



Country: Germany

Committee: UNEP

Topic: Global Solutions to Reduce Plastic Pollution in Oceans

School: Istek Denizli Schools

POSITION PAPER

Marine plastic pollution has become one of the most critical environmental challenges of our time. Each year, millions of tons of plastic waste enter our oceans, endangering marine life, ecosystems, and even human health. These plastics not only disrupt the food chain but also accumulate as microplastics, which are nearly impossible to clean. If the current trends continue, studies suggest that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans.

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Germany has been at the forefront of environmental protection policies within the European Union. The German government actively supports initiatives to reduce plastic waste through:

1. Waste Management and Recycling Programs

Germany has one of the highest recycling rates in the world (over 65%). Through its "Green Dot" system, plastic is collected, sorted, and recycled efficiently.

2. Policy Initiatives:

Germany is committed to the EU's Single-Use Plastics Directive, which bans single-use plastic products like straws and cutlery. This reduces plastic that directly pollutes marine environments.

3. Public Awareness and Research:

Germany invests in raising awareness among its citizens and supporting scientific research to develop biodegradable plastics and alternatives.

4. International Cooperation:

Germany participates in global agreements like the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to conserve and sustainably use marine resources.

Germany believes that reducing marine plastic pollution requires collective international action. The following steps are critical:

1. Strengthening International Regulations:

Support global agreements to phase out unnecessary single-use plastic, improve waste management infrastructure in developing countries, and set clear plastic reduction targets.

2. Technological Innovations:

Promote research and investment in sustainable materials, such as biodegradable plastic and eco-friendly packaging alternatives.

3. Enhancing Recycling Systems Globally:

Developed countries like Germany can share advanced recycling technologies and strategies with countries lacking proper waste management systems.

4. Raising Global Awareness:

Educate people worldwide on reducing plastic consumption and adopting environmentally friendly lifestyles through media campaigns and educational programs.



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5. Cleanup Programs:

Encourage global cleanup initiatives to remove plastics from oceans, rivers, and coastlines. Germany supports international collaborations like The Ocean Cleanup project.

Germany remains committed to addressing marine plastic pollution through innovation, cooperation, and strong environmental policies. By working together globally, we can create a sustainable future where our oceans remain healthy for generations to come.

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