



**GlobalMUNers Conference  
in New York City  
#GMNYC2026**

# **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

## **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**



## Table of Contents

<b>Welcome Letter</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Committee Overview</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Topic A: End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument</b>	<b>6</b>
Introduction	6
Historical Background	6
Current State of Plastic Pollution	6
Circular Economy as a Policy Framework	7
The Global Waste Trade and Environmental Justice	8
Political Divisions in the Negotiations	8
Guiding Questions	10
<b>Topic B: Strengthening Ocean Efforts to Tackle Climate Change, Marine Biodiversity Loss and Pollution</b>	<b>11</b>
Historical and Structural Background	11
Legal Framework	12
Current Challenges	13
Guiding questions	14
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>15</b>

## Welcome Letter

*Dear members of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA),*

On behalf of the Secretary-General of GMNYC2026 and all the staff, the President and Vice-President of this committee, extend a warm welcome to the IV GlobalMUNers Conference in New York City. Your participation in UNEA reflects a profound commitment to multilateral dialogue and environmental governance. As representatives of the next generation, you embody the determination and vision necessary to shape the future and advance a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable world for all.

Nowadays, the world seems out of sync. Notwithstanding ongoing conflict, division, and extreme temperatures that are heavily testing the international system, UNEA continues to exert great influence over multilateralism to comprehensively address global affairs, especially climate change. It is therefore expected that your role, as delegates representing various countries, is not only based on well-founded arguments but also demonstrates innovation, audacity, and critical thinking.

The debate requires a vast set of skills such as diplomacy, analytical skills, innovative ideas, persuasiveness, and above all, willingness to reach viable resolutions. We, as your staff, encourage you to put forth these abilities throughout the debate, ensuring that your high standards and your maturity during the discussion will enhance the outcome of the committee.

The repercussions of climate change require all countries to intensify their efforts to protect the planet by addressing population growth, overconsumption of natural resources, and pollution. Environmental sustainability must be seen as a strategic part of development, under the principle of leaving no one behind. That is why, beyond staying informed and up to date on the latest developments regarding these issues, it is imperative to engage in creative discussions and debate solutions that have never been explored. You must adopt a consistent position in line with each delegation's foreign policy and focus on constructive solutions rather than counterproductive dynamics, which will ultimately prove worthwhile.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn, challenge yourself, and dream of a better and more sustainable future. When GMNYC2026 concludes, use the skills developed to become active members in your communities and make a meaningful change in the world.

Welcome to GMNYC 2026!

*Yours sincerely,*



Mateo Velasco Alva  
**Presidency**



Inès Belkhodja  
**Vice-Presidency / Rapporteur**

## Committee Overview

The establishment of the United Nations marked a historic milestone in multilateral cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution. As the international community approaches the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the responsibility of UN institutions has intensified, particularly in fostering youth engagement and accelerating collective solutions to global challenges (United Nations, n.d.). Within this framework, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) plays a central role in shaping the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Established in 2012 following the Rio+20 Conference, UNEA serves as the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is the highest-level global decision-making body on environmental matters within the UN system and provides political leadership, sets the global environmental agenda, and promotes coordinated implementation of environmental policies across its 193 Member States (UNEP, n.d.).

UNEA functions as the principal global platform for environmental governance. Its resolutions guide international action on pressing issues such as plastic pollution, circular economy transitions, ocean protection, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation (UNEP, 2023). Although UNEA resolutions are not legally binding, they carry significant political weight and frequently lay the groundwork for future international agreements. For example, UNEA has catalyzed negotiations towards a legally binding global instrument to address plastic pollution, demonstrating its capacity to shape emerging international environmental law (UNEP, 2023).

The authority of UNEA includes adopting non-binding resolutions and ministerial declarations, establishing expert panels, mandating global environmental assessments, and encouraging partnerships and capacity-building initiatives (UNEP, n.d.). However, UNEA does not possess enforcement mechanisms and cannot impose sanctions, and the implementation of its recommendations ultimately depends on the political will and cooperation of Member States.

Recent sessions have underscored the urgency of accelerating environmental action. Following UNEA-7, held under the theme “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet,” Member States reaffirmed the need to intensify efforts towards sustainability, resilience, and inclusive green transitions (UNEP, 2025). These commitments align closely with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land) (United Nations, n.d.).

