



# AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

MMXXIV



**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

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## United Nations Environmental Program Background Guide

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## 1. Director's Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community. It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates.

At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,

Sarvagya Sharma  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2024



## 2. Moderator's Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2023 AUS Model United Nations Conference! It is an honor to have you join us in the United Nations Environmental Committee, where delegates will cooperate with one another to tackle pressing and relevant global issues.

Throughout the conference, delegates aim to engage in productive debates, meaningful interactions, and efficient challenges during the committee sessions. By bringing together a diverse range of perspectives and experiences, we hope to develop innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

To enable productive and fruitful debates, we expect you to come to the debate sessions with a thorough understanding of your country's position and beliefs on the topics at hand. It is highly recommended to keep any relevant documents with you during the conference for easy access. Please note that the background guide provided is not to be used as a resource for your position paper. However, it can offer you a general overview that may be helpful in composing your paper.

Our hope is that you, as delegates, will find this conference as rewarding as previous ones. We are delighted to welcome you to AUSMUN, and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions. We're looking forward to your active participation in this year's conference and wishing you all the best as you prepare to engage in meaningful debates.

Regards,

Chairs of UNEP

## Chairs

### Nour Saleh Alblooshi

Nour is a student at the American University of Sharjah who enjoyed participating in MUN programs since she was 14 years old. Nour believes that MUN enhanced her critical thinking, research, and analytical skills since she got to engage in in-depth discussions, negotiate resolutions, and simulate the complexities of real-world diplomatic scenarios. The sense of community within the MUN environment has allowed her to forge lasting friendships and expand her perspectives on global issues. Taking on different roles, such as delegate or committee chair, has taught her effective teamwork, leadership, and the ability to think fast during high-pressure situations. Nour is looking forward to facilitating engaging and productive committee sessions, guiding delegates through diplomatic discourse, and contributing to a positive and collaborative atmosphere.



### Leyan Ali

Leyan is a student at Sorbonne University who has been an avid debater since she was in the 9th grade. MUN has shifted her approach toward life; it has aided her in boosting her confidence and heightening her debate and research skills. Politics is a subject that she has always been interested in and MUN made her realize that she wants to pursue it as a future career. Her accumulated experience has taught her the vitality of keeping up with issues across the world and how it is important to constantly strive for change. She is delighted to be chairing and looks forward to observing the flow of debate and meeting new delegates.



### **3. Brief of Committee**

The top environmental authority within the UN system is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition to assisting in the implementation of environmental commitments at the national, regional, and international levels, UNEP uses its abilities to strengthen environmental standards and practices. The goal of UNEP is to uplift, educate, and empower countries and peoples to enhance their standard of living while preserving that of the generations that follow.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assists its 193 Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and coexisting with the environment through innovative science, cooperation, and advocacy.

### **4. Function of Committee**

Restoring the ozone layer, safeguarding the world's seas, and advancing a green, inclusive economy are just a few of the urgent environmental issues that UNEP has been tackling for more than 50 years in collaboration with governments, civil society, the commercial sector, and UN organizations. (UNEP, 2023)

The UN Environment Programme's primary funding source, the Environment Fund, was created by the UN General Assembly in 1973 (UNEP). Since Member States are the primary source of unrestricted funding, it allows for the strategic and efficient delivery of results as well as the flexibility to address new environmental concerns.

The Fund serves as the foundation for UNEP's global operations, assisting nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda's environmental objectives. It is essential to the work being done in the fields of research, law, policy, and environmental governance, all of which contribute to the advancement of environmental benefits. (UNEP, 2023)

A majority of the members present and voting will make decisions for the UN Environment Assembly. "Members present and voting" refers to members in attendance who are casting a yes or no vote for the purposes of these rules. Members who choose not to cast their votes are regarded as not voting their vote.

