

For the 2021 GTMUN Atlanta High School Conference, position papers are required for eligibility of awards. Please save position papers as individual PDFs. To submit, email the PDFs in a ZIP file to Emma Brandt at ebrandt7@gatech.edu and Shumraze Fawad at shumrazefawad@gatech.edu. Position papers are intended for delegates to do their research and present the history of the committee's topics, their delegation's position, as well as proposed direction for the committee to take. A sample paper has been included for reference to formatting.

Formatting Guidelines

- Single spaced
- Times new roman 12 point font
- No more than one page long per topic, including citations
- Citations must be in footnotes
- Chicago style citations or URLs are accepted as footnotes
- Delegation name and committee name must be in the header
- Topic name in bold

Content Guidelines:

- Background
 - o Detailed description of the topic
 - o Relevant facts and statistics
 - o Past UN actions
- Delegation's position
 - o History of the country on the issue
 - o Official governmental policy on topic
- Proposed solution to directive
 - o How to expand on previous solutions
 - o Potential new solutions
 - o Justification for solutions
 - o Potential sources of funding for solutions

I. Determining Solutions for Marine Plastic Buildup and Microplastics

There is an ever increasing amount of plastics building up in our oceans.¹ Despite this dire situation, the international community has sat back and watched as this problem worsens for far too long. It should not fall upon individual projects independent of any state's governmental actions to clean up our oceans and fight for progress in the reduction of the use of plastics, yet it has.² This issue is not specific to any one nation; it is only through the cumulative effort of nations that substantial progress can be made.

The United Mexican States play a key role in the fight against plastics in the oceans, as most of the perimeter of our nation is on the seashore, primarily between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Geographically, the United Mexican States are also in close proximity to the Eastern Garbage Patch, a massive collection of plastics in the Pacific Ocean, where trash has accumulated into a massive pseudo-island due to the currents.³ The involvement of the United Mexican States extends far beyond proximity, as there is also a rising level of plastics found in fish caught by Mexican citizens. While fishing does not contribute significantly to the total income of our nation, for many residents of states bordering the oceans, it is an essential source of income. These communities are dependent on being able to fish for a healthy product not filled with plastics.⁴

Due to the great effect that plastics in our oceans has had throughout recent history and the unfortunate continuation of the eventual release of plastics into the oceans every year, action must be taken. The United Nations has passed resolutions in the past to address this mounting issue, however, very little progress has been made except for an evaluation of the current situation.⁵ Therefore, in order to aid all Member States, the United Mexican States recommends the implementation of a plan to call upon nations with established aquatic infrastructure or naval abilities to establish cleaning efforts with regular deployments of able personnel, aided by the funding of member states proportional to their calculated contribution to the plastic crisis, holding those nations accountable. This, in turn, aids the long term reduction of the amount of plastics released into the oceans, as the financial burden of this program will correlate directly to each state's commitment to reducing their plastic output..

¹ Hogge, Katie, et al. "Plastics in the Ocean." Ocean Conservancy, 30 Oct. 2019, <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/>.

² "Milestones." The Ocean Cleanup, <https://theoceancleanup.com/milestones/>.

³ Jambeck, Jenna, and Ocean Portal Team. "Marine Plastics." Smithsonian Ocean, 18 Dec. 2018, <https://ocean.si.edu/conservation/pollution/marine-plastics>.

⁴ Melgoza-Rocha, Alejandro, et al. "Overview of the Fishing Sector in Mexico: Part I." DataMares, University of California San Diego, 2018, <http://datamares.ucsd.edu/stories/overview-of-the-fishing-sector-in-mexico-part-i/>.

⁵ UN General Assembly, Summary of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, 2016, p. 36, https://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RPROC/Summary.pdf.