



2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final Compliance Report

Prepared by

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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17. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

“In this regard, we are determined to swiftly take appropriate national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.”

G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | 0 | |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | -1 | | |
| Canada | | 0 | |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | -1 | | |
| Indonesia | -1 | | |
| Italy | | 0 | |
| Japan | | 0 | |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | -1 | | |
| Saudi Arabia | -1 | | |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | 0 | |
| United States | -1 | | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | -0.05 (48%) | |

Background

Preliminary studies have identified traces of microplastics in the air,⁵²³⁷ water,⁵²³⁸ and food⁵²³⁹ consumed by humans. This has raised concerns regarding the effects of microplastics on human health and brought into question the resiliency of marine life to withstand waters polluted by plastic litter and microplastics.⁵²⁴⁰ The G20 first addressed protecting the global marine environment at the

⁵²³⁷ Microplastics are Raining Down from the Sky, National Geographic (Washington) 15 April 2019. Access date: 13 December, 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/microplastics-pollution-falls-from-air-even-mountains/>

⁵²³⁸ A Global Inventory of Small Floating Plastic Debris, Environmental Research Letters, Bristol) 8 December 2015. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/10/12/124006/pdf>

⁵²³⁹ Environmental and Health Risks of Microplastic Pollution, Publications Office of the European Union (Brussels) 23 August 2019. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f235d1e3-7c4d-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-108645429>

⁵²⁴⁰ We Know Plastic is Harming Marine Life: What About Us? National Geographic (Washington) June 2018. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-health-pollution-waste-microplastics/>.

2011 Cannes Summit, with a renewed commitment at the 2017 Hamburg Summit to protect the marine environment by reducing and limiting the effects of plastics and microplastics.^{5241,5242}

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the issue of marine environment, and in particular marine environment protection, was included as a distinct commitment area for the first time.⁵²⁴³ G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents as well as offshore oil and gas exploration and development accidents.⁵²⁴⁴ They also called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on progress made in the following year pertaining to this issue area and committed to discussing the issue of marine environment further with international organizations and other stakeholders.⁵²⁴⁵

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the issue of waste reduction and littering was discussed and the G20 members committed to “promote public information campaigns for citizens and businesses to reduce waste generation, to re-use and to facilitate their participation in waste collection systems and to avoid littering.”⁵²⁴⁶ This summit emphasized the importance of public information campaigns as a means of instilling public environmental awareness and altering the daily habits of citizens. The G20 also established an action plan on marine litter in order to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics,” so as to meet the Sustainable Development Goals regarding marine pollution, waste management, waste water treatment, and sustainable consumption and production.⁵²⁴⁷

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the Japanese presidency signalled a strong commitment towards environmental protection, energy growth and sustainable production. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that “As the presidency, we will exert strong leadership in discussions aimed towards resolving global issues such as climate change and ocean plastic waste.”⁵²⁴⁸ The commitment made by the G20 leaders to prevent and reduce marine litter highlighted the negative impact of marine pollution on aquatic life and signalled an evolving global understanding of collective environmental protection and sustainable production and consumption.

⁵²⁴¹ Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²⁴² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵²⁴³ Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²⁴⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²⁴⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²⁴⁶ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵²⁴⁷ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²⁴⁸ G20 Japan 2019, Message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 2019. Access date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.japan.go.jp/g20japan/message.html>

Commitment Features

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines microplastics as “plastic particles < 5 mm in length.”⁵²⁴⁹ According to WHO, “microplastics encompass a wide range of materials composed of different substances, with different densities, chemical compositions, shapes and sizes.”⁵²⁵⁰ Materials and products that can be defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles, plastic cosmetic packaging and microbeads etc.

G20 members identified the need to prevent and significantly reduce discharges of plastic in the oceans. The word “prevent” means to “keep from happening or existing.”⁵²⁵¹ “Reduce” is understood as “to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”⁵²⁵² The word “discharges” is defined as “something that discharges or releases.”⁵²⁵³ Thus, G20 members are required to take action that puts a stop to plastic litter and microplastics from being released into the ocean, and also to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans. Since the commitment specifies a “significant” reduction, G20 members must take actions that result in statistically significant change.⁵²⁵⁴ Actions that would result in minimal or statistically insignificant change do not count towards compliance.

Actions that count towards compliance refer to “national actions” that are understood as government initiatives undertaken at the federal or national level of G20 members, as opposed to initiatives originating and occurring primarily at a regional or international level. Examples of national actions that count toward compliance include passing measures to reduce or restrict single-use plastics or microbeads nationally, engaging the private sector to reduce its output of plastic litter, enhancing methods of waste management, expanding upon national recycling programs, improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems so as to reduce or remove microplastic fibres in drinking water and enacting a national ban on plastic packaging or single-use plastics. Actions that do not count towards compliance include verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of prevention and/or reduction strategies, ocean clean-ups and environmental awareness campaigns unless said actions are implemented with the support of a measurable outcome that would result in statistically significant change.