## **Topic 1: Combating Global Microplastic Pollution**

### **1. Summary & History:**

Establishing a worldwide environmental agenda and encouraging the effective implementation of the environmental component of the United Nations Sustainable Development Programme are the duties of the UNEP, an international environmental authority. (BYJUS, 2021)

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Microplastic pollution has emerged as a grave environmental concern in recent years. These tiny plastic particles, less than 5mm in size, pose a significant threat to marine ecosystems, human health, and the overall well-being of the planet. Recognizing the urgency to tackle this issue, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been at the forefront of global efforts to combat microplastic pollution. This essay aims to provide a summary of UNEP's role in addressing this problem and the history behind its involvement.

The UNEP has been instrumental in raising awareness about microplastics and supporting actions to mitigate their impacts. Through scientific research, policy development, and engaging with various stakeholders, UNEP strives to address the challenges associated with microplastic pollution.

One of the key initiatives in combating microplastic pollution is the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), launched by UNEP in 2012. GPML brings together governments, NGOs, businesses, and academia to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing on the issue. This partnership has played a crucial role in shaping policies, promoting sustainable practices, and developing innovative solutions to prevent and reduce microplastic pollution.

UNEP has also been an active participant in international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). The UNEA establishes the overall policy guidelines, the global environmental agenda, and the

policy responses to new environmental concerns. It reviews policies, conducts discussions and experience communication, establishes strategic guidelines for the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) future course, and promotes collaborations that gather resources and accomplish environmental objectives. These platforms provide opportunities to advocate for stronger regulations and policies regarding microplastics, urging nations to take action and hold industries accountable for their plastic waste.

In addition, UNEP, through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), has been supporting countries in developing and implementing strategies to reduce marine pollution. This includes addressing microplastic pollution as one of the priority areas to safeguard the marine environment and preserve its biodiversity.

Microplastic pollution gained widespread attention when UNEP and its partners released the report "Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide Policy Change" in 2016. The report provided comprehensive evidence on the extent of microplastic pollution in oceans and its detrimental effects on marine life. Since then, UNEP has made significant progress in mobilizing countries and international organizations to combat this issue. In 2018, UNEP launched the Clean Seas campaign, a global initiative aimed at combating marine plastic pollution, including microplastics. Through this campaign, UNEP encourages governments, businesses, and individuals to take concrete actions, such as reducing single-use plastics and implementing better waste management practices.

UNEP's efforts in combating global microplastic pollution have been instrumental in raising awareness, promoting international collaboration, and driving policy changes. Implementing effective mitigation measures is advised due to the level of uncertainty and the possibility of microplastics having extensive negative effects on ecosystems and human health. Actions taken to mitigate should be reasonable, compliant with current legislative frameworks, based on a sufficient number of cost-benefit evaluations, and flexible enough to promote innovation in mitigation techniques and scientific research. When mitigating the pollution caused by microplastics entails additional costs, care must be taken to ensure that these costs are fairly allocated and that nations share accountability for carrying out the mitigation measures. (OECD, 2023) As this issue continues to threaten our oceans and ecosystems, UNEP's contributions are vital to ensure a sustainable and plastic-free future. By involving all stakeholders and prioritizing evidence-based actions, UNEP paves the way for effective measures to mitigate microplastic pollution and preserve our marine environment.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The recent revelations of microplastics in Earth's most remote areas have highlighted



the immediate global need to address this prevalent pollution (Bundela & Pandey, 2022). These minuscule particles, spanning across oceans and the atmosphere, pose significant risks to ecosystems, wildlife, and human health (Glaser, 2015). As they infiltrate the food chain, public concern is mounting. It is imperative to address this issue to protect the delicate balance of our planet's ecosystems. The challenge of combating global microplastic pollution is of immense global significance. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles, have infiltrated every corner of the planet, from oceans to the atmosphere. Their persistence in the environment poses a direct threat to ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. The issue resonates with the public, as microplastics increasingly contaminate the food chain and their impact on marine life and biodiversity is well-documented (Walker, 2021). Addressing microplastic pollution is essential for preserving our planet's ecological balance.

