

Argentina

Argentina is a country vulnerable to climate change and experiences heavy plastic pollution in their rivers. Moreover, plastics are the most common form of debris found along the coastline and the plastic waste generated by the Argentinian industries and coastal areas has a high impact on plastic pollution on marine turtles and mammals.

In 2017 it was prohibited in major Argentinian cities to use or sell plastic shopping bags and in general Argentina has many policies and agencies in place to fight pollution. This is only a small step along the way for Argentina. The impact of the policies to reduce plastic pollution is small due to ineffective waste management, limited public education and awareness, and weakness in enforcement of regulations.

With Argentina's people and economy being vulnerable to climate change it is the interest of Argentina to reduce climate change and plastic pollution however, the country will need financial or other help to act upon aforementioned problems.

Brazil

Brazil is the largest economy in South America however it is still considered a developing country due to its low GDP per capita. Brazil's biggest problem is poverty and how people in poverty are affected by climate change. In 2015 a drought cut water to the hydroelectric dams that support 65% of the country's electricity which prompted severe energy shortages. This is not the only instance in which Brazilians suffered under climate change. One city along the Tejipló River experienced a deadly flood caused by plastic in the river and the rising sea levels. The people of the city then decided to collect the waste and sell it or produce products from it in order to remove the plastic in a profitable way.

Brazil is the world's ninth largest economy and vital for global change however, the government believes economic development is at odds with environmental protection and it puts the well-being of national industry especially the agricultural industry above considerations about the planet. Brazil will of course welcome any profitable plan to fight plastic pollution.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has in the last decade started to focus heavily on environmental protection. Sri Lanka is an Island Nation and practice the Buddhist philosophy which means they believe that we are responsible for securing the sustenance of, not only mankind, but also the life on Earth as a whole.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has several initiatives to improve national plastic pollution. The government is having a "Blue-Green" approach to policy formation and implementation, meaning Sri Lanka joined the UN Clean Seas Campaign, is implementing a

costal management approach to prevent ocean and water plastic pollution and is banning the most common plastic component called polythene.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is a nation which is highly vulnerable to climate change and wishes for the world to take drastic measures to reduce climate change and therefore plastic pollution in the seas.

France

Just recently France was accused by the NGO World Wildlife Fund of being the main reason for plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and having worse recycling policies of plastic waste than neighbours and other countries bordering the sea with only 22% being recycled.

However, France is fighting to change the use of plastic in the country. It is prohibited to sell smaller plastic shopping bags and the country aims to also prohibit the use of disposable plastic cups, glasses, plates and cutlery in 2020. Many start-up companies are trying to profit of this by making these necessities on other, degradable materials.

France's Energy Transition for Green Growth act set requirements upon producers and consumers of all industries to reduce greenhouse gasses and limiting waste while at the same time leaving space for economic growth. With their tax on non-renewed plastic bottles and reimbursement of certain types of energy renovation work on houses, France believes financial incentives work to create change in people's use of plastic and renewable energy.

Germany

In 2017 Germany was the leading country for recycling in the world by the World Economic Forum. However, reusing plastic waste is something the country is still lacking on because automated facilities are unable to sort the different combinations of plastic materials which results in mixed plastics being rejected for recycling. Germany will need national or international plastic standards to combat this.

Moreover, Germany is the sixth largest producer of plastic in the EU meaning Germany still has a long way to go to reduce the use and thereby pollution with plastic. Being a key member of the EU, it is important to notice the policies made by the international union to reduce plastic.

Nationally the Environment Ministry has planned to avoid unnecessary plastic packaging, increase recycling, prevent plastic from going into organic waste, and vowed to increase German aid donations to especially clean up the most polluted rivers in the world. The German Environment Ministry has also called for more international commitment to reduce sea garbage and to find sustainable uses of plastic - a call that also shows Germany is ready to help countries who struggle to find solutions nationally.

The Kingdom of Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark has had success with creating initiatives some with economic incentives to have the population and companies manage their waste and litter less. In general, Denmark has a large part of its industry working with renewable energy, green resources and other similar sustainable products.

Within the past couple of years, the population of the Kingdom of Denmark has called for climate change action from the government, as Denmark is not set to live up to the Paris Agreement of 2016. With plastic pollution not being a visually severe issue in waters or lands, the country is much less concerned of this matter. This is in part caused by the extensive waste management system, high standards for food packaging and actively phasing out problematic chemicals. However, almost 60% of all Danish plastic waste ends up at incineration plants indicating that although plastic is collected it is not reused.

The Kingdom of Denmark would like see its own standards to be implemented around the world, as it will benefit their businesses and involve research from its own institutions, which in general would benefit the Danish economy.

The Kingdom of Iceland

The Kingdom of Iceland is as greatly affected by plastic pollution on land and in the sea around them as any other country in the world. With fishing being a major industry and fish being a part of Icelandic cuisine together with the fact that tourism counts for a significant part of the GDP, the country relies heavily on a plastic-free environment.

Recently, the government has formed an action plan to reduce plastic waste which envisions a total ban on single use plastic items within the next few years and it is with the support of the Icelandic people as 61 % of the population support a total ban on plastic bags.

