



UNA - USA's
Global Classrooms:
Seoul
Learn. Live. **Lead.**

General Assembly 3
Research Guide



UNA - USA's
Global Classrooms:
Seoul
Learn. Live. Lead.

Table of Contents

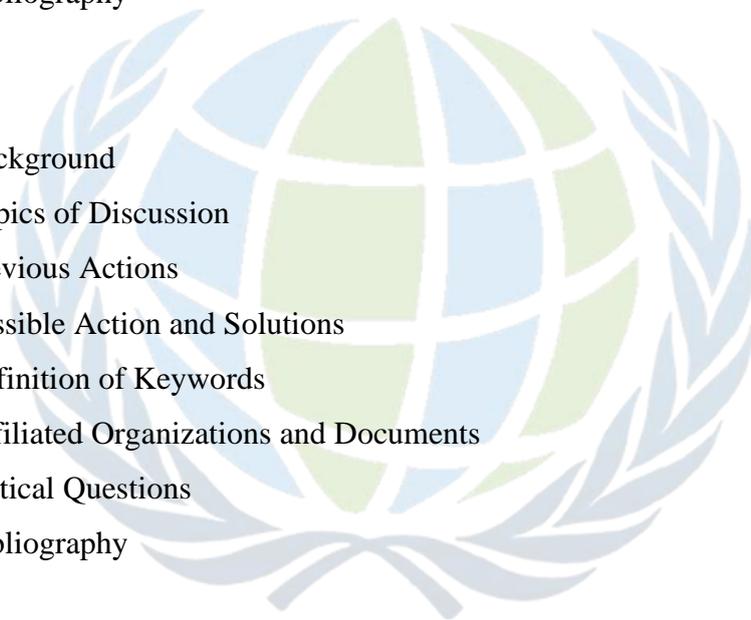
I. Committee Introduction

Agenda 1

- II. Background
- III. Topics of Discussion
- IV. Previous Actions
- V. Possible Action and Solutions
- VI. Definition of Keywords
- VII. Affiliated Organizations and Documents
- VIII. Critical Questions
- IX. Bibliography

Agenda 2

- II. Background
- III. Topics of Discussion
- IV. Previous Actions
- V. Possible Action and Solutions
- VI. Definition of Keywords
- VII. Affiliated Organizations and Documents
- VIII. Critical Questions
- IX. Bibliography



I. Committee Introduction

The United Nations general assembly is the organization that all 193 member states participate. It discusses the wide range of international issues in various aspects covered by the Charter of the United Nations. General Assembly can express world opinion, making recommendations to the security council and elect the council's non-permanent members. There are six committees in General Assembly, and they deal with each of the related agendas such as development, peace and security and international laws.

The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (GA3) is one of the six main committees at the General Assembly. It is also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee, and they deal with the agenda related to a social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. The main agendas and issues that the Third Committee discusses are the advancement of women, the protection of children and the treatment of refugees with related issues. In addition, the committee addresses important social development agendas such as justice, international drug trade, and self-determination.

The previous session was focused on the examination of human rights questions, including the issues related to international peace and security, promotion of human rights, crime prevention, and sustainable development. The Third Committee hosts an interactive meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and The High Commissioner for Refugees each year. Recently, the committee has focused on three issues, which were sustainable development, international peace, and security.



Agenda 1: Investigating and Establishing Methods of Durable Use of The Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.

II. Background

Water is a tremendous asset to humanity, as aquatic ecosystems contribute trillions of dollars to the global economy. Humans depend on the ocean for food, medicine, and jobs. According to Fisheries and Aquaculture in our Changing Climate by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), “Fish products are among the most widely traded foods, with more than 37% by volume of world production traded internationally.” Failing to preserve aquatic ecosystems will seriously jeopardize the security of the global food source, which could then trigger varying degrees of economic and political crises. Specifically, 30% of the world’s fish stock is not being used in a sustainable manner, and the continuation of such improper practices will eventually deplete fisheries of its resources, which means that billions of people who depend on it will not have a proper and sustainable food source. Moreover, considering the fact that around 71% of the Earth’s surface is composed of water and 37% of the world’s population lives in coastal communities, it is essential that we protect aquatic organisms and ecosystems.

Residents of coastal and island regions, who, as mentioned earlier, account for 37% of the world’s population, rely heavily on marine ecosystems for food and tourism. Keeping in mind that they will continue to do so in the future, establishing methods of durable use of bodies of water is especially important for the livelihood of these people. According to Facts and Figures of SDG #14, “over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.”¹

Under these circumstances, it is in this committee’s interest to offer some form of institutional help that will establish a way to sustainably use the ocean. Addressing this agenda will benefit the economy and the environment, and most importantly, improve the quality of life of people. So many aspects of our contemporary lives are dependant on the marine ecosystem that the consequences of destroying it will not only impact aquatic life but also affect the global community. Thus, preserving marine ecosystems requires not only national solutions but also international responses, and General Assembly 3 is the most suitable vehicle to devise them. Throughout this conference, this committee should figure out ways to reach the goal stated in the agenda. Aspects of consideration should include improving legislations, setting regulations, and developing technology.

