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**WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON THE POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR
ELEMENTS TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING
INSTRUMENTS.**

NGO NAME: Major Alliance Education Centre(MAEC)-Tanzania

Introduction

Plastic pollution can alter habitats and natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities and social well-being. The majority of plastic pollution in the ocean is caused by **littering**: we buy or use disposable plastic items (food wrappings, plastic bags, razors, bottles, etc.) and do not dispose of them properly, which cause them to end up in the waterways and eventually in the ocean

Solution to plastic pollution:

While soaking up the relaxing cadence of crashing waves on the beach, no one wants to think about how the ocean has basically become garbage soup. But here's the buzz-killing reality: There are millions of tons of debris floating around in that water and most of it is plastic. This is constant barrage of billion of milk jugs each year are found in water. Various research findings show that there is a serious danger to marine life. Animals can get tangled up in this trash or ingest it either because they mistake it as prey or because the plastic has been broken down into tiny particles by seawater.

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Plastic, of course, is uniquely problematic because it's non biodegradable and therefore sticks around for a lot longer (like up to 1,000 years longer) than other forms of trash. And we're not just talking about people dumping their garbage overboard. Around 80 percent of marine litter actually originates on land either swept in from the coastline or carried to rivers from the streets during heavy rain via storm drains and sewer overflows.

So the best thing we can do to protect our waterways or marine environment is to try to keep as much plastic as possible out of the waste stream in the first place. In order to avoid this problem efforts are to be taken into consideration. There are many small ways we can have and having the big impact and so reduce this problem. The following are some of solution we can carry out so that to fight against the increase of plastic pollution;

1. Wean yourself off disposable plastics.

Ninety percent of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then chucked: grocery bags, plastic wrap, disposable cutlery, straws, coffee-cup lids. Take note of how often you rely on these products and replace them with reusable versions. It only takes a few times of bringing your own bags to the store, silverware to the office, or travel mug to Starbucks before it becomes habit.

2. Stop buying water.

Each year, close to 20 billion plastic bottles are tossed in the trash. Carry a reusable bottle in your bag, and you'll reduce this problem. If you're nervous about the quality of your local tap water, look for a model with a built-in filter.

3. Boycott microbeads.

Those little plastic scrubbers found in so many beauty products—facial scrubs, toothpaste, body washes—might look harmless, but their tiny size allows them to slip through water-treatment plants. Unfortunately, they also look just like food to some marine animals. Opt for products with natural exfoliants, like oatmeal or salt, instead.

4. Education on plastic pollution and its effects

Provision of education on the issues related to plastic pollution and help make others aware of the problem. Tell your friends and family about how they can be part of the solution, or host a viewing party for one of the many plastic pollution focused documentaries

5. Participate In (or Organize) a Beach or River Cleanup

Help remove plastics from the ocean and prevent them from getting there in the first place by participating in, or organizing a cleanup of your local beach or waterway. This is one of the most direct and rewarding ways to fight ocean plastic pollution. You can simply go to the beach or waterway and collect plastic waste on your own or with friends or family, or you can join a local organization's cleanup or an international events

6. Recycle Properly

This should go without saying, but when you use single-use (and other) plastics that can be recycled, always be sure to recycle them. At present,. recycling helps keep plastics out of the ocean and reduces the amount of “new” plastic in circulation It seems obvious, but we're not doing a great job of it. For example, less than 14 percent of plastic packaging is recycled This is according to the researches which are conducted world wide.

7. Support Legislation to Curb Plastic Production and Waste

As important as it is to change our individual behaviors, such changes alone are insufficient to stop ocean plastic pollution. We also need legislation that reduces plastic production, improves waste management, and makes plastic producers responsible for the waste they generate. There are a variety of ways that you can support local, national, and international legislation that provide critical solutions to reduce plastic pollution.

8. Buy in bulk.

Single-serving yogurts, travel-size toiletries, tiny packages of nuts consider the product-to-packaging ratio of items you tend to buy often and select the bigger container instead of buying several smaller ones over time.

9. Bring your own garment bag to the dry cleaner.

Invest in a zippered fabric bag and request that your cleaned items be returned in it instead of sheathed in plastic. (And while you're at it, make sure you're frequenting a dry cleaner that skips the perc, a toxic chemical found in some cleaning solvents.)

10. Support Organizations Addressing Plastic Pollution

There are many non-profit organizations working to reduce and eliminate ocean plastic pollution in a variety of different ways, including These organizations rely on donations from people like you to continue their important work. Even small donations can make a big difference!

.Problems or effects from Plastic Pollution

The ocean plays a fundamental role in stabilizing our climate, providing the air that we breathe and feeding billions of people worldwide who depend on its bounty for survival. This series showcases the crucial importance of marine ecosystems and our vital work to safeguard our blue planet. Yet the ocean is the most vulnerable environment to plastic waste. Once plastic enters the sea, it has no boundaries – waves and storms can carry plastics to even the furthest reaches of the ocean, where they accumulate into large gyres on the high seas or become embedded in shorelines and delicate coastal ecosystems; they've even been found on uninhabited islands. After some months or years at sea, plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, battered by waves and storms, eventually to sizes smaller than a grain of sand. This makes retrieving plastics from the ocean extremely difficult – almost impossible. The following are some of the effects on the plastic pollution:-

- 1) The most visible impacts of plastic debris are the ingestion, suffocation and entanglement of hundreds of marine species. Marine wildlife such as seabirds, whales, fish and turtles mistake plastic waste for prey; most then die of starvation as their stomachs become filled with plastic.**
- 2) Toxic effects. Chlorinated plastic can release harmful chemicals into the surrounding soil, which can then seep into groundwater or other surrounding water sources, and also the ecosystem.**

This can cause a range of potentially harmful effects on the species that drink the water

- 3) **Effects of Land Pollution. Water that isn't safe to drink.**
Polluted soil, which leads to a loss of fertile land for agriculture.
Climate change, which causes an onslaught of disastrous problems, including flash floods and irregular rainfalls.
- 4) **Other negative effects of plastic pollution on the environment include the following:-**
 - **Kills Ocean Life.** By now you've probably heard about the mass amounts of plastic polluting oceans and other waterways. ...
 - **Kills Terrestrial Wildlife.** Plastic also harms the environment by killing land animals. ...
 - **Takes Up Space.**
 - **Produces Chemical Pollution**
 - **Creates Micro plastics.**

Our suggestions on environmental conservation against plastic pollution are as follows:-

- 1) **To enact the international laws that are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the marine environment.**
- 2) **All states to take all measures “that are necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source, using for this purpose the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities**
- 3) **As plastic waste accumulates in the ocean at alarming rates, the need for efficient and sustainable remediation solutions is urgent. One solution is the development and mobilization of technologies that either a) prevent plastics from entering waterways or b) collect marine and riverine plastic pollution.**
- 4) **Through fund donation provision to local organizations, to enable these organization to provide education against plastic pollution to the society from the grass root level. These organizations can help to recycle, single use plastics, beach team clean up and so on.**
- 5) **To date and amend, existing soft law on environmental protection so that to enforce the efforts**

addressing plastic marine debris and it has had a discernible influence in some areas.

- 6) To create a new legally binding global instrument which will enforce and pay attention to the marine environment and this will be required agreement from its partners with varying capacity, resources and waste management infrastructure capability

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