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of both marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans. Actions that address discharge of either marine plastic litter or microplastics, but not both, yield partial compliance. Actions that do not result in statistically significant reduction and prevention of both marine plastic litter and microplastics will be given a score of no compliance. Furthermore, actions that are broadly-based, such as verbal declarations of support, and actions that are isolated measures without a statistically significant outcome, such as ocean cleanups, do not count towards compliance.

⁵²⁴⁹ Information Sheet: Microplastics in Drinking-Water, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access date: 19 November 2019. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/

⁵²⁵⁰ Information Sheet: Microplastics in Drinking-Water, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access date: 19 November 2019. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/

⁵²⁵¹ Prevent, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

⁵²⁵² Reduce, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

⁵²⁵³ Discharge, Meriam-Webster 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discharge>

⁵²⁵⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---|
| -1 | Member fails to take national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter OR microplastics to the oceans. |
| 0 | Members takes national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter OR microplastics to the oceans. |
| +1 | Member takes national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter AND microplastics to the oceans. |

*Compliance Director: Alyssa Atef
Lead Analyst: Gabriella Zhao*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 10 June 2020, the Ministry of Environment in tandem with the National Park Administration implemented a joint initiative to curb single-use plastics in national parks and protected areas.⁵²⁵⁵ In particular, the following items will be banned from use in national parks and protected areas: plastic bottles, disposable plastic dishes, plastic utensils, cotton swabs, single-use and compostable plastic bags, cosmetic packaging, plastic packaging, and hygienic products containing plastic microbeads.⁵²⁵⁶

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment by banning plastic products and products containing microspheres from use in national parks and protected areas across the country. While Argentina has taken national action with respect to both marine plastic litter and microplastics, their actions do not prevent and significantly reduce either form of plastic to the oceans, specifically. Moreover, this initiative is not applied across all areas and sectors.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ivette Ordonez Nunez

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 9 August 2019, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, jointly stated that the country should proceed with embarking on a timeline to ban the export of recyclable materials, and plastics in particular. As well, the COAG determined that the ban should consider reducing plastic waste overall in addition to reducing the amount of plastic waste

⁵²⁵⁵ El Ministerio de Ambiente y Parques Nacionales reducirán los plásticos de un solo uso. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, 11 June 2020, Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ambiente-y-parques-nacionales-reduciran-los-plasticos-de-un-solo-uso-1>

⁵²⁵⁶ El Ministerio de Ambiente y Parques Nacionales reducirán los plásticos de un solo uso. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, 11 June 2020, Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ambiente-y-parques-nacionales-reduciran-los-plasticos-de-un-solo-uso-1>

being exported to landfill sites. Finally, the COAG agreed that the proposed ban should also account for improving methods of collecting, recycling, reusing, converting, and recovering such waste.⁵²⁵⁷

On 2 September 2019, Australia presented the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) to work in tandem with the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme's 2018 Marine Litter Action Plan to jointly provide "a cleaner Pacific environment free from single-use plastics."⁵²⁵⁸ More specifically, the POLP seeks to "support training, industry and community engagement, donor coordination, as well as technical and practical support in response to National Government priorities," and places an emphasis upon, "strengthening policy & legislative frameworks, including through the implementation of bans, levies or voluntary measures."⁵²⁵⁹ The Australian government has committed AUD16 million over six years (2019-2025) toward this effort, as affirmed by Mark Skinner, an official from the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy.⁵²⁶⁰

On 8 November 2019, the Environment Ministers from the COAG expanded upon their previous commitment towards banning the export of recyclable materials to include a timeline of phase-out for each of the categories of waste materials. Per the agreed-upon timeline, waste glass will be banned by July 2020, mixed waste plastics will be banned by July 2021, tires will be banned by December 2021, and all remaining waste products will be banned by 30 June 2022 at the latest.⁵²⁶¹

On 8 November 2019, the Australian government released its National Waste Policy Action Plan. The plan is multifaceted and includes the following relevant provisions. The Plan seeks to work with the private sector to expand the market for recycled goods, reduce the total amount of plastics waste generated by Australians, and increase the average resource recovery rate to 80 per cent by 2030.⁵²⁶² Furthermore, the plan also seeks to phase out all "problematic and unnecessary plastics" by 2025, coordinate for non-governmental organizations to reduce and clean up waste along Australia's coastlines and in their rivers, work with the private sector to reduce ship-sourced marine plastic litter, and phase out all microbeads in cosmetic and personal care products by 2020 with the possibility of expanding the microbeads ban to all products thereafter.⁵²⁶³