Although the Kingdom of Iceland does not experience the extreme global plastic pollution as much as other countries, the nation still wants implementations to ensure industries act and take responsibility for the global pollution.

The Kingdom of Thailand

The Kingdom of Thailand is the world's sixth biggest contributor of ocean waste and with a large plastic industry and plastic being the cheapest option for companies, change to reduce the use has not been easily welcomed. However, with the country relying heavily on tourism and therefore also clean beaches and with the discovery of a dead whale with 80 plastic bags in its stomach on a beach in South Thailand in 2018, the country has had a wake-up call.

By the end of 2019 the Kingdom of Thailand plan to be free of microbeads, cap seals and oxo-degradable plastics according to a new roadmap approved by the Thai Cabinet to tackle

plastic waste. This is a huge step in the right direction for the country but a sustainable, working public waste system would be needed for the country to limit their pollution even more, as numbers show that 80% of the country's marine plastic comes from land-based waste.

For the Kingdom of Thailand to sustain good tourism through clean beaches and a vivid marine wildlife and to reduce plastic in fish for human consumption, drastic measures are being taken nationally and the country would encourage international commitment to similar policies.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China suffers greatly from dealing with plastic waste. It has bought recycled plastic from many nations and developed the ability to make it into usable goods, since the 1990s. Plastic has been processed in nearly 30 different towns in China, by so-called garbage collectors, who worked under harsh conditions. 3,53 million tons mismanaged plastic waste in the ocean came from China in 2010. In addition, a 2015 study found that China was responsible for nearly 30 per cent of plastic pollution in the world's oceans. This is partially due to the low quality of imported plastic waste, as it makes it nearly impossible to recycle.

However, the health and environmental impacts of the unregulated plastic recycling business were immense, as the cleaning process pollutes waterways and the surrounding air.

Therefore, China has chosen to protect its environment, air quality and the health of its citizens, by placing a ban on 24 types of reusable plastic in 2018. This ban, however, should not come as a surprise, as China is serious about solving its environmental issues. Already imports have dropped from 600.000 tonnes per week in 2016 to 30.000 a month in 2018, which indicates just how effective these measures are.

On a national level, the government has put a fee on single-use plastic bags and moved the most polluting chemical factories away from its rivers, particularly away from the Yangtze River. This particular river played a major role in unifying China and contributes a huge part of the Chinese GDP. China's Ministry of Science and Technology has increased its funding in science projects, waste to energy incineration plants following the BECCs model, and helping collect data about the scale of pollution in Chinese Rivers. Furthermore, China is willing to fund projects reducing water scarcity, and would thus be willing to co-fund projects reducing plastic waste in the oceans.

The Chinese government also recognises the importance of a regional approach and cooperation to best combat the problem of plastic waste. Additionally, it has increased the pressure on other states to tackle the issue.

In the committee, China will cooperate with other developing countries and emphasize the need for a solution that removes waste from the ocean, creates sustainable substitutes for plastic, and makes plastic easier and better to recycle. China will probably be willing to fund this new technology, however, it has enough problems with the plastic created within its borders to import and recycle any more plastic. Furthermore, China might argue for an increase in regional cooperation, but will never accept solution infringing on its sovereignty.

The Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire

When it comes to plastic pollution in the ocean the Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire there has been little attention from the government and the population. The country has little to none waste management in general meaning any kind of waste is dumped wherever possible. This improper waste management is responsible for 60% of diseases that are leading causes for death of children.

Smaller initiatives have been put in place such as collecting electric waste to be shipped to France for recycling and such as using non-PVC plastics for building schools. However, there is still a long way to go for the country to have a working recycling system.

For the Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire to improve on their waste management and subsequently being able to recycle or correctly dispose of plastic, there need to be international funding. The country would also need assistance to form campaigns and education programmes for training the public.

The Republic of South Africa

The Republic of South Africa has a culture of being aware of the nation's wildlife and the human impact of it. With recent focus on plastic pollution of the oceans and pictures showing islands of waste floating in the oceans, the people of the Republic of South Africa and the government has become acutely aware of the need for better waste management and ending plastic pollution as to save wildlife especially wildlife in the oceans, rivers and lakes.

For example, a company initiative called 'Project Butterfly' has worked with NGOs in local communities to tackle poor waste management through education, clean-ups and innovation-focused initiatives. Another initiative called Clean C organises volunteers to clean the beaches around Cape Town monthly. The government encourages these ideas however, more state-wide implementations are needed for a greater impact of initiatives like these. The Environmental Affairs Department is currently discussing with industry to ban certain plastic products. This shows the country is ready to take necessary measures to protect the environment however, not harming the national industry is also important for South Africa as it is a still developing country.

In 2017 the Republic of South Africa recycled 43.7% of its plastic waste. This shows the country is committed to reducing plastic pollution to help wildlife and also to improve health of its citizens.