Microplastic pollution directly breaches the United Nations Charter, particularly in its failure to maintain international peace and security. The contamination of marine ecosystems and disruption of the food chain pose a potential threat to stability in affected regions. Furthermore, this issue contravenes the Charter's principles of sustainable development and environmental protection. Therefore, Microplastic pollution threatens international peace, disrupts ecosystems, undermines sustainable development goals, and violates environmental protection principles outlined in the UN Charter. Addressing this requires global cooperation, strict policies, and innovative solutions.

Microplastic pollution has profound implications on various aspects of global affairs. Socially, it jeopardizes public health and exacerbates environmental justice issues. Economically, it threatens industries reliant on clean oceans and fisheries. Politically, it demands international cooperation and diplomacy to combat a transboundary challenge. Furthermore, addressing microplastic pollution aligns with global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to life below water (SDG 14). Addressing microplastic pollution supports Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) by preserving marine ecosystems, sustaining fisheries, protecting human health, and promoting international collaboration for a healthier ocean environment. The stakeholders most affected by microplastic pollution include coastal communities heavily reliant on fishing, nations with extensive coastlines, and marine wildlife. Conversely, landlocked nations may be less directly impacted, though they still face secondary effects as microplastic pollution ultimately enters the broader environment. The plastics industry also holds a stake, as increased scrutiny may necessitate sustainable practices and alternative materials. Therefore, stakeholders significantly impacted by this pollution include:

1. Coastal Fishing Communities: These tight-knit coastal towns heavily reliant on fishing face economic instability due to declining fish populations from microplastic contamination.
2. Nations with Coastal Dependencies: Countries economically tied to marine resources risk disruption and environmental damage, affecting both industries and local populations.
3. Marine Wildlife: Diverse marine life, from majestic creatures to delicate ecosystems, faces health issues and food chain disruptions due to infiltrating microplastics, threatening their

existence.

In conclusion, global microplastic pollution presents a multifaceted challenge with widespread consequences. It calls for international cooperation and adherence to the principles outlined in the UN Charter for the collective well-being of humanity and the planet.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been a leading force in the global fight against microplastic pollution (Bundela & Pandey, 2022). This issue has garnered attention from various international organizations (IOs) and major countries due to its significant environmental and public health implications (Admin, 2021). Addressing microplastic pollution aligns with the UNEP's core mandate of safeguarding the global environment (UNEP, n.d.).

The UNEP has played a crucial role by organizing conferences, conducting research, and advocating for the reduction of microplastic pollution, consistent with its mission of promoting sustainability and environmental protection.

Other prominent IOs, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), have also contributed to combating this issue. The IMO introduced regulations to reduce microplastic discharges from ships, while the FAO has researched the impact of microplastics on aquatic ecosystems and food security (UNEP, n.d.).

The United Nations, recognizing the gravity of microplastic pollution, has integrated it into various sustainability agendas (Admin, 2021). Recent developments involve a growing global awareness, regulatory measures, and technological innovations. Many nations and regions have introduced stringent regulations, including bans on single-use plastics, and initiatives to improve recycling and waste management. Technological advancements also aim to remove microplastics from water bodies, indicating a collective commitment to mitigating this issue (UNEP, n.d.).

Major countries have been actively involved in research and policy initiatives. Canada and the United Kingdom implemented bans on certain single-use plastic products to reduce plastic waste. The European Union has adopted comprehensive strategies emphasizing a circular economy and improved waste management practices, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14 on Life Below Water, which specifically targets reducing marine pollution, including microplastics.

The UNEP's leadership, combined with other IOs and major countries, underscores a

global commitment to combat microplastic pollution. Their joint efforts include research, policy measures, and technological innovation, reflecting a shared dedication to safeguarding the environment and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

This organization emphasizes each aspect, making it easier to follow and comprehend the various actions, involvements, and commitments of different entities and nations in the fight against microplastic pollution.