⁵²⁵⁷ Meeting of the Council of Australian Governments, Cairns 9 August 2019: Communique, (Canberra) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/coag-communique-august-9-2019.pdf>

⁵²⁵⁸ Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

⁵²⁵⁹ Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

⁵²⁶⁰ Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

⁵²⁶¹ Waste export ban, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/waste-export-ban>

⁵²⁶² National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/5b86c9f8-074e-4d66-ab11-08bbc69da240/files/national-waste-policy-action-plan-2019.pdf>

⁵²⁶³ National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/5b86c9f8-074e-4d66-ab11-08bbc69da240/files/national-waste-policy-action-plan-2019.pdf>

On 2 March 2020, Minister of the Environment Sussan Ley hosted the Australian National Plastics Summit to showcase and identify solutions to the challenge presented by single-use plastics and marine plastics.⁵²⁶⁴ At the summit, the government secured various commitments from the private sector and industry interest groups to invest in sustainable packaging research and use, including McDonalds, Nestle and Dairy Australia.⁵²⁶⁵ Further, the government announced at the summit that they will be partnering with the Australian Institute for Packaging to train packaging designers to develop more sustainable packages that are in compliance with Australia's Sustainable Packaging Guidelines and 2025 National Packaging Targets.⁵²⁶⁶ The government announced that the government-owned Australia Post will move to 100 per cent recycled plastic postage bags by the end of 2021.⁵²⁶⁷

On 6 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced a AUD1 billion investment towards improvements in waste and recycling infrastructure.⁵²⁶⁸ The package of investments include AUD190 million in the Recycling Modernisation Fund, AUD35 million towards fulfilling Commonwealth commitments dedicated to improve waste management and recycling systems until 2030 and AUD24.6 million in collecting data to monitor recycling outcomes and track progress in waste mitigation measures.⁵²⁶⁹ Through this investment, the government intends to divert landfill waste and significantly increase the country's capacity to recycle plastic, paper, tires and glass.⁵²⁷⁰

On 20 August 2020, the Australian government committed AUD10 million in funding towards research initiatives aimed at developing innovative methods of reusing and recycling plastic, paper, glass and tyre.⁵²⁷¹ The funding is part of the Australia's ongoing efforts to transform the nation's waste industry and improve upon the environment.⁵²⁷²

On 6 October 2020, the Australian government released its 2020-2021 federal budget, which included an AUD67.4 million investment towards protecting the ocean and maintaining the health of marine

⁵²⁶⁴ National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

⁵²⁶⁵ National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

⁵²⁶⁶ National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

⁵²⁶⁷ National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

⁵²⁶⁸ Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

⁵²⁶⁹ Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

⁵²⁷⁰ Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

⁵²⁷¹ \$10 million in Grants for Smart Recycling Solutions, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 20 August 2020. Access Date: October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/10-million-grants-smart-recycling-solutions>

⁵²⁷² \$10 million in Grants for Smart Recycling Solutions, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 20 August 2020. Access Date: October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/10-million-grants-smart-recycling-solutions>

ecosystems.⁵²⁷³ In particular, the government will invest approximately AUD14.8 million to clean up plastic litter and ghost nets throughout Australia's oceans and shorelines.⁵²⁷⁴ Furthermore, the government will also allocate AUD249.6 million towards improving Australia's waste and recycling infrastructure, with said improvements being delivered through new initiatives including the Recycling Modernisation Fund and National Waste Action Plan.⁵²⁷⁵ The announcement comes as part of the Australian government's economic recovery plan in the wake of COVID-19, which aims for enhanced waste processing measures and stronger protections for the environment, among other measures.⁵²⁷⁶

Australia has supported efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jared Forman

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Brazil has not taken any national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter nor microplastics to the oceans. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.⁵²⁷⁷

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 23 July 2020, Canada moved into the second phase of its Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste. The second phase involves building greater public awareness of plastics, reducing plastic generated by aquatic activities and capturing and clearing up plastics in marine ecosystems.⁵²⁷⁸ The second phase is a further development of first phase of the Action Plan initially published in 2018, which was

⁵²⁷³ Budget 2020-2021 Infographic, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/budget-infographic-oceans.pdf>

⁵²⁷⁴ Budget 2020-21—Protecting and Preserving Australia's Environment, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2020-21-protecting-preserving-australia-environment>

⁵²⁷⁵ Budget 2020-21—Protecting and Preserving Australia's Environment, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2020-21-protecting-preserving-australia-environment>

⁵²⁷⁶ Budget Overview, Government of Australia (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://budget.gov.au/2020-21/content/overview.htm>

⁵²⁷⁷ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <http://www.brazil.gov.br/about-brazil/news>, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.unenvironment.org/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/world/brazil>

