

Position paper : MUN 2022

Country : CANADA

Agenda : Drastically reducing maritime Pollution ,including plastics



The world is facing a plastic crisis. Plastic pollution has become a global concern as our planet is drowning in plastic litter and micro plastics , while plastic has many valuable uses societies have become highly dependent on single - use or disposable plastic with severe environmental consequences. Of the approximately 275 million metric tons of plastic waste produced annually, up to 12 million tons leak into Oceans wreaking havoc on livelihoods and ecosystem. The result is an estimated \$ 13 billion in annual environmental damage to Marine ecosystems Single-use plastic litter is found on shorelines across Canada. Macroplastics have been shown to cause physical harm to individual animals and to have the potential to negatively affect the habitat of animals.

Canada is proud to be in the first position in the list of the top 10 countries reducing plastic waste. The Government of Canada is at the forefront of critical international efforts to protect the Marine environment. As the country with the longest coastline in the world Canada spearheaded the Ocean Plastics Charter under its G7 presidency in 2018. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the federal, provincial and territorial governments approved in principle a Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste. Building on the Ocean Plastics Charter, the strategy takes a circular economy approach to plastics and provides a framework for action in Canada. Canada is among the 8% of the countries in the world to ban toiletries containing plastic microbeads through sustainable procurement and reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastics at its events, meetings and in its operations.

Canada and international agreements to reduce plastic pollution

1. **The Basel Convention** on Controlling Transboundry Movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal .
2. **The Convention for the prevention of Pollution fom Ships (MAPOL)**
3. **The London Convention** on the prevention of Marinr pollution by dumping wastes and other matter.
4. Canada also participates in **The Ghost gear initiative** ,which focusses on solving the problem of lost and abandoned fishing gear worldwide.
5. Together with the United States and Mexico ,Canada is working collaboratively through **The Commission for Environment Cooperation** to bring together communities and decision makers to build local solutions and raise awareness of marine litter in North America.

The Government of Canada is working with all levels of government, industry, non-government organizations, academia and Canadians to take action on plastic waste and pollution.