marine bodies involving reduced number of marine beings living. Maritime pollution poses a risk to more than **3 billion people’s livelihoods majorly affecting 22 countries** near Mediterranean Sea like Monaco, Syria, Spain, France, Greece, Egypt. Maritime pollution is **a threat to human health as the aquatic beings** containing toxins are consumed by us. Thus, it severely affects food chains and life processes.

In the year 1982, a record of 135 countries were in favour to the ‘[document A/74/L.22](#)’ adopted by the UNGA in terms of the resolution “[Oceans and agenda the law of the sea](#)”. The United Nations added blue growth as an important action on the for 2030 with a five-year plan from 2018 to 2023, as a part of their Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Major NGO’s (Non-Governmental Organizations) like Reef Watch, Ocean Conservancy, Oceana, Take 3 and 12 other major NGOs work towards conserving and reducing maritime pollution worldwide. Greenpeace Canada is an NGO in Canada which works towards relieving pressure on ocean ecosystems and establishing a network of no-take marine reserves.

Canada believes that the health of our oceans is vital in reducing climate change, growing economies, supporting coastal communities, and protecting oceans biodiversity and ecosystems. As the country with the longest coastline in the world, Canada **lead the way in the Oceans Plastic Charter under its G7 presidency in 2018**. Canada is taking ambitious domestic action which includes **achieving zero plastic waste by 2030**. The Government of Canada **actively monitors ships in Canadian waters to help prevent pollution** in our oceans and coasts. Canada aims to recover 100 percent of plastic by 2040. Canada enthusiastically participates in all the UNEP programs. Canada **leads push to safeguard** all the world oceans. Canada has taken the initiative to reduce macro-, micro-, and nano- plastic pollution through [Canada’s plastic science agenda \(caPSA\)](#) internationally.

The Dominion of Canada proposes that the United Nations **enforce and audit maritime pollution which will be funded by member states**. Canada proposes member states to take **full accountability for ensuring plastic free maritime eco-system** in their territorial waters and further urges member states to use **renewable energy** for their maritime transportation in their territorial waters as well as the international waters. Also, ensure **funding and support** to UN and NGOs **for audit and remediation** of maritime pollution levels. These ideas will

work as **Canada has ensured implementation of these ideas in its maritime neighborhood** and has observed **positive results**. Hence, by scaling these ideas with UN and its member states' support, there is far better chance of **producing cleaner maritime ecosystem**. **Canada** would be honoured to **play an advisory role** along with UN for the **implementation** and **governance** of these **plans**.