The Russian Federation

The Russian Federation has a huge problem with plastic waste, plastic pollution, and what it does with its own water. Firstly, Recycling rates are close to zero and waste is rarely separated. Secondly, it struggles with the amount of plastic waste in waters. In the Russian Arctic Ocean, a plastic pollution clean up collected 15 tonnes of plastic in a single day. A number of independent studies highlighted that pollution in the areas of the Russian Arctic is approaching the level seen in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which increases the importance of finding a solution.

On a national level, government officials have called for a ban on plastic bags, the Leningrad region has already banned single used plastic, and Moscow is currently dealing with solving the problem. Furthermore, Russia does have some legislation on the topic of plastic pollution.

On an international level, the Slava Foundation has been created to lead a new effort to raise awareness on the impact of plastic pollution. The foundation consists of researchers from Norway, Russia and the UK, and its efforts with the Russian Fisheries Industry Union of the North is a prime example of cooperation between research and industry. Furthermore, Russia signed a UN agreement which sharply reduces the amount of plastic waste, and thus agreed to monitor and track thousands of types of plastic waste outside their borders.

In the Committee, Russia will most likely argue for the funding of research on the impacts of plastic pollution and for the importance of reducing the produced amounts of plastic.

Secondly, it might argue for knowledge-sharing on recycling and dealing with the plastic waste already produced. In addition, Russia might cooperate with other countries affected by climate change, but it would never accept a resolution that infringes upon its sovereignty.

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has an issue with clean beaches. In fact there are more than 150 plastic bottles pr. mile of beach in the UK and approximately 5000 items of marine plastic pollution. This is a result of the amount of plastic in the water surrounding the UK and is the reason the United Kingdom will support any measures taken to clean the North Sea and the Atlantic. However seeing that this is not an environmental issue for the UK and because they do not rely on their beaches to attract tourists, it is not of great importance to them.

The biggest problem the UK is facing regarding plastic is how to dispose of it. In 2017 China stopped disposing of recovered plastic for the UK. This meant that UK had more than 600.000 tons of plastic ekstra to dispose of. This poses a threat to the UK, because they will either have to burn it, create plastic mountains in garbage dumps or throw it into the sea. The largest priority for the United Kingdom is therefore to find new and better ways to dispose of plastic.

Being a developed nation, the UK will also try and help developing countries solve their plastic issues by fx. creating research groups in the UK to create business in their own nation.

The United Mexican States

The United Mexican States is a country surrounded by water, and it is connected with both the Gulf of California and the Gulf of Mexico. This makes the country vulnerable to plastic pollution. The country recognizes that plastic waste and other trash is an environmental, economic, aesthetic, and human health problem, which causes serious challenges to coastal communities worldwide. Thus, it needs to be addressed by the UNEA.

The United Mexican States is a big consumer of plastics; 90 million water and soda bottles are trashed in rivers, streets, and beaches. Furthermore, it is the country that consumes the most bottles of water in the world. Even though the residents of the area contribute to plastic waste, the majority of plastic waste is washed up on the shore by the sea and is generated by rich countries. From many states in the US plastic pollution travels down the Mississippi River Basin and into the Gulf of Mexico. Many American citizens, researchers etc. are trying to grasp the quantity of plastic waste that travels down their rivers, yet such research is just getting started in the Gulf. Therefore, the countries connecting to the Gulf need funding to complete similar research on the damage done by plastic pollution. As seen in the US, the plastic industry is not willing to help prevent the damage of pollution caused by their products, which is the reason why the UNEA should encourage the production of less plastic or make it easier to recycle, so less plastic waste end up affecting the environment.

On a national level, much has already been done to combat plastic pollution. The government has already launched campaigns to reduce the use of straws and plans to put in place more stringent measures like eliminating the use of plastic straws. Local governments in Mexico are also tackling the issue by prohibiting plastic bags, straws, and styrofoam. Furthermore, Brazil and Mexico have the highest rate of corporate participation in regards to reducing plastics in the ocean in Latin America.

The problems caused by plastic waste is not only felt on the environment or on human health. The economies suffer as well, as plastic waste is felt on tourism and fishing alike, both are industries that are vital to the local community. Therefore, in the committee, Mexico is likely to emphasize both the need for funding and the importance of reducing the number of plastics used in the world. They might cooperate with other developing countries that suffer from the amount of plastic used in the rest of the world.

The United States of America

The United States of America is home to the world's largest plastic island. It is located between California and Hawaii and is three times the size of France and growing. However, this is not a prioritised issue for the country. In fact, fewer types of plastic is now being recycled than just a couple of years ago.

Furthermore, a new resolution was passed by the UN (a resolution not ratified by the US) saying that plastic moving across borders should be monitored and accounted for, much like other substances creating a threat to the environment. Even Though the United States did not ratify this resolution, it will still affect them seeing only one other nation did not ratify it. This means that the US will have even more plastic to deal with in the future, which will most

likely be burned, landfilled or dumped at sea. As a result, the delegation of USA, will have to defend against a lot of accusations regarding plastic, because the current US government does not see it as an issue.

The United States of America will not vote in favor of any project regarding plastic pollution, unless it will create business and economic growth for the US.