¹ “Facts and Figures on Marine Biodiversity: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.” n.d. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/focus-areas/rio-20-ocean/blueprint-for-the-future-we-want/marine-biodiversity/facts-and-figures-on-marine-biodiversity/>.



III. Topics of Discussion

In the status quo, there are various factors, such as water pollution and fishing, which threaten marine ecosystems. One common theme between all the causes is that they are all derived mainly from human activity. Thus, in order to establish methods of durable use of the marine ecosystem and its resources, many human activities must be curbed.

The first threat to the sustainable use of the ocean is ocean acidification. The main cause of ocean acidification is an increase in the uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which stems from the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to commerce and industrialism. This affects the ocean and seas because an ecosystem can only thrive within a certain pH range. If the ocean's pH level drops below this range, enzymes in organisms denature and are unable to function properly, causing many defects and possibly killing organisms off entirely, severely damaging the balance in the ecosystem and its ability to sustain itself.

Secondly, coastal eutrophication, caused by increased nutrients in oceans, is another factor that endangers aquatic ecosystems. These nutrients are mostly residues of human activity, such as farming. Due to the extensive use of nutrients, algal growth becomes stimulated extensively within oceans. This is the most commonly known harmful effect of eutrophication, algae blooming, causing many detrimental chain reactions within the environment. Algae blooms block off sunlight and sap the water of its oxygen, cutting off resources to other species. Due to the lack of oxygen, many organisms are no longer able to survive in the ecosystem.

Thirdly, overfishing is also a primary threat. It is defined as the act of taking away a larger number of certain organisms from a marine ecosystem than it can replace itself.² In other words, excessive fishing reduces the size of a species in a certain environment, potentially leading to endangerment or extinction of a species in the area. In "UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating,'" it was reported that around one-third of fish stocks are being harvested at unsustainable levels. Fishing is an important part of the world's food source, as it acts as a source of essential nutrition for around 3 billion people, but strict regulations should be created to protect the aquatic ecosystem.

Lastly, marine litter poses a serious threat to the sustainable use of oceans. Even at this moment, marine litter is accumulating within oceans at a very fast rate. Single use plastics are also a key factor

² "Overfishing." 2019. National Geographic. June 17, 2019.
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/oceans/critical-issues-overfishing/>.



which contribute significantly to the accumulation of marine litter. It is said that plastic composes about 60 to 80 percent of marine litter in most bodies of water. In addition, microplastics pose a serious threat to aquatic ecosystems. Aquatic organisms inevitably consume microplastic which can be toxic and kill them. Moreover, as aquatic organisms consist a large part of a human's diet, through biomagnification, the toxic effect can be amplified in humans. Thus, the accumulation of marine litter contributes to the limitation of the population of aquatic organisms and the dietary resource available for humans.

IV. Previous Actions

A major step the international community took in establishing methods of durable use of the sea is the United Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is an international policy framework which outlines each nation's role in using and protecting the ocean for economic and environmental aspects. It has been ratified by 168 parties, proving its significance in the international law of the sea. This convention replaced four previous Geneva Conventions from 1958, with new and updated content on the law of the sea. This document seeks to find ways for nations to cooperatively use marine resources in a sustainable manner.

Another step the international community took was the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology is specifically pertinent to Part XIV of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). This document includes guidelines about what type of technology should be shared and how it should be shared.³ This can be used as a tool to accelerate the development of developing nations through encouraging the protection of marine biodiversity as a means to enhance its economy.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly set 17 goals to be achieved by the year 2030, called the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal #14 is titled "Life Below Water," and its mission is to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."⁴ By addressing aquatic ecosystems as one of the 17 international goals which all countries should strive to meet, the United Nations contributed to increasing global awareness about this issue.

Preserving the marine ecosystem and its resources has always been an important topic of discussion for many individual nations as well as international communities. However, compared to the theoretical solutions and suggestions, not much action has been taken, so it is imperative that when we look at the future, ideas must be practical.

³ IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology. International Oceanographic Commission. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000139193>.

⁴ "Goal 14 .. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." n.d. United Nations. United Nations. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>.



V. Possible Actions and Solutions

In order to protect achieve the goal of investigating and establishing methods of durable use of bodies of water, delegates must consider the diverse factors that are affecting it and devise strategies to slow down its decline. The threat to sustainable use of marine resources is a highly complicated issue that does not have a single cause but is rather the result of various factors. Thus, in order to fully address the issue, there must be diverse solutions that deal with each aspect that threatens marine ecosystems. On a broad level, international and national laws concerning the ocean should be altered and updated.