Parallel to UNEA’s work, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) continues to guide international efforts through an ambitious action plan aimed at protecting 30% of the world’s terrestrial and marine areas by 2030 (UNEP, 2022). This framework reinforces UNEA’s broader mission of reversing biodiversity loss while ensuring equitable and sustainable development.

Contemporary discussions within UNEA increasingly address emerging and cross-cutting challenges, including the environmental implications of artificial intelligence technologies, the protection of coral reef ecosystems, improved prevention and response mechanisms for wildfires, and the expansion of green employment opportunities through meaningful engagement with the

private sector (UNEP, 2023). Furthermore, negotiations surrounding an ambitious global plastics treaty remain a priority, particularly considering that approximately 11 million tons of plastic enter marine ecosystems each year, exacerbating environmental degradation and threatening livelihoods (UNEP, 2021).

The committee serves as a political forum for agenda-setting, policy coordination, and multilateral consensus-building. Ultimately, UNEA represents the cornerstone of environmental multilateralism within the United Nations system. Its work reflects the shared responsibility of the international community to safeguard the planet while advancing prosperity, equity, and resilience for present and future generations.

## **Topic A: End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument**

### ***Introduction***

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental crises of the 21st century (UNEP, 2021). Global production and consumption patterns have led to unprecedented levels of plastic waste, much of which accumulates in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

In March 2022, during its fifth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted Resolution 5/14, mandating the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (UNEP, 2022). This resolution marked a historic milestone in international environmental governance, as it formally launched negotiations towards the first global treaty addressing the full life cycle of plastics, from production and design to disposal and remediation.

The resolution established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) tasked with drafting the treaty, with the initial objective of concluding negotiations by 2024 (UNEP, 2022). However, despite multiple negotiation rounds held in Uruguay, France, Kenya, Canada, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland, consensus has not yet been achieved.

### ***Historical Background***

The current crisis has its structural foundations in the rapid growth of plastic production during the mid-20th century. Global plastic production has grown from 2 million tons in 1950 to over 400 million tons annually in recent years (UNEP, 2021). By the 1970s, scientists were already documenting plastic debris in the oceans, and by the 1990s large-scale marine accumulation zones, often referred to as “garbage patches,” had drawn international attention. Over time, research confirmed that plastics fragment into microplastics and nanoplastics, posing risks to marine biodiversity, food security, and potentially human health.

### ***Current State of Plastic Pollution***

Global plastic production exceeds 430 million metric tons annually, with a significant portion becoming waste after short-term use (UNEP, 2021). Approximately 11 million metric tons of plastic enter marine ecosystems each year, severely affecting biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal economies (UNEP, 2011).

Recycling efforts alone remain insufficient. Structural barriers include the low cost of virgin fossil fuel feedstocks, fragmented waste management systems, and uneven regulatory enforcement (UNEP, 2021). Without systemic reform, plastic leakage into the environment is projected to increase.

UNEP (2021) further highlights that 75% of all plastics ever produced have become waste. Even under optimistic scenarios involving improved waste management and recycling, substantial quantities of plastic are expected to continue accumulating in ecosystems over the coming decades. Recycling alone is insufficient. Structural barriers include:

- The low cost of virgin fossil fuel feedstocks compared to recycled materials

- Fragmented waste management systems
- Weak regulatory enforcement
- Informal waste sectors lacking institutional support

Without systemic reforms addressing production, consumption, and waste governance simultaneously, plastic leakage into the environment is projected to increase (UNEP, 2021).

### ***Circular Economy as a Policy Framework***

The concept of a circular economy has emerged as a central solution within treaty negotiations. According to the European Parliament (2023), a circular economy extends product life cycles through reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling, thereby minimizing waste generation.

In the context of plastic pollution, circularity implies redesigning materials, reducing single-use plastics, and promoting sustainable consumption patterns. The European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan illustrates a regional effort to implement such systemic transformation (European Commission, 2020). UNEP further notes that circularity must be accompanied by production controls and demand reduction strategies to be effective (UNEP, 2021).

Regarding solutions such as recycling and promoting a circular economy, 11 Latin American countries have launched government-led efforts to promote a circular economy for plastics: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.