⁵²⁷⁸ Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste: Phase 2, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (Ottawa). 23 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%20%20Action%20Plan_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf

primarily focused on identifying key issues and developing the capacity to respond to the consequences of plastic production upon marine life.⁵²⁷⁹

On 7 October 2020, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson, announced that Canada will phase-out several single-use plastic items including grocery store checkout bags, plastic straws, black take-out containers, six pack rings, plastic cutlery and stir sticks by the end of 2021.⁵²⁸⁰ The ban is part of the government's Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastic Products to Prevent Waste and Pollution. In addition to implementing a ban, the Proposed Integrated Management Approach also suggested a future plan to implement a requirement for products and packaging to utilize recycled content.⁵²⁸¹ The Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastic Products to Prevent Waste and Pollution is part of the government's goal broader to achieve zero plastic waste in the country by 2030.⁵²⁸² In addition to the announcement, the government published a plastics pollution factsheet⁵²⁸³ and a comprehensive scientific report on macro and microplastics.⁵²⁸⁴ In the report, the government stated that it will create standardizations for sampling, quantifying, and evaluating the effects of plastics and microplastics, conduct additional research on the potential for exposure to and effects of microplastics upon human health and monitor the effects of microplastics upon lesser-studied areas of the environment prior to undertaking further preventative or reduction measures towards microplastic discharge.⁵²⁸⁵

On 7 October 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that Canada will allocate CAD2 million towards funding 14 new projects aimed at reducing plastic waste through the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative.⁵²⁸⁶ The projects will be administered in collaboration with various universities, community organizations, municipalities, non-profits and businesses across the country.⁵²⁸⁷ Each project was developed with a different overview in mind to further understand the different aspects of localized

⁵²⁷⁹ Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste: Phase 2, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (Ottawa). 23 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%202%20Action%20Plan_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf

⁵²⁸⁰ Liberals' 2021 Single-Use Plastic Ban Includes Grocery Bags, Takeout Containers, CBC (Toronto) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/single-use-plastics-1.5753327>

⁵²⁸¹ Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

⁵²⁸² Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

⁵²⁸³ Plastic Pollution - Information Sheet, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/chemicals-glance/plastic-pollution.html>

⁵²⁸⁴ Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

⁵²⁸⁵ Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

⁵²⁸⁶ Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

⁵²⁸⁷ Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

plastic waste production, consumption, innovation methods and reduction.⁵²⁸⁸ Overall, the initiative seeks to develop new and innovative ways of preventing, reducing and capturing plastic waste.⁵²⁸⁹

Canada has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a ban on several kinds of single-use plastic items and investing in number of projects to support their Zero Plastic Waste Initiative. Canada, however has failed to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of microplastics to the oceans as the government intends to conduct further research regarding microplastics prior to undertaking further action.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Naomi Butterfield

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 16 January 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission in tandem with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that the Chinese government intends to ban the production and sale of cotton swabs and disposable plastic tableware by the end of 2020,⁵²⁹⁰ the production of household products containing microbeads by 2020,⁵²⁹¹ the sale of household products containing microbeads by 2022,⁵²⁹² the production and distribution of plastic straws and single-use bags by 2020 in major cities,⁵²⁹³ the production and distribution of plastic straws and single-use bags nationwide by 2022,⁵²⁹⁴ the production of non-biodegradable plastic packaging used by ecommerce companies⁵²⁹⁵ and all other single-use plastics across the country by 2025.⁵²⁹⁶ Under the newly proposed regulations, restaurants must also reduce their usage of single-use plastics by 30 per cent and hotels can no longer offer single-use plastics by 2025.⁵²⁹⁷

On 27 July 2020, the Chinese government issued a circular regarding the bans on plastic litter and microplastic discharge that requested all provincial governments to develop draft plans on how to

⁵²⁸⁸ New Projects Funded by the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/new-projects-funded-by-the-zero-plastic-waste-initiative.html>

⁵²⁸⁹ Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

⁵²⁹⁰ Rules for Plastic Products Aim to Curb Urban Pollution, China Daily (Beijing) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202001/20/WS5e24181da310128217272097.html>

⁵²⁹¹ China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

⁵²⁹² China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

⁵²⁹³ Single-use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>

⁵²⁹⁴ Single-Use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>

⁵²⁹⁵ China Says It Will Ban Plastics That Pollute Its Land and Water, New York Times (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/20/world/asia/china-plastic.html>

⁵²⁹⁶ China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

⁵²⁹⁷ Single-Use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>

implement the phase-out in their respective regions.⁵²⁹⁸ The circular also requested that cities at the prefecture-level and higher provide outlines for the measures necessary to reach the government's initial 2020 phase-out goals by year-end.⁵²⁹⁹ The circular directed local governments to establish their own enforcement plans and stated that the government will organize a centralized inspection program by the end of 2020 to assist with enforcement measures.⁵³⁰⁰