Ownership of the ocean is a very complicated issue. Although there are guidelines mentioned in the United Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to this day, there are many disputes over claiming ocean territories. Since each country has limited ownership over ocean territories, there are vast bodies of water that extend beyond an individual nation's boundary. These bodies of water remain under the international community's responsibility and are largely ungoverned and unprotected. Thus, sustainably using the ocean is an international issue and requires the cooperation and combined effort of member states. However, at the moment, many nations are invading other nations' ocean territories and committing acts that lead to unsustainable use of the oceans. Such activities of invasion that are not punished by the current international law must be acknowledged and dealt with accordingly. Furthermore, within disputed territories, nations can collaborate for efforts to achieve the goal of the agenda. Within this convention, the aspect of sustainability could possibly be emphasized more in order to raise awareness about the issue.

Each country must follow international rules and guidelines to promote sustainable use of the oceans within its boundary, which is defined as 200 nautical miles from the coast.⁵ Gaining ownership of ocean territories allows a nation to freely use the resources in the area. The oceanic boundary is called the exclusive economic zone, and countries have rights to use the marine resources within the area. Activities such as fishing, and ocean exploration can be conducted freely within the oceanic boundary of a nation. In many nations, the outdated laws that govern fishing and marine exploration do not account for the ever-changing environmental concerns. These outdated legislations create loopholes that allow certain private actors to take advantage of and exploit the ocean and its resources. Thus, this committee must encourage each and every member state to strengthen its respective laws to prevent stepping into the irreversible pathways of damaging bodies of water. To do so, there should be new and improved international pressure to generate legal measures that directly promote the sustainable use of oceans.

⁵ Clark, Josh. 2019. "Who Owns the Oceans?" HowStuffWorks Science. HowStuffWorks. July 31, 2019. <https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/earth/oceanography/international-water.htm>.



Within the new and updated regulations that should be encouraged by both the international community and national governments, there are four aspects of focus that must be addressed to attain the goal.

Firstly, with the current trend of higher carbon dioxide worldwide, ocean acidification is accelerating at a rapid rate.⁶ In order to curb the rising carbon dioxide levels which lead to ocean acidification, the government of each member state can take various actions. For example, the government of the United Kingdom has set up a carbon budget, which limits the amount of greenhouse gas over a 5 year period.⁷ This is a legally binding method, so the government must take measures and develop policies to stay under the budget. As such, outlining an upper limit on the amount of carbon emission and greenhouse gas can be an effective way to address the issue. Furthermore, setting a specific long-term and short-term goal about the levels of carbon dioxide like the United Kingdom has can motivate countries to reduce carbon emissions to reach the goal.

Secondly, delegates should also address the issue of coastal eutrophication. In order to tackle eutrophication, each country must set up regulations dictating the usage and disposal of fertilizers. When fertilizers leak into aquatic ecosystems through groundwater or rivers, they travel to the ocean and catalyze various negative chain reactions, as described above, harming the balance of the ecosystem. The government of each respective member states can set up restrictions in agricultural sectors, which is the main cause of excessive fertilizer run-off.

Thirdly, setting up stricter regulations in fisheries can also be a solution to sustainably use the ocean. As mentioned above, overfishing is a major cause of the depletion of fisheries. Regulations can possibly include setting up a certain limit on the number of fish that can be caught in the fishery. It is important to determine the authority that has the power to set up and execute regulations. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) lists guidelines for countries to follow when it comes to restrictions on overfishing.⁸ Countries can actively utilize such resources to update their policies and develop new technologies to protect their fisheries.

Lastly, tackling the issue of the accumulation of marine litter takes an important part in the discussion of establishing methods of durable use of the oceans. There must be stricter regulations upon

⁶ Team, ESRL Web. 2005. "ESRL Global Monitoring Division News Items." NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory. October 1, 2005. <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/news/7074.html>.

⁷ Carson, Jodie. 2018. "Government Strategies to Decrease the Production of Carbon Emissions." NBS. www.theNBS.com. January 9, 2018. <https://www.thenbs.com/knowledge/government-strategies-to-decrease-the-production-of-carbon-emissions>.

⁸ "Fisheries and Aquaculture in Our Changing Climate." n.d. Food and Agriculture Organization. http://www.fao.org/fishery/docs/brochure/climate_change/policy_brief.pdf



companies or countries that dump their waste into the ocean. Delegates should think of ways to strengthen international legally binding frameworks and punitive measures against actors that violate them. An extension to legal frameworks may be to possibly call for restrictions on the amount of plastic that can be produced since plastic and microplastic are key contributors to marine litter.

Since sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems is such a broad topic affected by many factors, apart from the four aspects mentioned above, there are many further threats to it that can be addressed, such as marine heatwaves, higher average water temperature, erosion, and flooding. Delegates are encouraged to bring up other concerns and illustrate possible solutions to them.