#### **4. Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address**

- 1) How can awareness about the risks associated with microplastic pollution effectively be raised among the public, industries, and policymakers?
- 2) How can innovation and technology affect the consumption and usage of microplastics in the world?
- 3) What role can international organizations like the UNDP play in fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing?
- 4) What forms of awareness campaigns and policies should be implemented to solve the issue of microplastic pollution?
- 5) How can nations and governmental bodies ensure the consistent development of technology and research to maintain the diminishing of microplastic pollution?

#### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

-Focus on topics including ecological impacts, human health consequences, and innovative clean-up technologies and solutions, delegates are able to understand the true effect of microplastics on our society, economy, and environment.

- Examine initiated policies across the world from different governmental bodies and nations. Highlight and pinpoint which strategies were found as the most effective.

- Draw attention to the causes of the spread of microplastics. Study the trends across nations of different GDPs and pinpoint the reasons as to why it is this way.
- Study the effects of promoting awareness and applying certain research policies. Examine whether these methods are effective in controlling the spread of microplastics.
- Inspect economic trends with the interference of microplastics and their impact on the overall society of a nation.

*Links for further research:*

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/microplastics-from-textiles-towards-a>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921344920304134>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772577422000404>

## **6. Timeline of major events:**

2004: UNEP Global Initiative: UNEP initiates a global program to address marine litter and microplastics, recognizing their environmental impact.

2010: UNEA Resolution The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) passed a resolution highlighting the threat of marine plastic debris and the need for coordinated action.

2015: "Beat the Microbead" Campaign

NGOs launched the "Beat the Microbead" campaign, raising public awareness about microplastics in personal care products.

2017: G20 Action Plan: The G20 countries include microplastics in their Marine Litter Action Plan, committing to tackle the issue.

2019: UNEA Resolution on Plastic Pollution: UNEA adopts a resolution addressing plastic pollution, emphasizing the role of microplastics in environmental degradation.

2020: European Union Single-Use Plastics Directive: The EU implements regulations to restrict certain single-use plastic products to reduce microplastic pollution.

2021: Global Agreement to Combat Plastic Pollution: The Global Alliance to End Plastic Waste was established, comprising major corporations and organizations to combat plastic pollution, including microplastics.

2022: Advancements in Microplastic Removal: Technological advancements lead to the development of innovative methods for removing microplastics from water bodies.

This timeline demonstrates the growing recognition of the issue of microplastic pollution and the coordinated efforts by international organizations, governments, and NGOs to combat it, with a focus on public awareness, regulatory measures, and technological innovation.

## **Topic 2: Mitigating the Environmental Consequences of the Caspian Sea Crisis**

### **1. Summary and History**

The Caspian Sea, situated between Europe and Asia, is the largest enclosed body of water on Earth, known for its rich biodiversity and crucial economic importance. However, the region has been facing numerous environmental challenges, including pollution, water scarcity, and habitat destruction. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has actively taken measures to address and mitigate these consequences, aiming to protect and restore the Caspian Sea's fragile ecosystem.

The Caspian Sea crisis encompasses various environmental issues that have accumulated over time. Rapid industrialization, unregulated resource extraction, and overfishing have resulted in pollution, habitat loss, and declining biodiversity. The sea has faced a significant decline in its water level due to climate change, leading to struggling ecosystems and reduced availability of freshwater resources for the surrounding nations. These challenges have not only adversely impacted the environment but also endangered the livelihoods of local communities heavily dependent on the sea's resources.

To combat the environmental consequences, UNEP has been actively involved in collaborative efforts with the five Caspian littoral states - Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan,

Russia, and Turkmenistan. UNEP has facilitated scientific research, technical assistance, and policy development to tackle the challenges faced by the Caspian Sea region. Its primary objective is to promote sustainable development, protect the environment, and conserve the Caspian Sea's natural resources for future generations.