China has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans by introducing a comprehensive set of measures aimed at targeting the major producers and distributors of plastic and microplastic waste. The comprehensive set of measures seek to not only ban plastic litter and microplastics, but also outlines the government's intention to further improve upon their recycling capabilities and create innovative, environmentally friendly packaging alternatives.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meimenat Cheng

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 27 December 2019, the French government issued a decree banning single-use plastic plates, cups and cotton buds.⁵³⁰¹ The ban on these single-use plastic products came into effect on 1 January 2020 and is part of the government's broader goal to phase out all single-use plastics by 2040.⁵³⁰²

On 30 January 2020, the National Assembly adopted an anti-waste law containing 130 articles pertaining to the prevention and reduction of plastic waste. In particular, the anti-waste law seeks to phase out single-use plastics, reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles by 50 per cent within the next decade, mandates that all restaurants must stop using plastic containers by 2023, and aims for all plastic to be recyclable by 2025.⁵³⁰³

On 6 March 2020, France along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.⁵³⁰⁴ The 14 countries thus agree to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025 and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic

⁵²⁹⁸ Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

⁵²⁹⁹ Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

⁵³⁰⁰ Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

⁵³⁰¹ France to phase out single-use plastics starting January 1, France 24 (Paris) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191231-france-begins-phasing-out-single-use-plastics>

⁵³⁰² France to phase out single-use plastics starting January 1, France 24 (Paris) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191231-france-begins-phasing-out-single-use-plastics>

⁵³⁰³ Landmark French law will stop unsold goods being thrown away, The Guardian (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/30/france-passes-landmark-law-to-stop-unsold-goods-being-thrown-away>

⁵³⁰⁴ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

products by 2025.⁵³⁰⁵ The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.⁵³⁰⁶ Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.⁵³⁰⁷

On 3 September 2020, the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Recovery, Bruno Le Maire, presented the government's third phase of their COVID-19 economic recovery stimulus.⁵³⁰⁸ In particular, the first pillar of the budget is dedicated to transitioning the country to a green economy, and noted a EUR30 billion investment towards measures such as building retrofits, developing methods of sustainable mobility and further improving upon recycling methods.⁵³⁰⁹ The budget aims to stimulate the French economy in the wake of COVID-19 economic impacts as well as develop green technologies to keep France innovative and competitive within the global markets.⁵³¹⁰

France has supported efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter, but has yet to take national action against the prevention and reduction of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Chantal Elias

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Between 2017 and 2021, covering the full compliance period, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research will fund 20 joint research projects and one scientific project of approximately EUR37 million as part of the Plastics in the Environment: Sources, Sinks, Solutions" initiative.⁵³¹¹ This initiative falls under the umbrella of the Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) and includes plastics, microplastics and nanoplastics.⁵³¹²

⁵³⁰⁵ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁰⁶ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁰⁷ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁰⁸ Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

⁵³⁰⁹ Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

⁵³¹⁰ Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

⁵³¹¹ Background: Plastics in the Environment: Sources, Sinks, Solutions, German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://bmbf-plastik.de/index.php/en/background>.

⁵³¹² Joint Actions, JPI Oceans, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/search-joint-actions-and-projects>.

In 2019 the Ocean Plastics Lab, an initiative co-founded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, continued to operate.⁵³¹³ The Lab “is an international traveling exhibition that shows how science tries to understand and tackle the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans.”

On 6 November 2019, the Federal Cabinet passed an amendment to the existing Packaging Act (which aims to recycle more plastic packaging) that bans plastics bags with wall thicknesses between 15 and 50 micrometers from entering the market.⁵³¹⁴

On 25 November to 8 December 2019, under the Packaging Act, Germany launched the public education campaign “No to the Throwaway Society” to communicate to the public the ban on plastic bags.⁵³¹⁵

On 6 March 2020, Germany along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.⁵³¹⁶ The 14 countries agreed to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025, and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic products by 2025.⁵³¹⁷ The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.⁵³¹⁸ Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.⁵³¹⁹

On 22 May 2020, the Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced a call for projects to be funded through the Marine Debris Network program.⁵³²⁰ The aim of the program is to fund projects aimed at preventing inland waste generation, developing methods of plastic waste reduction and promoting a circular economy.⁵³²¹ Furthermore, the program will support the practical implementation of the funded projects by advising on policy consultations, technological

⁵³¹³ About Ocean Plastics Lab, Ocean Plastics Lab, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://oceanplasticlab.net/de/uber/>.

⁵³¹⁴ Draft law for a first law amending the Packaging Act, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/gesetz/gesetzentwurf-eines-ersten-gesetzes-zur-aenderung-des-verpackungsgesetzes/>

⁵³¹⁵ Campaign “No to the Throwaway Society,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020.