Being able to sustainably use the ocean is an important issue in our world, as it directly affects the lives of millions of people. In order to solve this issue, this committee should work in conjunction with various organizations such as the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the UN-Oceans to ultimately create impactful and lasting solutions. Moreover, each member state should be highly encouraged to follow international guidelines and create new strategies to sustainably use marine resources within its own marine borders.

VI. Definition of Keywords

A. Marine Resources

This agenda specifically addresses “marine” resources, which is pertinent to the available resources underwater. Over 3 billion people rely on the sea industry for their livelihood, and ensuring a sustainable supply of marine resources is crucial to protect the ecosystem and the people who rely on it.⁹ When researching about this agenda, the focus should be on ways to sustainably use such marine resources.

B. Ecosystem

Ecosystems are communities in which biotic and abiotic factors coexist and affect each other.¹⁰ When defining a healthy ecosystem, biodiversity is a key criteria. The variety of organisms in an ecosystem allows it to be less prone to sudden disasters and allow possibilities for more and diverse interactions within.¹¹ Thus, delegates are also encouraged to explore biodiversity when promoting a sustainable aquatic ecosystem.

⁹ “Goal 14: Life below Water.” n.d. UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water.html>.

¹⁰ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. n.d. “Ecosystem.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. <https://www.britannica.com/science/ecosystem>.

¹¹ Cleand, Elsa E. 2011. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stability. Nature Publishing Group. 2011. <https://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/biodiversity-and-ecosystem-stability-17059965/>.



C. Sustainable Development

Sustainability is the condition in which, under the context of this agenda, an ecosystem can be maintained and protected over a long period of time. Sustainability holds its place as a key term in this agenda because establishing methods of durable use requires us to devise a way to make a sustainable aquatic ecosystem. When an ecosystem is unsustainable, the resources within it are eventually depleted, having a detrimental effect on the lives of all who rely on it.¹²

D. Ocean Acidification

Acidification describes the process in which the pH level of a body of water decreases, becoming more “acidic.” Ever since the Industrial Revolution, carbon emission has constantly increased, causing the progression of ocean acidification.¹³ When there is a sudden change of an abiotic factor in an ecosystem, organisms are severely affected, possibly affecting the biodiversity in an ecosystem. This decreases the amount of marine resources available for humans.

E. Coastal Eutrophication

When excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus are added into the water, a process called eutrophication starts in oceans.¹⁴ Eutrophication severely damages the whole ecosystem as excessive algal growth destroys the balance in the food web. This is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon near the coast.¹⁵

F. Marine Heatwave

Marine heatwave describes the phenomenon in which the average temperature of a certain body of water is abnormally high for a period of at least 5 days.¹⁶ The change in temperature is a change in an abiotic factor of the ecosystem, which affects living organisms. Species such as coral reefs, which are very sensitive to temperature change, may be affected by marine heatwaves.¹⁷ More common and longer heat waves can potentially severely harm marine ecosystems.

¹² Watts, Jonathan. 2019. “Human Society under Urgent Threat from Loss of Earth's Natural Life.” The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. May 6, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/06/human-society-under-urgent-threat-loss-earth-natural-life-un-report>.

¹³ Team, ESRL Web. 2005. “ESRL Global Monitoring Division News Items.” NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory. October 1, 2005. <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/news/7074.html>.

¹⁴ US Department of Commerce, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “What Is Eutrophication?” NOAA's National Ocean Service. October 5, 2017. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/eutrophication.html>.

¹⁵ “What Drives the Increasing Eutrophication Trends?” 2017. World Resources Institute. May 1, 2017. <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/eutrophication-and-hypoxia/what-drives-increasing-eutrophication-trends>.

¹⁶ “All about MHWs.” n.d. MARINE HEATWAVES. <http://www.marineheatwaves.org/all-about-mhws.html>.

¹⁷ Mascarenhas, Duncan. 2019. “Climate Change: Marine Heatwaves Kill Coral Instantly.” BBC News. BBC. August 9, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49255642>.



G. Fishery

Fisheries are areas set aside for fishing. The products are used for commercial sales. Due to the unsustainable use of fisheries and harmful practices such as overfishing, the sustainability of fisheries is being threatened. The condition of fisheries can impact the ecosystem around it, so maintaining a healthy environment within is crucial. In order to do so, regulations must be set in fisheries.

H. Marine Litter

Marine litter is defined in the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP), as “any persistent, manufactured, or processed solid material discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.”¹⁸ Although dumping waste into bodies of water is now illegal in many areas, corporations and countries violate laws and continue their acts of polluting the ocean.

VII. Affiliated Organizations and Documents

A. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is a body part of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), specializing in ocean science. Part of its purpose is to “[protect] the marine environment” through international cooperation.¹⁹ Protection of the marine environment includes preserving the sustainability of it as well.