The nine remaining countries (Bolivia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Venezuela) have not officially launched government initiatives; they have, however, adopted policies closely aligned with this approach.

Additionally, there are initiatives implemented regionally by non-state organizations such as the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Circular Plastics Program of the Americas, and the Plastics Pact Network.

In Europe, the EU has set the goal of reaching a circular economy by 2050 and has adopted a Circular Economy Action Plan that includes moving towards sustainable products, especially in the seven key areas essential to achieving a circular economy according to the European Commission: plastics, textiles, e-waste, food, water and nutrients, packaging, batteries and vehicles, and buildings and construction.

When it comes to Asian countries, China is the fourth-largest emitter of plastic waste in the world, though its marine plastic emissions have been reduced thanks to Central Environmental Inspection (CEI) initiatives.

On the other hand, Indonesia releases an estimated 600,000 tonnes of plastic into the ocean each year, placing the country among the world's top 20 marine plastic polluters. The government has therefore been urged to take action to prevent further harm to the country's rich natural heritage and ecosystems, and has sought various policies and interventions in response

via its National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), which targets a 70% reduction in marine plastic leakage by 2025, in alignment with national waste and marine debris management strategies.

### ***The Global Waste Trade and Environmental Justice***

According to Mohn (2025), the global waste trade is defined as “the system of trade that sends waste, often solid waste in the form of plastic, from its country of origin to another country for disposal.” The practice often involves wealthier nations exporting waste to lower-income countries where disposal costs are cheaper. Although some of this waste is recycled, a significant portion is ultimately disposed of in landfills or dumped, either legally or illegally, contributing to environmental degradation.

### ***Political Divisions in the Negotiations***

1. **High-Ambition Coalition (HAC):** The HAC advocates for a treaty that establishes binding global rules covering the entire life cycle of plastics, including production caps, reduction targets, and harmonized standards.
2. **Like-Minded Countries (LMC):** The LMC favors a narrower approach focused primarily on downstream waste management and supports consensus-based decision-making.

These divisions reflect deeper economic interests, particularly regarding petrochemical production and industrial competitiveness.

The HAC is a coalition that insists on the final agreement setting global rules regarding the entire life cycle of plastics, from their production to their recycling or waste management. In our committee, nine states are part of this coalition: the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Iceland, France, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Japan, Colombia, and Mexico.

The LMC, or like-minded countries, is a smaller coalition of states that want the final agreement to set rules only regarding waste management, especially downstream waste management, and want decision-making to be consensus-based. In our committee, the states that claim to be part of this group are Indonesia and Bolivia.

Though the United States is not officially a part of either coalition, it seems, as a major oil producer and considering its policy shift under the Trump administration, to be positioning itself closer to the LMC.

There is also a third group of states with a less defined position, whose stances can appear more ambiguous. China, which has associated itself with the LMC, has nonetheless insisted on the importance of targeting the whole life cycle of plastics, a key demand of the HAC and one of the main points of contention between the two groups. Similarly, Brazil has emphasized the importance of taking human health into consideration, which does not always align neatly with either coalition’s core priorities.

There is also a dissonance between national commitments and concrete actions on plastic pollution. For example, despite being a co-founding member of the HAC, the United Kingdom

supports Europe's largest petrochemical plant in 30 years. The same can be said about other countries that endorse the UN process towards a legally binding plastics treaty (INC), such as Japan, which remains one of the world's largest producers of single-use plastics per capita and continues to export large volumes of plastic waste, particularly to Southeast Asia, or Brazil and Colombia, which have continued to expand their petrochemical and plastic production capacity.

Additionally, commitment gaps are often vulnerable to regime shifts, which disrupt policy continuation. A prime example is the United States, where the policy shift following Donald Trump's win, including the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement, marks a significant setback for the global effort regarding climate issues and pollution.

### ***Role of Civil Society***

Civil society organizations have played an active role in advocating for an ambitious treaty. In 2025, over 160 NGOs issued a joint letter expressing concern that negotiations were not advancing towards a sufficiently strong, legally binding instrument. They called for greater transparency, independence from vested interests, and safeguards against conflicts of interest in the negotiation process.

