



Resolution submitted by the Republic of Namibia

Concerning the marine pollution crisis resulting from the dispersion of plastic in the ocean.

The General Assembly,

Considering the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by the Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,¹ which reflects the global trend towards precaution and prevention of dispersal at sea of a variety of land-generated waste,

Deploring that human activity annually dumps 4.8 to 12.7 million metric tonnes² of plastic in oceans each year, affecting marine ecosystems, the cleanliness of our global coastlines, and the overall safety of our food sources,

Expressing deep concern over the new plastic ‘continent’, floating in the middle of the North Pacific Ocean and consisting of at least 79 thousand tonnes of plastic³, which constitute an impediment to globally achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Determined to protect the ocean from the dispersion of plastic by taking precautionary and exclusionary measures to control the use of plastic, with the ultimate objective of the elimination of plastic materials from all production value chain, and, as such, eliminating the destruction of marine ecosystems and the risk of contaminating one of the world’s most important food supplies,

Decides to take the following actions:

1. *Based on* paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,⁴ Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources, as well as all aquatic resources, and *calls* for the convening of the first ever global conference of all Members of the United Nations on the issue of plastic pollution;
 - (a) To formulate an international convention to address the dispersion of microplastic and plastic from land-based sources of pollution by gradually phasing out the production of disposable plastic material in the world until the complete ban of plastic production by the year 2040, with the appropriate institution of non-compliance tax imposed on faulting Member States, calculated on the basis of infringement criteria to be defined;
 - (b) To draw on the scientific support and technological innovation to ensure the gradual replacement of petrochemical plastic with bioplastic material derived from renewable and biodegradable biomass sources from 1% of the 320 million tonnes comprising today’s global plastic market⁵ to 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040;
 - (c) To undertake broad-based consultations with non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the private sector, to identify and create the necessary surveillance mechanisms and incentive measures that will effectively contribute to ceasing all petrochemical plastic production with the consequent increase of bioplastic production, with a view to halting ocean plastic pollution.
 - (d) To allocate the proceedings of all tax collected under (a) to an action research fund for the development and use of innovative technologies for the cleaning of all accumulated plastic pollution - oceans, rivers, lakes, reservoirs.

(The English text is binding.)

¹ “1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of wastes and other matters, 1972.” London Convention and Protocol. Accessed October 2018. <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/LCLP/Documents/PROTOCOLAmended2006.pdf>

² Jenna R. Jambeck et al. (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean. Science 13 February 2015: Vol. 347, Issue 6223, pp. 768-771. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768>

³ L. Lebreton et al. (2018). Evidence that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is rapidly accumulating plastic. Scientific Reports 8, Article number: 4666 (2018).

⁴ “United Nations Charter.” United Nations. Accessed October 16, 2018. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>.

⁵ European Bioplastics, Bioplastics market data, <https://www.european-bioplastics.org/market>