B. United Nations-Oceans

UN-Oceans is an organization that works in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its purpose is to maximize efficiency and promote coordination between organizations part of the United Nations.²⁰ It is mainly a body that facilitates the exchange of information and sharing of schedules between multiple bodies. Various UN organizations have the common goal of establishing methods to sustainably use the oceans. Thus, if the exchange of information happens effectively, it may help to accelerate the process.

¹⁸ “Marine Litter | UN Environment”, n.d. <http://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/working-regional-seas/ma>

¹⁹ “Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.” n.d. Home. <http://www.ioc-unesco.org/>.

²⁰ “UN Oceans: Home.” n.d. UN Oceans: Home. <http://www.unoceans.org/>.



C. Nations Environmental Programme

The United Nations Environmental Programme acts as a global environmental leader which exists for the purpose of advocating for the global environment. It determines global environmental agendas and gives assistance and guidance to nations to incorporate policies helpful for the environment.²¹ Their actions have targeted a wide range of environmental issues such as air pollution, desertification, and contamination of the sea. The United Nations Environmental Programme is an influential body which can help achieve the goal by providing nations with guidance upon specific examples about methods countries can implement and raising awareness of the topic.

D. Global Environment Facility

Global Environment Facility is an organization that invests and financially aids environmental projects all around the world. Since its establishment in 1992, it has “provided over \$18.1 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$94.2 billion in co-financing for more than 4500 projects in 170 countries.”²² It provides financial aid to developing countries to help them with the process of establishing methods to use the ocean durably.

E. Food and Agriculture Organization Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department’s focus is to create sustainable fisheries. The organization’s vision is to create “a world in which responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation.” Its vision is highly relevant to the agenda, as reducing overfishing will eliminate a key cause that threatens the sustainable use of the ocean.

F. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The United Convention on the Law of the Sea is effective in guiding each nation’s role in using and protecting the ocean for economic and environmental aspects.

G. IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology

Related to Part XIV of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology includes guidelines about the type and method of technology to be shared.²³

²¹ “About UN Environment.” n.d. UN Environment. <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment>.

²² “About Us.” 2019. Global Environment Facility. May 10, 2019. <https://www.thegef.org/about-us>.

²³ IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology. International Oceanographic Commission.



VIII. Critical Questions

- A. What are the main threats to the durable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources?
- B. What specific measures must be taken to tackle the each threat?
- C. What is the role of the international community to tackle this agenda?
- D. Why is it imperative for use to sustainably use the ocean?
- E. How can sustainable development be achieved?

IX. Bibliography

“About UN Environment.” n.d. UN Environment, Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment>.

“About Us.” 2019. Global Environment Facility. May 10, 2019, Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.thegef.org/about-us>.

“Algal Blooms.” n.d. CeNCOOS, Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.cencoos.org/learn/blooms/habs/impacts>.

“All about MHWs.” n.d. MARINE HEATWAVES. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<http://www.marineheatwaves.org/all-about-mhws.html> .

Bauer, and Adriana. n.d. “Importance of Coral Reefs - Biodiscovery and the Great Barrier Reef - Queensland Museum.”, Accessed Dec 5. 2019,.
<https://www.qm.qld.gov.au/microsites/biodiscovery/05human-impact/importance-of-coral-reefs.html>.

Boumis, Robert. 2019. “What Happens to Enzyme Activity If the PH Is Unfavorable?” Sciencing. March 2, 2019, Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://sciencing.com/happens-enzyme-activity-ph-unfavorable-10952.html>.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. n.d. “Ecosystem.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.britannica.com/science/ecosystem>.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000139193>.



Carson, Jodie. 2018. "Government Strategies to Decrease the Production of Carbon Emissions." NBS. www.theNBS.com. January 9, 2018. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<https://www.thenbs.com/knowledge/government-strategies-to-decrease-the-production-of-carbon-emissions>.

Clark, Josh. 2019. "Who Owns the Oceans?" HowStuffWorks Science. HowStuffWorks. July 31, 2019. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/earth/oceanography/international-water.htm>.

"Coral Triangle." n.d. WWF. World Wildlife Fund. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/places/coral-triangle>.

"Dying Coral Reefs Impact Environment and Economy." n.d. Time. Time. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<https://time.com/coral/>.

FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture - About Us . Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/about/en>.

"Fisheries and Aquaculture in Our Changing Climate." n.d. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Accessed Dec 5, 2019, http://www.fao.org/fishery/docs/brochure/climate_change_policy_brief.pdf

"Goal 14 :: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." n.d. United Nations. United Nations.

Accessed Dec 5, 2019, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>.

"Goal 14: Life below Water." n.d. UNDP. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water.html>.

"How Much Water Is There on Earth?", Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/how-much-water-there-earth?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects.

"Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission." n.d. Home. Accessed Dec 5, 2019,

<http://www.ioc-unesco.org/>.



IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology. International Oceanographic Commission., Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000139193>.

James, Lauren E. 2018. "Half of the Great Barrier Reef Is Dead." National Geographic. August 7, 2018. Accessed Dec 5. 2019, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/08/explore-atlas-great-barrier-reef-coral-bleaching-map-climate-change/>.

"Mascarenhas, Duncan. 2019. "Climate Change: Marine Heatwaves Kill Coral Instantly." BBC News. BBC. August 9, 2019. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49255642>.

"Most Ocean Species Remain Undiscovered." n.d. LiveScience. Purch. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.livescience.com/24805-undiscovered-marine-species.html>.

Nag, Oishimaya Sen. 2016. "Countries With The Longest Coastline." WorldAtlas. March 24, 2016. Accessed Dec 5. 2019, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-most-coastline.html>.

"Oceans - United Nations Sustainable Development." n.d. United Nations. United Nations. Accessed Dec 5. 2019, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>.

"Overfishing." 2019. National Geographic. June 17, 2019. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/oceans/critical-issues-overfishing/>.

"SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development." n.d. SDG Compass. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://sdgcompass.org/sdgs/sdg-14/>.

Team, ESRL Web. 2005. "ESRL Global Monitoring Division News Items." NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory. October 1, 2005. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/news/7074.html>.

"The Trillion Dollar Ocean." 2017. OECD Insights Blog. March 22, 2017.
<http://oecdinsights.org/2016/04/27/the-trillion-dollar-ocean/>.



“UN Oceans: Home.” n.d. UN Oceans: Home. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<http://www.unoceans.org/>.

“UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating' - United Nations Sustainable Development.” n.d. United Nations. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>.

“UNCLOS - Table of Contents.” n.d. United Nations. United Nations. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/UNCLOS-TOC.htm.

“United Nations Official Document.” n.d. United Nations. United Nations. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/49/119.

US Department of Commerce, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "What Is Coral Bleaching?" NOAA's National Ocean Service. March 15, 2010. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/coral_bleach.html.

US Department of Commerce, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “What Is Ocean Acidification?” NOAA's National Ocean Service. August 1, 2012. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/acidification.html>.

US Department of Commerce, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “What Is Eutrophication?” NOAA's National Ocean Service. October 5, 2017. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/eutrophication.html>.

Watts, Jonathan. 2019. “Human Society under Urgent Threat from Loss of Earth's Natural Life.” The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. May 6, 2019. Accessed Dec 5. 2019,
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/06/human-society-under-urgent-threat-loss-earth-natural-life-un-report>.

“What Drives the Increasing Eutrophication Trends?” 2017. World Resources Institute. May 1, 2017. Accessed Dec 5. 2019, <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/eutrophication-and-hypoxia/what-drives-increasing-eutrophication-trends>.



Agenda 2: Countering The Sexual Exploitation and Abuse against Women and the Cease of The Illegal Trafficking of Women and Children Online

II. Background

Despite the efforts of international organization and community, sexual exploitation and abuse and illegal trafficking of the women and children are remaining as an important problem that we should solve. Second agenda of General Assembly 3 can be divided into two parts - ‘countering the sexual exploitation and abuse against women’, and ‘the cease of the illegal trafficking of women and children online.’

First, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), sexual exploitation is defined as ‘actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes’, and sexual abuse as ‘actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions’. Many international organizations which deal with this problem defines sexual exploitation and abuse as a serious problem in violating fundamental human rights that every people should be guaranteed.

However, according to the United Nations, even the exact number and statistics of sexual exploitation and abuse’s victims are not grasped as the victims fear to speak out. According to the WHO, sexual exploitation and abuse is a critical problem to all countries as it easily happens in the blind spots and in our life. The relationship between people is inherently unequal in society, in terms of power and level of authority. Especially, women are relatively in a weak position to counteract sexual exploitation and abuses. It is serious problem as sexual exploitation and abuse force victims by dominating the superiority in social positions, physical power or using the coercive situations.

Second, illegal trafficking is defined as ‘all the actions including recruitment and transporting people into a situation of exploitation using violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will’. It is the process of enslaving people by coercing them to work without the way out, and those who are enslaved by illegal trafficker are exploited without proper pay or treatment. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally. In addition, according to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), about 51% of identified victims of illegal trafficking were women and 28% were children.

In this situation, with the growth of technology and the wide use of internet, illegal trafficking is done in online nowadays. This is a serious problem as the internet made traffickers much easier to find victims and have made forms of payment nearly untraceable. Besides, enforcing laws to charge these



criminals is even more difficult because of the illegal trafficking in online. The process of illegal trafficking through online and social networking service become much easier than before, but catching those traffickers and finding out victims are becoming much harder.