⁵³¹⁶ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³¹⁷ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³¹⁸ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³¹⁹ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³²⁰ Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html

⁵³²¹ Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html

innovations, investments and institutional frameworks, as well as supporting the full implementation of said projects into currently existing frameworks.⁵³²²

Germany has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic and microplastics litter to the oceans through funding national research projects dedicated to understanding the effects of microplastics upon the oceans, banning single-use plastic bags, promoting national plastic ban awareness campaigns, participating in the European Plastics Pact, and funding national projects to improve waste management and promote a circular economy.

Germany has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic and microplastics litter to the oceans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Naomi Butterfield

India: -1

India has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 19 August 2019, the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar, announced that India would soon launch a campaign to make the country free from all single-use plastics.⁵³²³ Minister Javadekar stated that the government first intends to consult with a variety of stakeholders prior to pursuing this national campaign.⁵³²⁴

On 2 February 2020, India and Norway issued a joint statement on climate change and the environment at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals held in Gandhinagar, India.⁵³²⁵ The joint statement expresses the nation's joint goal of pursuing climate action over the next decade, continuing their joint cooperation on environmental affairs and especially ocean affairs, continuing their joint integrated ocean management strategy, further minimising marine plastic litter, delivering solutions for ocean health to present at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2020, supporting international endeavours to reduce

⁵³²² Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html

⁵³²³ Massive Campaign to be Launched to Make India Free of One Time Use Plastics: Shri Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Massive-Campaign-to-be-launched-to-make-India-free-of-one-time-use-plastics-Shri-Prakash-Javadekar-15-08-2020.pdf>

⁵³²⁴ Massive Campaign to be Launched to Make India Free of One Time Use Plastics: Shri Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Massive-Campaign-to-be-launched-to-make-India-free-of-one-time-use-plastics-Shri-Prakash-Javadekar-15-08-2020.pdf>

⁵³²⁵ India and Norway to Work Jointly Towards Mitigating Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/India-and-Norway-to-work-jointly-towards-mitigating-marine-plastic-litter-and-microplastics-Issue-Joint-statement.16-02-2020.pdf>

marine plastic litter and microplastic discharge to the oceans and establishing a joint Marine Plastic Initiative.⁵³²⁶

Although India has expressed commitment towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter and microplastic discharge to the oceans, it has failed to implement any concrete national actions in this regard.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Chantal Elias

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 12 December 2019, Director of Waste Management at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Novrizal Tahar announced that the government intends to reduce marine plastic waste by 70 per cent by 2025. Director Tahar indicated that the government would convene in 2020 to discuss and develop a policy to achieve this goal.⁵³²⁷

On 5 February 2020, Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati announced the Indonesian government's intention to impose a levied tax on plastic, fossil fuels, and sweet drinks. The proposed excise is a part of a broader plan to reduce the environmental and health effects of said products upon Indonesian citizens. As well, the excise is intended to reduce plastic consumption by up to 50 per cent and ideally alter the plastic production to encourage more environmentally friendly production industries.⁵³²⁸

On 19 February 2020, the Indonesian Parliament requested the government to tax a wider range of plastic products than Minister Indrawati had initially proposed as a part of their levied tax plan.⁵³²⁹

Although Indonesia has stated its intention to support reduction and prevention efforts of marine plastic litter, Indonesia has yet to implement any national actions with respect to this commitment. Furthermore, Indonesia has neither addressed nor taken action with regards to the prevention and significant reduction of microplastics to the oceans in particular.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Meimenat Cheng

⁵³²⁶ India and Norway to Work Jointly Towards Mitigating Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/India-and-Norway-to-work-jointly-towards-mitigating-marine-plastic-litter-and-microplastics-Issue-Joint-statement.16-02-2020.pdf>

⁵³²⁷ Indonesia to reduce plastic waste 70% by 2025, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/indonesia-to-reduce-marine-plastic-waste-70-by-2025/1672349>

⁵³²⁸ Indonesia revives excise plan on plastics, dirty vehicles, and sweet drinks, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 February 2020. Access date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/19/indonesia-revives-excise-plan-on-plastics-dirty-vehicles-and-sweet-drinks.html>

⁵³²⁹ Indonesia parliament tells government to tax a wider range of plastic products, Reuters (Toronto) 19 February 2020. Access date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/business/reuters/indonesia-government-proposes-levy-on-sweetened-drinks-co2-emitting-vehicles-plastic-bags-412659/>

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 July 2019, the first joint committee meeting for the implementation of a memorandum of understanding was held in Rome between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia and the Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Protection of the Territory and Sea of Italy.⁵³³⁰ The memorandum of understanding established that Italy and Russia will jointly pursue future endeavors to monitor and prevent water pollution, preserve ecological diversity and improve upon waste water management techniques, among other measures.⁵³³¹ The joint committee approved to pursue these measures from 2019 to 2021.⁵³³²

