FORUM: Environmental Commission

QUESTION OF: Minimizing and addressing the impact of ocean acidification

MAIN SUBMITTER: Ecuador

CO-SUBMITTER: Costa Rica, Syria, United Kingdom, Ghana

The Environmental Commission,

*Emphasizing* that the decrease in pH levels is directly affecting sea creatures which negatively impacts their power to hunt prey and can make it dangerous for humans to consume,

*Having considered* that ocean acidification is caused by acid deposition, which is originally created by combustion of fossil fuels, and can also be caused by nutrients such as nitrogen running off into the ocean,

*Deeply disturbed* that the ocean’s acidification has been increased by 26% since the start of the industrial revolution and is continuing to grow,

*Aware* that ocean acidification can create conditions that eat away at the minerals used by oysters, clams, lobsters, shrimp, coral reefs, and other marine life to build their shells and skeletons,

*Recalling* all previous attempts made regarding the issue involving the further development of advanced acidity-testing strategies and enhanced pre-existing technologies as well as the call on all nations to address the problem together,

*Recognizing* the influence of declining ocean pH on the stability of economies which rely on goods from the sea including fishing industries,

1. Calls for the establishment of a United Nations Trust Fund to:
   1. encourage voluntary contributions from the private transnational sector,
   2. assist with the funding of an International Ocean Acidification and Marine Conservation Group to implement the objectives more rapidly and to conduct further research on ocean acidification,
   3. provide sources to reinforce pre-existing technologies that promote the exploration of more direct ways to reduce the pH of the ocean,
   4. sufficiently support the implementation of building new facilities that focus on monitoring the status of ocean acidity in particular areas,
   5. financially support the establishments of facilities that work to prevent a decline in the acidity of the ocean, such as but not limited to:
      1. charity organization ‘Oceans Alive,’
      2. NGOs,
   6. prevent surreptitious discharges of pollutants,
      1. advanced testing methods that help recognize the origin of a particular part of the ocean that has a higher pH than others or that has been recently polluted,
   7. set up monitor systems to regularly check the acidity of the ocean water;
2. Calls upon member states to raise awareness to methods Ecuador has implemented to combat ocean acidification and carbon emissions like having a target of 90% of all energy being renewable by 2025 by means including but not limited to:
   1. strongly promoting renewable and sustainable energy and setting a goal for when they want to achieve using renewable energy,
   2. protecting forests through ways such as establishing national parks and conserving forest areas which also acts as a great way to absorb carbon from the atmosphere to further slow the effects of severe ocean acidification;
3. Recommendsmember states to invest at least 10% of their government budget in renewable energy such as but not limited to:
4. hydro power and tidal power,
5. solar power,
6. wind energy,
7. nuclear energy;
8. Encouragesgovernments to educate their citizens on the dangerous effects of fossil fuels and the impact of ocean acidification through ways such as but not limited to:
9. adding a section on ocean acidification and fossil fuels in schools’ curriculum,
10. applying sustainable practices to reduce carbon emissions and to address and reduce ocean acidification through ways such as reducing private transport usage,
11. using media to send information and prevention methods,
12. digital advertisements on social media platforms such as YouTube or television advertisements,
13. billboards at places such as highways and buildings to expand reach on the knowledge of ocean acidification,
14. public events at places such as aquariums or other places with a link to marine life and to explain the impacts of ocean acidification,
15. funding field trips to show students the fascinating life within our oceans and why we should help,
16. implementing a pollution control program such as setting wastewater standards for the industry;
17. Promotegovernments and NGOs to work together and help distribute technology that would reduce fossil fuel use to rural areas and LEDCs through ways such as but not limited to:
18. NGOs and governments sending specialists to install solar panels, wind turbines and other renewable energy resources,
19. governments spending at least 3% of their government budget on creating renewable architecture;
20. Further requestinggovernments to support research on ocean acidification through ways such as but not limited to:
    1. funding at least 2% of their government budget to companies dedicated to finding new effective methodologies, discovering new data-analysis methods and promoting international collaboration on acidifying the Ocean such as but not limited to:
       1. Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON),
       2. International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP),
       3. Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC);
21. Suggeststhatgovernments enforce laws to reduce the amount of pollution caused by transports through ways such as but not limited to:
    1. limit the number of privately owned vehicles on the road through ways such as but not limited to:
       1. preventing cars ending in certain numbers to be unable to drive on one day of the week,
       2. allowing cars that are carpooling to use an exclusive carpooling lane,
    2. promote the use of shared transport such as buses through ways such as but not limited to:
       1. create a more hygienic environment to thus allow people to feel more, comfortable while using the transport and thus continue to use it,
       2. use of television and other forms of media to advertise the low cost and efficiency of a public transport,
    3. encourage the use of electric cars through ways such as but not limited to:
       1. make it mandatory for all public transport to be electric based,
       2. advertise electric cars in billboards, magazines, media,
    4. restrict diesel and petrol fueled cars from being used after reaching a certain age,
    5. encourage the use of bikes through ways such as but not limited to:
       1. creating more cycling lanes to encourage cyclists to cycle around,
       2. advertising cycling as a safer, cheaper medium to travel with;
22. AdvocateNGOs and Governments to place solutions to dampen the effect of nutrient run-offs through ways such as but not limited to:
    1. using the help of specialists from NGOs, plant Riparian buffer zones to dampen the flow of nutrient run-offs,
    2. encouraging the governments should add laws on how having these buffer zones are mandatory and there would be taxed per meter not covered if not followed;

1. Encourage governments and NGOs to help the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy over a process involving but not limited to:
2. transitioning from coal power plants to oil or gas power plants through ways such as but not limited to:
3. creating an international organization to help LEDCs transition,
4. assessing and evaluating the amount of coal being produced every year to monitor countries on how much progress they have made,
5. governments taxing the use of fossil fuels,
6. transitioning from oil or gas power plants to renewables such as geothermal and hydropower in the same way;
7. Requests all relevant agencies of the United Nations to cooperate through ways such as but not limited to:
   1. raise awareness of the issue itself and the current condition of the ocean as well as the fact that the environmental needs of the marine community are on the continued rise and the existing facilities might not be sufficient to achieve the rising needs,
   2. exchange thoughts and draw resolutions regarding the problem and plans for the future in ways such as but not limited to:
      1. renewable energy sources,
      2. prevent surreptitious discharges of pollutants,
      3. advanced testing methods that help recognize the origin of a particular part of the ocean that has a higher pH than others or that has been recently polluted;
8. Strongly urges all nations to stop deforestation and plant more trees to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through ways such as but not limited to:
   1. Planting trees around desert areas. This would help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions since one tree can absorb 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide while absorbing 35.7g of fine dust. It even releases 1.8 tons of oxygen,
   2. Make limits and set relative policies on cutting trees for objects which are being made for human’s convenience such as paper.