## Guiding Questions

1. What is the situation of the country you represent regarding plastic production, consumption, waste generation, and plastic waste trade and what economic interests does it have in petrochemicals, plastics, or recycling industries?
2. What national laws, action plans, or circular economy initiatives on plastics already exist in your country, and where are the main gaps between these commitments and real implementation or enforcement?
3. Is your country part of the High Ambition Coalition, closer to the Like-Minded Countries, or in a more ambiguous middle position, and why?
4. Should the treaty address the full life cycle of plastics, including production and design, or focus mainly on downstream waste management, and what are the implications of each approach for your country?
5. Should the treaty include binding global targets to reduce plastic production and consumption, and what kinds of subsidies, incentives, or regulations could realistically help your country and others shift towards circular economy approaches?
6. Should the treaty restrict or forbid plastic waste imports and exports, and how can it address environmental injustice and the disproportionate impact of plastic waste on certain countries and communities?
7. What are the likely economic and social consequences of moving away from fossil-fuel-based plastics in your country, and what measures could make this transition fair and affordable?
8. What kinds of legal obligations and compliance mechanisms should and could be included in the treaty, and should any sanctions or consequences apply when states do not comply?
9. How can civil society, Indigenous peoples, waste pickers, scientists, businesses, and local communities participate meaningfully in the negotiation, implementation, and monitoring of the treaty, and how can conflicts of interest be limited?
10. Given the different interests of High Ambition Coalition members, Like-Minded Countries, and others, what possible compromises or “minimum common ground” could allow UNEA and the INC to adopt an ambitious yet widely acceptable treaty text?

## **Topic B: Strengthening Ocean Efforts to Tackle Climate Change, Marine Biodiversity Loss and Pollution**

### ***Historical and Structural Background***

The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023) highlights the compounding nature of the crises affecting the ocean. Climate change, marine biodiversity loss, and pollution do not occur independently; rather, each accelerates and intensifies the others. This reflects the integrated and indivisible character of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), meaning that addressing one dimension in isolation will have limited impact if the others persist (IPCC, 2023).

Over the past decades, signs of a looming global water crisis have become increasingly evident. In the last century, the global population increased fivefold, while water demand increased tenfold (Sahagian, 2018). This imbalance has significant environmental, social, economic, and political implications. Approximately 25% of the global population experiences extreme water stress annually, and 2.4 billion people lack access to drinking water at home (World Health Organization, 2019). A country is considered water-stressed when renewable water availability falls below 1,700 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year, and water-scarce when it drops below 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Although much of the discussion on water focuses on freshwater scarcity, it is important to recognize that 97.2% of Earth's water is contained in the oceans (Sahagian, 2018). The ocean plays a central role in the hydrological cycle, regulating precipitation, climate systems, and atmospheric composition. Climate change has already altered wind patterns, ocean currents, and precipitation cycles, directly impacting water security worldwide.

The hydrological cycle connects the ocean, atmosphere, and terrestrial systems, driven by solar energy (Sahagian, 2018). At the global level, six major issues affect water resources: cyclical droughts; unequal access to water; agricultural overuse (which accounts for approximately 70% of global freshwater withdrawals); groundwater depletion; large-scale water diversion projects; and increasing water insecurity. These pressures indirectly affect marine systems through pollution runoff, altered river flows, and ecosystem degradation.

Historically, industries have discharged billions of liters of untreated or minimally treated sewage into waterways. Livestock operations produce approximately 132 billion kilograms of manure annually, contributing to nitrate contamination and coliform bacteria presence in water systems (Sahagian, 2018). Chemical residues from industrial and domestic sources further intensify pollution. These stressors are compounded by climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain, and airborne pollutants.

Water pollution originates from two primary sources: point sources, such as identifiable industrial discharge pipes, and non-point sources, including agricultural runoff and urban stormwater. Pollutants can be classified as persistent (bioaccumulative and slow to degrade), non-persistent (chemically or biologically degradable), and other forms of water quality degradation, such as thermal pollution, floating debris, and invasive species (Sahagian, 2018).

Marine pollution is particularly visible in the six major oceanic gyres: the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific, South Pacific, Indian Ocean, and South Pacific gyres. The North

Pacific gyre contains the largest concentration of plastic debris, covering an area approximately twice the size of Texas and holding an estimated 87,000 tons of plastic (Leal Filho, 2022).