On 23 September 2019, Italy introduced a national tax on manufactured plastic products at a rate of EUR1 per kilogram of plastic used in product production.⁵³³³ The proportional tax was included within Italy's proposed 2020 Budget and is projected to raise approximately EUR1 billion.⁵³³⁴ Qualifying products for the tax include plastic caps, plastic bottles, single-use plastic bags, food packaging containing polyethylene and tetra pack containers, among other items.⁵³³⁵ Exemptions include compostable plastic products and medical paraphernalia.⁵³³⁶ The tax is set to come into enforcement by 1 July 2020.⁵³³⁷

On 29 November 2019, an amendment was made to the Budget Law 2020 to reduce the rate of taxation on plastics used in product production from EUR1 per kilogram to EUR0.5 per kilogram.⁵³³⁸ As well, the amendment expanded upon exemptions to include all medical devices, equipment and paraphernalia.⁵³³⁹

⁵³³⁰ Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/

⁵³³¹ Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/

⁵³³² Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/

⁵³³³ Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan 2020, European Commission (Brussels) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2020_dbp_it_en.pdf

⁵³³⁴ Italy to Tax Plastic and Sugar, Angering Producers, Reuters (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-budget-plastic-idUSKBN1X71XF>

⁵³³⁵ Italy Introduces Proportional Tax on Plastic Items, Ernst & Young Global (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items

⁵³³⁶ Italy Softens Budget Plastic Tax, Cuts Tax on 'Green' Tampons, Reuters (London) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-tax-plastic-tampons-idUSKBN1Y31UP>

⁵³³⁷ Italy Introduces Proportional Tax on Plastic Items, Ernst & Young Global (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items

⁵³³⁸ Italy Waters Down Plastic Tax after Complaints from Business, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.thelocal.it/20191205/italy-waters-down-plastic-tax-after-complaints-from-business>

⁵³³⁹ Italy Waters Down Plastic Tax after Complaints from Business, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.thelocal.it/20191205/italy-waters-down-plastic-tax-after-complaints-from-business>

On 6 March 2020, Italy along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.⁵³⁴⁰ The 14 countries agreed to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025, and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic products by 2025.⁵³⁴¹ The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.⁵³⁴² Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.⁵³⁴³

On 11 May 2020, the Italian government announced that it would postpone the implementation of the plastic tax until 2021 due to the economic effects of COVID-19 upon local plastic producers and industries who rely on plastics.⁵³⁴⁴

Although Italy has displayed efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of plastic litter discharge through their proposed plastic tax, it has delayed the tax and additionally, Italy has yet to take concrete national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter to the oceans.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 29 June 2019, the Government of Japan launched the MARINE initiative. This framework lays out Japan's commitment to combat marine plastic litter on a global scale by supporting developing countries in their efforts towards waste management, the recovery of marine litter, and technological innovation. The MARINE initiative was launched in response to the G20's Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁵³⁴⁵

On 13 September 2019, Minister of the Environment Shinjiro Koizumi iterated Japan's commitment to leading a global movement towards plastic reduction. Koizumi outlined his intention to collaborate with

⁵³⁴⁰ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁴¹ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁴² A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁴³ A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

⁵³⁴⁴ Italy Delays Tax on Plastic due to Coronavirus Crisis, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020.

⁵³⁴⁵ Japan's "MARINE Initiative" toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

other countries to tackle the issue of marine plastics and acknowledged the importance of reducing “plastic straws, bottles, and bags,” while also addressing marine plastic reduction at a macro level.⁵³⁴⁶

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.⁵³⁴⁷ The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.⁵³⁴⁸

On 9 October 2019, the Ministry of Environment, in tandem with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability at the United Nations University held the “G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019” in Tokyo, Japan in follow up to the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.⁵³⁴⁹ During the meeting, the participants summarized the strategic policies targeting marine plastic litter that were implemented by each of the G20 members both prior to and following the Osaka Summit.⁵³⁵⁰ The purpose of the meeting was to share best practices among the members, provide updates on actions taken by the members since the Osaka Summit, and to further highlight the importance of this commitment area both within the G20 and to countries outside of the G20.⁵³⁵¹

On 1 November 2019, a joint panel of Japan’s industry and environment ministries approved a draft plan to put fees on plastic bag use. The legislation will require all retailers across the country to charge customers for plastic shopping bags. This legislation will come into effect by July 2020.⁵³⁵²

On 1 July 2020, the legislation requiring a fee for consumers who utilize plastic bags came into effect.⁵³⁵³ The cost of the fee will be set by retailers and is intended to curb the degree to which consumers rely on single-use plastic bags.⁵³⁵⁴

⁵³⁴⁶ New Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi vows Japan will take lead role on plastic waste, Japan Times (Tokyo) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/13/national/science-health/koizumi-japan-lead-plastic-waste/#.XkHqnxNKiqC>