In 2003, UNEP initiated the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) as a regional platform for addressing environmental concerns. The CEP has since played a crucial role in coordinating international support, raising awareness, and fostering cooperation among the Caspian littoral states. Through various projects, UNEP has supported the region in developing environmental policies, strategies, and action plans, promoting sustainable fisheries, reducing pollution, and conserving critical habitats.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The Caspian Sea crisis poses severe threats to the environment and the livelihoods of those dependent on its resources (Nasrollahzadeh, 2010). It has played a pivotal role in addressing these challenges and promoting sustainable development in the region (Admin, 2021). The recognition of the Caspian Sea's importance as a global ecological asset, coupled with collaborative efforts, is essential to mitigating the environmental consequences and preserving this unique ecosystem for future generations.

Mitigating the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis is an issue of paramount significance, both regionally and globally. The Caspian Sea, the world's largest enclosed body of water, is facing an ecological crisis due to overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and reduced water flow (Nasrollahzadeh, 2010). The repercussions of this crisis extend beyond the Caspian region, as it impacts biodiversity, threatens livelihoods, and has the potential to exacerbate conflicts. Addressing this issue is crucial for protecting the environment, preserving marine ecosystems, and ensuring the well-being of communities in the Caspian region.

The environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis contravene the principles of the United Nations Charter in several ways. It jeopardizes international peace and security, as it may lead to conflicts among the nations bordering the Caspian Sea. Additionally, it breaches the Charter's commitment to environmental sustainability and the protection of natural resources. The environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis have wide-ranging implications. Socially, it impacts communities dependent on the Caspian Sea for their livelihoods, such as fishermen, and may trigger migration due to deteriorating living conditions. Economically, it affects industries like fisheries, tourism, and shipping, while politically, it underscores the need for international cooperation in the region. Given the

Caspian region's strategic location, it also has implications for global energy security. The global response to microplastic pollution signifies an amplified comprehension of its severe environmental impact and highlights the urgent connection between environmental health and human welfare. Endeavors align with Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting a joint commitment to reducing marine pollution, including microplastics. Imposing stringent regulations, bans on single-use plastics, and technological advancements underscore a collective resolve to address this challenge, emphasizing the imperative for unified global action to preserve the environment and secure a sustainable future for all.

The stakeholders most affected by the Caspian Sea crisis include the five littoral states—Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan—whose economies and security are closely tied to the sea (Nasrollahzadeh, 2010). Local communities, especially those relying on fishing and tourism, are also severely impacted. Landlocked nations adjacent to the Caspian, such as Armenia and Georgia, may be less directly affected, but they share an interest in regional stability and environmental preservation. In conclusion, mitigating the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis is a matter of global significance, necessitating international cooperation and adherence to the principles of the UN Charter. It addresses not only environmental concerns but also socio-economic and political aspects that resonate far beyond the Caspian region.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been actively engaged in addressing the pressing issue of mitigating the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis, which has drawn the involvement of several international organizations (IOs) and major countries (Admin, 2021). The UNEP, driven by its commitment to safeguard the global environment and encourage sustainable practices, has been pivotal in tackling the Caspian Sea crisis. The Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) have also been actively engaged in addressing the ecological challenges in the Caspian region (Admin, 2021). The major countries bordering the Caspian Sea—Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan—bear substantial responsibility in resolving the crisis. Their active participation is crucial in shaping the regional response and strategies to preserve the ecological balance of the Caspian Sea and foster sustainability in the region.

The United Nations has recognized the environmental challenges posed by the Caspian Sea crisis and has undertaken various initiatives to address these concerns (Admin, 2021). The UNEP has previously organized conferences, conducted research, and advocated for comprehensive strategies to mitigate the crisis's environmental consequences. The

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has taken concrete steps to address the Caspian Sea crisis. Notably, the "Caspian Sea Summit" held in Baku, in 2018, was a crucial gathering where regional stakeholders convened to discuss the pressing environmental challenges facing the Caspian Sea. The summit concentrated on developing strategies to combat overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction. It emphasized the necessity for collaborative action among the Caspian littoral states to safeguard the sea's ecological balance.