Phytoplankton, which produce roughly half of the Earth's oxygen and play a crucial role in carbon sequestration, are increasingly threatened by rising ocean temperatures and acidification. As oceans absorb atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, pH levels decline, dissolving calcium carbonate shells of marine organisms and weakening the foundation of marine food webs.

Fish constitute the largest source of animal protein globally and are the fastest-growing food commodity in international trade. More than one billion people rely on fish and shellfish as their primary source of protein, and the sector provides employment for over 260 million people worldwide (Sahagian, 2018). Of the top 40 countries ranked by the proportion of animal protein derived from fish, 39 are developing states, illustrating the socioeconomic vulnerability associated with marine ecosystem degradation.

Overexploitation has severely impacted fisheries. All but two of the world's fifteen major fishing areas show declining productivity. Approximately 20% of freshwater species are endangered or vulnerable, and over 55% of documented marine extinctions in the last two centuries are linked to overexploitation (Sahagian, 2018).

Climate change is expected to further alter marine ecosystems. Models predict poleward shifts in fish distribution of 45–60 km per decade, with potential declines of up to 40% in maximum fisheries catch in tropical regions, while higher latitudes may experience increases of 30–70% (Sahagian, 2018). This uneven redistribution raises concerns regarding environmental justice, as developing tropical nations may suffer disproportionately.

### ***Legal Framework***

The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982 established the primary legal framework for ocean governance, including the recognition of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). While UNCLOS grants coastal states rights and responsibilities over marine resources, its implementation has sometimes resulted in overexploitation due to weak enforcement and the prioritization of economic interests.

Historically, areas beyond national jurisdiction suffered from the “tragedy of the commons,” where lack of regulation enabled overfishing and pollutant dumping (Sahagian, 2018). In response, the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, adopted in 2023 under the framework of the United Nations, seeks to strengthen governance of the high seas. The agreement enables the creation of marine protected areas in international waters and establishes mechanisms for environmental impact assessments. However, its effectiveness depends on timely ratification and domestic implementation by member states.

In parallel, the United Nations Environment Programme has led negotiations towards a legally binding global instrument on plastic pollution covering the entire life cycle of plastics, moving beyond previous voluntary commitments. Additionally, the 1996 London Protocol, administered by the International Maritime Organization, regulates the dumping of waste at sea and remains a critical tool in addressing marine pollution.

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme, established in 1974, provides a regional platform for marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management. Furthermore, the global objective of protecting 30% of the planet by 2030 (“30 by 30”) reflects increasing political recognition of biodiversity conservation as a priority.

### ***Current Challenges***

Despite existing legal instruments, implementation gaps remain significant. Key challenges include:

- Weak enforcement of fisheries regulations
- Insufficient marine protected areas and lack of monitoring
- Flag-of-convenience vessels and limited traceability in global seafood trade
- Industrial lobbying pressures that limit regulatory ambition
- Limited integration of scientific evidence into political decision making

The ocean is multidimensional and systemic. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution reinforce one another, demanding integrated governance rather than piecemeal solutions. The challenge for the international community is not the absence of legal instruments or scientific knowledge, but the translation of both into politically enforceable commitments.

Strengthening ocean efforts requires aligning environmental sustainability with economic restructuring, embedding precaution in governance frameworks, and prioritizing intergenerational equity. Without decisive collective action, the degradation of marine ecosystems will undermine global climate stability, food security, and sustainable development as a whole.

## ***Guiding questions***

1. What is the situation of the country you represent regarding ocean health and marine resources, and how dependent is its economy and food security on the ocean?
2. How do freshwater issues in your country affect rivers, coasts, and ultimately the ocean?
3. Which pressures on the ocean are most acute for your country or region and which groups are most vulnerable?
4. How does your country currently use or interpret key legal frameworks such as UNCLOS and the new BBNJ Agreement?
5. What are the main implementation gaps for your country in existing ocean agreements, and what could UNEA encourage to close these gaps?
6. What are the most important sources of marine pollution affecting your country and how can national policies and the future plastics treaty be coordinated so that land-based pollution into the ocean is reduced?
7. How far is your country from contributing fairly to the “30 by 30” target for marine and coastal areas, and what obstacles prevent the creation and effective management of more, and better, marine protected areas?
8. How do climate-driven shifts in fish stocks, overfishing, and marine degradation raise questions of environmental justice between developed and developing states, and what kinds of finance, technology transfer, or capacity-building would your country support to make ocean governance fairer?
9. How can scientific knowledge and the work of civil society, small-scale fishers, and Indigenous communities be better integrated into national and UNEA decision-making on the ocean, beyond purely state-driven negotiations?
10. Given the many overlapping crises and strong industrial interests, what alliances could your country build within UNEA, and what specific types of outcomes would it prioritise to turn existing law plus science into real change in the ocean?