III. Topics of Discussion

The second agenda is dealing the problem of ‘sexual exploitation and abuse against women’ and ‘illegal trafficking of women and children online’. Both problems are dealt as a serious social problem worldwide, which violates the fundamental human rights. Hence, it would be essential to discuss about the main causes and methods to settle the issue, and derive the conclusions that can protect women and children from the sexual exploitation and abuse, and illegal trafficking online.

A. Prevention and protection

First, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and protection of victims are necessary. Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse are afraid to speak out, as they fear additional disadvantages or revenge in society and relationships. It means that victims are feared not only the crime itself, but also the aftermath problems by speaking out. Voluntary protection for the victims has been implemented by many non-governmental organizations, but according to the report by International Development Committee, those activities and policies by non-governmental organizations are evaluated as a shallow in its implementations. Hence, the practical protection of victims and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse can be the important problem to solve.

B. New form of illegal trafficking

Second, the method of illegal trafficking is changing more complicated and anonymous as the technology develops. With the wide use of internet and online, it helps traffickers to advertise victims and connect more easily with a much larger market of users than the past. Especially, women and children are the target to those traffickers as they are relatively weak in society. According to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) report, about 94% of the identified victims of illegal trafficking were women and children. Illegal trafficking through online makes it more difficult to find out the route of transaction, as online is easy to hide identities and increase anonymity. Additionally, cryptocurrency allows traffickers to conduct financial transactions and move criminal proceeds anonymously. Regarding this fact, Europol estimates in its 2015 report that 40% of criminal to criminal payments take place in Bitcoin.



C. Sexual exploitation and abuse problem in illegal trafficking

Third, victims of illegal trafficking online are exposed to the threat of sexual exploitation and abuse. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States reported that 846% increase from 2010 to 2015 in reports of suspected child sex trafficking. Additionally, this kind of increase has found to be ‘directly correlated to the increased use of the Internet to sell children for sex.’ Mostly, traffickers exploit victims’ vulnerabilities like poverty, lack of educational opportunities, or escape from the domestic violence. Or, traffickers deceive victims with a chance for education and getting a job, like the methods mentioned above. However, those kinds of illegal trafficking is exploiting victims not only in labor, but also sexually.

IV. Previous Actions

A. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

In January 7th of 2019, the report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was presented by UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov at a special event of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) with Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl. Drawing on information from 142 countries, the report examines trafficking trends and patterns, and puts the spotlight on human trafficking in armed conflict. It suggested various effective actions that are needed to stop human trafficking, exploitation in the armed conflict.

B. Joint UN Commentary on the EU Directive – A Human Rights – Based Approach

The UN commentary ‘*Prevent, Combat, Protect: Human Trafficking*’ was released and distributed in November 2011. *Prevent, Combat, Protect: Human Trafficking* was a joint UNHCR, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO and UN Women commentary on selected articles of the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims. At a time when the Member States are embarking on the transposition of the Directive into national legislation, this joint UN Commentary on the Directive is meant to support these efforts, by providing practical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the transposition and implementation of the EU instrument. The commentary on selected provisions of the Directive is complemented by boxes with the relevant international standards and examples of good practice. It also provides a series of concrete recommendations for the transposition and implementation of the Directive.



V. Possible Actions and Solutions

To find the solutions for the agenda, delegates should consider how to establish the practical methods. There have been many attempts to protect victims from sexual exploitation and abuse, and illegal trafficking through online problem, but most of them were evaluated as shallow implementation. As sexual exploitation and abuse and illegal trafficking is correlated in some aspect, delegates should focus not only each problem's solution, but also the overall solution for both issues. In addition, during the conference, practical solution in international and governmental level for the protection of victims and prevention should be dealt. As a possible solution, actions mentioned below can be suggested.

A. Downsizing the demand for illegal trafficking

First, downsizing the demand for illegal trafficking is needed. The main factor that keeps human trafficking such a big issue is the constant demand for cheap labor and exploitation. Traffickers often turn to websites such as Craigslist and Backpage to target vulnerable potential victims. Enforcing stricter validity checks on websites like these and offering jobs through more reliable online platforms is attacking the problem at its root, and stopping human trafficking before it even begins.

B. Restriction to companies that permit illegal trafficking

Second, restriction to the products and companies that permit illegal trafficking. Many goods produced in abroad are products of illegal trafficking's victims. According to the Forbes, the construction, manufacturing and mining industries compose over half of the trafficking industry. Hence, imposing a sanction to those products consumed and the companies supported is a way to contribute to the fight against human trafficking. For this, research for the product and companies in international level is needed, as contemporary industry is multinational and globalized.