### **Latest Developments:**

Recent developments related to the Caspian Sea crisis include heightened awareness, cooperative agreements, and scientific research (Svolkinas et al., 2023).. There is growing recognition of the need for international cooperation to address the crisis, with agreements and initiatives such as the Aktau Convention (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea) to manage transboundary pollution and conserve the Caspian Sea's ecosystem. Furthermore, the region has seen increased research on the environmental impact of the crisis, focusing on habitat conservation and the preservation of the Caspian Sea's biodiversity.

The major countries actively involved in mitigating the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis are those with coastlines along the Caspian Sea, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan (Svolkinas et al., 2023). These nations have a substantial stake in addressing the crisis, as it directly affects their environments, economies, and overall well-being. Regional cooperation and collaboration among these countries are pivotal in achieving effective solutions. In conclusion, the UNEP, along with other IOs and major countries, underscores the global commitment to address the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis. These collective efforts include cooperative agreements, research initiatives, and an emphasis on sustainable practices and environmental protection, all in alignment with the UNEP's mandate and the broader goals of preserving the environment and ensuring a sustainable future for the region and the world.

### **4. Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address:**

- 1) How have the diverse ecosystems of the Caspian Sea been affected by the crisis, and what are the implications for biodiversity?
- 2) What are the potential health risks posed to the local population due to contamination of the Caspian Sea, and how can these risks be mitigated? - How can climate change



resilience be enhanced in the Caspian Sea region to mitigate future environmental crises?

- 3) What policy frameworks and governance structures are needed to address the environmental crisis in the Caspian Sea effectively?
- 4) How can international collaboration and partnerships be strengthened to address the Caspian Sea crisis in a unified and impactful manner?
- 5) How can sustainable tourism initiatives be implemented to balance economic growth with the preservation of the Caspian Sea's fragile ecosystem?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research:**

By exploring advanced technologies that aim to clean up and prevent future marine pollution, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and education in mitigating the Caspian Sea crisis, and focusing on developing efficient systems and strategies to improve the water quality in the Caspian Sea, delegates are able to further understand the topic.

- Examine the social, economic, and environmental effects and consequences of the crisis. Comprehend why some sectors are affected more than others.
- Draw attention towards nations that are particularly affected by the crisis.
- Study the reasons behind the crisis in general. What effective and affordable measures can be taken while ensuring that the majority of nations can implement said procedures?
- Inspect varying technologies that aid in softening the crisis. Examine whether efficient funding is going into these pieces of technology.

#### Links for further research:

*Decreasing Water Levels in the Caspian Sea: Causes and Implications.* (n.d).  
[https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13769-decreasing-water-levels-in-the-caspian-sea-causes-and-implications.html#:~:text=The%20decreasing%20water%20level%20in,Aktau%2C%20Quryq%20\(Kuryk\)%20and](https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13769-decreasing-water-levels-in-the-caspian-sea-causes-and-implications.html#:~:text=The%20decreasing%20water%20level%20in,Aktau%2C%20Quryq%20(Kuryk)%20and)

Chakraborty, A. (2020, October 21). *Emerson to deliver automation technologies for Caspian Sea platform.* Offshore Technology.  
<https://www.offshore-technology.com/news/emerson-automation-technologies-caspian-sea-platform/>

### **6. Timeline of major events:**

The 1970s-1980s: Industrial Expansion: The Caspian Sea region witnessed rapid industrial and agricultural growth, leading to pollution and environmental degradation.

1991: Soviet Union Dissolution: The dissolution of the Soviet Union resulted in newly independent Caspian states, complicating regional cooperation on environmental issues.

2003: Aktau Convention: The Aktau Convention was signed by Caspian littoral states, establishing a legal framework for environmental protection and resource management in the Caspian Sea.

