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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

4/11. Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that coastal and marine ecosystems have social, economic and strategic values with various functions and benefits for the environment and human life that depend on the resources contained therein, and consequently noting the need to achieve sustainable and healthy coastal and marine ecosystems,

Observing that coastal and marine areas are highly vulnerable to pollution arising from various land-based activities, which can lower the quality of the coastal and marine environment,

Noting the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,¹ adopted at the third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Manila on 25 and 26 January 2012,² which identified nutrients, wastewater and marine litter as priority source categories of marine pollution, and noting also the Bali Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,³ adopted at the fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 31 October and 1 November 2018,

Observing various initiatives to address threats and problems in coastal and marine areas that originate from land-based activities and may have a negative impact on coastal and marine ecosystems,

Noting that coastal and marine resources contribute significantly to the economy, and that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources),

¹ UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/6, annex.

² The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities is under review.

³ UNEP/GPA/IGR.4/5, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing the efforts and actions that Member States, together with other stakeholders, are undertaking to address the threats and problems for coastal and marine areas originating from land-based activities,

Acknowledging the progress made by some Member States in handling the problems of marine and coastal ecosystems by building capacity in terms of human and institutional resources and developing and applying sound environmental policies for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine environments,

Noting the existence of United Nations Environment Programme and independent capacity centres and their work to address land-based sources of pollution, and noting also the ongoing initiative by the Government of Indonesia to establish an independent regional capacity centre in Bali,

Recognizing the funding challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems,

Noting the importance of the contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, United Nations inter-agency partnerships and intergovernmental partnerships, in the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action on the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Agrees* to enhance the mainstreaming of the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems in policies, particularly those addressing environmental threats caused by increased nutrients, wastewater, marine litter and microplastics, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a framework for sustainable development;
2. *Also agrees* to enhance capacity-building, know-how, lessons learned and knowledge-sharing through collaboration and partnerships involving Governments, financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, and experts at the regional and global levels in the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems from land-based activities and sources of pollution;
3. *Further agrees* to improve coordination and engagement with and support for the work of Member States on land-based pollution, and foster linkages with the regional seas programmes and other relevant platforms and international initiatives for effective, integrated delivery;
4. *Encourages* the exchange of information, practical experience and scientific and technical expertise, as well as cooperative and collaborative action and partnership among governmental institutions and organizations, communities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations with relevant responsibilities or experience in this field;
5. *Invites* Member States to take the initiative in protecting the marine environment from land-based activities at the national and regional levels by taking into account technical cooperation and collaboration, voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the exchange of best practice;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical assistance, subject to the availability of resources, through, inter alia, the regional seas programmes, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Wastewater Initiative and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.