## Bibliography

- American Association for the Advancement of Science. (2020). *Plastic pollution and planetary boundaries*. *Science*. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aba3656>
- Elsevier. (2025). *Research article on plastics and sustainability*. *ScienceDirect*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666675825001468>
- Mohn, E. (2025). *Global waste trade*. In *EBSCO Research Starters: Environmental sciences*. <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/environmental-sciences/global-waste-trade#full-article>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — Longer Report (IPCC\_AR6\_SYR\_LongerReport.pdf)*. IPCC. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_LongerReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf)
- International Maritime Organization. (n.d.). *London Convention and Protocol*. <https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/environment/pages/london-convention-protocol.aspx>
- Leal Filho, W. (2022). *Garbage patches and their environmental implications in a plastisphere* [Written statement]. Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management,” Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. United Nations – SDG Knowledge Platform. [https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Water\\_Leal\\_Professor\\_HAW\\_Hamburg\\_Research\\_and\\_Transfer\\_Centre\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Management.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Water_Leal_Professor_HAW_Hamburg_Research_and_Transfer_Centre_Sustainable_Development_and_Climate_Change_Management.pdf)
- Sahagian, D. (2018). *A user's guide to Planet Earth: Fundamentals of environmental science* (2nd ed.). Cognella Academic Publishing.
- United Nations. (n.d.). *The 17 Sustainable Development Goals*. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-goals/>
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2023). *Ending plastic pollution: Why trade matters*. <https://unctad.org/news/ending-plastic-pollution-why-trade-matters>
- United Nations Development Programme. (n.d.). *INC on plastic pollution and chemicals & waste conventions*. <https://www.undp.org/chemicals-waste/conventions/inc-plastic-pollution>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2022, December 19). *Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework: Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4)*. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Theme — Seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)*.  
<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea7/theme>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2023). *Seven ways you can counter the scourge of single-use plastics*.  
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/7-ways-you-can-counter-scourge-single-use-plastics>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (2021). *From pollution to solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution*.  
[https://www.gdr-po.cnrs.fr/docs/UNEP\\_2021.pdf](https://www.gdr-po.cnrs.fr/docs/UNEP_2021.pdf)
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Plastic pollution*.  
<https://www.unep.org/plastic-pollution>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution*. <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *INC session 5.3*.  
<https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-5.3>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Official document on plastic pollution negotiations*.  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/21add30c-dc21-473c-ace6-cecee8074e09/content>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Plastics and the environment: Background resources*. <https://wedocs.unep.org/items/e4b65085-9d05-451c-a9e0-0a492d47b0c0>
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Technical or policy document on plastic pollution*.  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/8ec8ecd4-7e57-4347-b10b-c1f0fe495a6c/content>
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Explainer: What is Waste Trafficking?*  
[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2024/March/explainer\\_-what-is-waste-trafficking.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2024/March/explainer_-what-is-waste-trafficking.html)
- United Nations. (2023). *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (Treaty No. XXI-10)*. United Nations Treaty Collection.  
[https://treaties.un.org/PAGES/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=21&clang=\\_en&mtdsg\\_no=XXI-10&src=TREATY](https://treaties.un.org/PAGES/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=21&clang=_en&mtdsg_no=XXI-10&src=TREATY)

United Nations Environment Programme. (2024, February 29). *UNEP/EA.6/L.18: Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution*. United Nations Environment Assembly, Sixth session, Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024. <https://docs.un.org/en/UNEP/EA.6/L.18>

World Health Organization. (2019, June 18). *1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water – UNICEF, WHO*. <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-06-2019-1-in-3-people-globally-do-not-have-access-to-safe-drinking-water-unicef-who>