2007: Baku Declaration - The Baku Declaration is adopted, emphasizing the commitment of Caspian countries to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

2010: Caspian Environmental Programme: The Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP) was launched, fostering cooperation among Caspian states to address environmental challenges.

2018: Legal Status Convention: The Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea is signed, clarifying the legal regime of the sea and facilitating environmental agreements.

2020: CAREC Initiatives: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) introduces new initiatives to address the Caspian Sea crisis, focusing on habitat conservation and biodiversity protection.

2022: Ongoing Scientific Research: Ongoing research evaluates the impact of the Caspian Sea crisis on habitats and biodiversity, informing policies and strategies for environmental mitigation.

This timeline highlights key events and agreements related to addressing the environmental consequences of the Caspian Sea crisis, illustrating the gradual progress in cooperative efforts to protect this ecologically significant body of water.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogsc.2021.100497>

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<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/microplastics-long-legacy-left-behind-plastic-pollution>

Home. Policies to Reduce Microplastics Pollution in Water : Focus on Textiles and Tyres | OECD iLibrary. (n.d.).

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92f53a72-en/index.html?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fcomponent%2F92f53a72-en>

Nasrollahzadeh, A. (2010). Caspian Sea and its Ecological Challenges.

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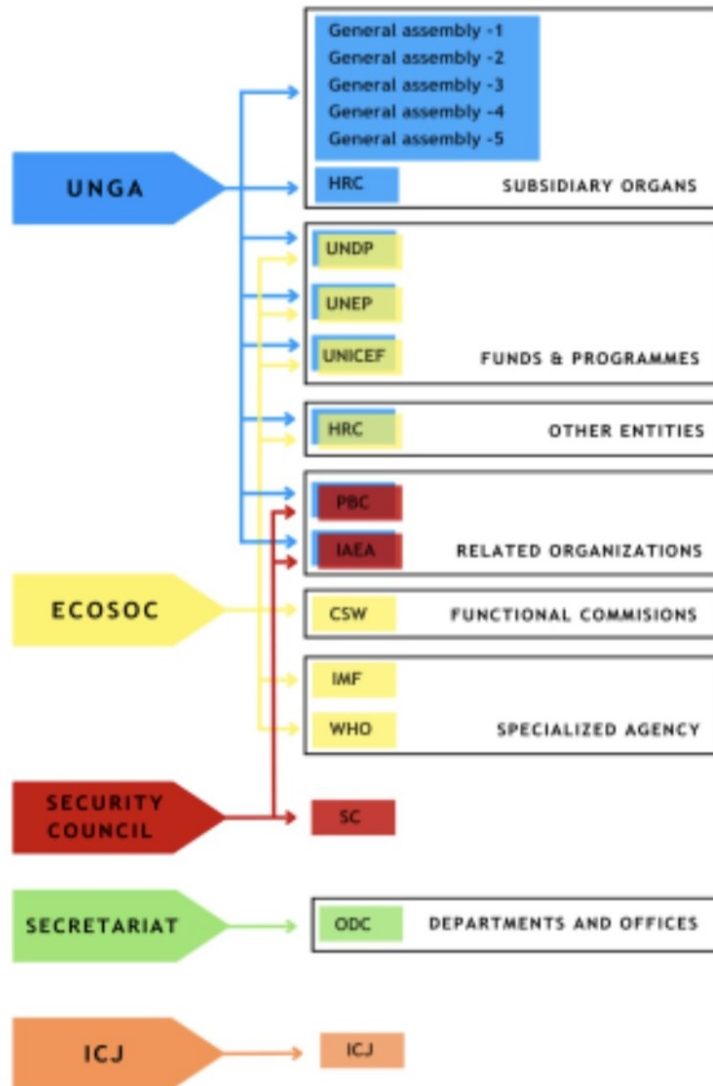
<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/united-nations-environment-programme-unep/>

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# AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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