C. Establishment of specific and substantive guidelines

Third, guidelines for protecting victims, preventing the problems and raising awareness should be established. The guidelines set in the conference should include the specific plan to protect the victims and how to prevent problems, in both international level and national level. Additionally, raising awareness for the issues dealt in agenda can also get more people involved and interested in joining the fight. Ways to raise awareness can be offering online education to people for easy approach, or advertising the seriousness of the problems.



D. Restriction to online websites used in illegal trafficking

Last, restriction to online websites and measures used in illegal trafficking online can be considered. Perpetrators and their associates communicate through encrypted websites or use Dark Web to connect. Hence, the cooperation in international level shall be made to catch those illegal sites, in a way to find out the encrypted sites and methods used in online.

VI. Definition of Keywords

Sexual exploitation – Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Sexual abuse – Actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) was regarded as serious problem in international society, but the solutions that are discussed until nowadays are biased to the subsequent actions to protect the victims. In this agenda, both substantive and actual protection for the victims and prevention of the problem should be discussed.

Illegal Trafficking – Involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. As internet technology develops, the form of illegal trafficking is changing nowadays. Unlike the past, illegal trafficking is done in encrypted transaction such as using website and cryptocurrency.

VII. Affiliated Organizations and Documents

A. Affiliated Organizations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States also resolved to intensify efforts to fight



transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble the efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) is the leading UN entity on human rights. The General Assembly entrusted both the High Commissioner and her Office with a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights for all people. The United Nations human rights programme aims to ensure that the protection and enjoyment of human rights is a reality in the lives of all people. UN Human Rights also plays a crucial role in safeguarding the integrity of the three interconnected pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, human rights and development.

UN Human Rights provides assistance in the form of technical expertise and capacity-development in order to support the implementation of international human rights standards on the ground. It assists governments, which bear the primary responsibility for the protection of human rights, to fulfil their obligations and supports individuals to claim their rights. Moreover, it speaks out objectively on human rights violations.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

ILO action against trafficking in human beings. In its many projects and advocacy activities, the ILO addresses trafficking from a labour market perspective. It thereby seeks to eliminate the root causes, such as poverty, lack of employment and inefficient labour migration systems.

B. Affiliated Documents

(1) WHO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Prevent and protect pamphlet

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89_2

(2) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

https://www.unodc.org/documents/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf

(3) Trafficking In Women, Girls and Boys. Key Issues for Population and Development Programmes

<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Trafficking.pdf>

(4) US Report: Trafficking in Persons Report 2019, June 19

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>



5) Regarding the illegal trafficking of women and children online

(1) UN commentary – Prevent, Combat, Protect: Human Trafficking

<https://www.unwomen.org/->

[/media/headquarters/media/publications/en/uncommentaryeutraffickingdirective2011.pdf?la=en&vs=947p](https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/media/publications/en/uncommentaryeutraffickingdirective2011.pdf?la=en&vs=947p)

(2) UN report – Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/report/human-trafficking-and-technology-trends-challenges-and-opportunities/Human-trafficking-and-technology-trends-challenges-and-opportunities-WEB...-1.pdf>

VIII. Critical Questions

- A. How can we establish specific solutions to protect the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse?
- B. How illegal trafficking online can be restricted in international level?
- C. How international society can protect women and children from the threat in the agenda?
- D. How international organization can broaden its range to protect the victims?
- E. How can we reduce the scale of demand for illegal trafficking?

IX. Bibliography

Allen, Caitlin. 2019. “The Role of Internet on Sex Trafficking.” International Observatory Human Rights. March 7th, 2019. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

https://observatoryihr.org/priority_posts/the-role-of-the-internet-on-sex-trafficking/

Fisher, Nicole. 2017. “Human Trafficking is in Plain Sight. Are You Supporting It Without Knowing?” Forbes. April 24th, 2017. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicolefisher/2017/04/24/human-trafficking-in-plain-sight/#1d38a5e551f8>

“Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities.” n.d. Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Person (ICAT). Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/report/human-trafficking-and-technology-trends-challenges-and-opportunities/Human-trafficking-and-technology-trends-challenges-and-opportunities-WEB...-1.pdf>



“International Labour Organization: About ILO.” n.d. International Labour Organization. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

Rubin, Annie. 2018. “How Can the UN Enhance its Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse?” IPI Global Observatory. June 15th, 2018.

<https://theglobalobservatory.org/2018/06/how-can-un-enhance-prevention-of-sexual-exploitation-abuse/>

“Prevent, Combat, Protect: Human Trafficking.” n.d. UN Women. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2011/12/prevent-combat-protect-human-trafficking>

“Sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector.” n.d. International Development Committee. Accessed November 14th, 2019.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/840/840.pdf>

“Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Prevent and Protect-What you need to know and do.” n.d. World Health Organization (WHO). Accessed November 15th, 2019.

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89_2

“United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner: About Us.” n.d. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/WhoWeAre.aspx>

“United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: About.” n.d. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Accessed November 15th, 2019.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>