⁵³⁴⁷ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵³⁴⁸ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵³⁴⁹ Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf

⁵³⁵⁰ Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf

⁵³⁵¹ Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf

⁵³⁵² Japan to make Plastic Bag Fees Mandatory from July 2020, Nippon (Tokyo) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2019110101013/japan-to-make-plastic-bag-fees-mandatory-from-july-2020.html>

Japan has taken national action towards preventing and significantly reducing the discharge of marine plastic litter such as seen in the MARINE initiative. However, it has not taken national action targeted at the prevention and reduction of microplastic discharge to the oceans.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Chantal Elias

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 10 December 2019, Environment Minister Cho Myung-rae announced the implementation of the 5th Comprehensive Plan for the National Environment (2020-2040).⁵³⁵⁵ The plan outlines strategies for the implementation of environmentally-conscious policies throughout a variety of different industries and sectors, provides policy direction for the implementation of environment-related policies at the local government level and overall outlines a long-term vision for national environment management from 2020 to 2040. Under Strategy 2, Korea's Fifth Comprehensive Plan seeks to implement Integrated Water Resource Management to enhance water quality by reducing microplastics discharge.⁵³⁵⁶ In addition, Strategy 6 of the plan also iterates the government's intention to phase-out the use of plastics nation-wide. This is to be accomplished by developing environmentally friendly plastic alternatives and reducing the use of plastics.⁵³⁵⁷

On 5 February 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced that clear plastic bottles are from thenceforth to be collected and recycled separately from all other waste material for the purposes of turning the plastic bottles into a high quality textile material.⁵³⁵⁸ Minister stated that the ministry would launch a "Pilot Project for the Separate Disposal of Transparent Used Plastic Bottles"

⁵³⁵³ Japan's New Plastic Bag Charge: What it Means for Consumers and the Environment, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/01/national/japan-plastic-bag-charge-consumers-environment/>

⁵³⁵⁴ Japan's New Plastic Bag Charge: What it Means for Consumers and the Environment, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/01/national/japan-plastic-bag-charge-consumers-environment/>

⁵³⁵⁵ Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁵⁶ Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁵⁷ Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁵⁸ Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

throughout the municipalities of Seoul, Busan, Cheonan, Gimhae, Jeju and Seogwipo.⁵³⁵⁹ The pilot project involves the installation of separate collection boxes for the collection of used clear plastic bottles in apartment houses and main collection facilities, and transparent plastic bags for the collection of used clear plastic bottles from single-family houses.⁵³⁶⁰ The ministry estimates that by increasing the country's clear plastic bottle collection through this program, Korea will overall reduce the amount of clear plastic bottles it imports from neighboring countries.⁵³⁶¹ Should the pilot prove successful, the ministry indicated that it would likely implement the program nation-wide by 2021.⁵³⁶²

On 24 March 2020, Minister Cho clarified that an amendment to the “Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal” reached a resolution in State Council and will come into act as of 31 March 2020.⁵³⁶³ The act bans the import of waste products as identified by the minister and supports the use of local wastes as an alternative.⁵³⁶⁴ The new resolution resulted in the guarantee to reassess the rate of import for recycling waste materials such as cinder, waste batteries, waste tires and waste plastic as these materials were found to be imported excessively.⁵³⁶⁵ In particular, the Ministry of Environment will assess these materials in the context of the rate of local reuse, possibility to replace with the local

⁵³⁵⁹ Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

⁵³⁶⁰ Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

⁵³⁶¹ Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

⁵³⁶² Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

⁵³⁶³ Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁶⁴ Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁶⁵ Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

equivalent and the impact of replacement upon industries and the environment prior to enacting a ban on the identified materials.⁵³⁶⁶

On 23 June 2020, the Ministry of Environment stated that the aforementioned “Pilot Project for the Separate Disposal of Transparent Used Plastic Bottles” successfully repurposed clear plastic bottles into high quality textiles and products and would thus be expanded nation-wide.⁵³⁶⁷ Prior to the launch of the program, recycled long-fiber products and clothing were made from approximately 22,000 tonnes of imported plastic waste per year and 28,000 tonnes of domestic plastic waste per year was repurposed into high quality products.⁵³⁶⁸ In order to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the program, the ministry seeks to improve the collection, sorting, recycling, and product production aspects of the program. In particular, the program will collect both used and new plastic bottles, when it had previously only collected new bottles, from apartments as of December 2020 and single-family homes as of January 2021.⁵³⁶⁹ By the second half of 2021, the program will also improve upon the method of collecting and sorting plastic waste by expanding the labelling system used to distinguish between each material.⁵³⁷⁰ Finally, the program will seek to collect waste from all regions, with the exception of Jeju Island and Cheonan city.⁵³⁷¹

Korea has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans through enhancing their recycling capabilities and reducing the volume of imported plastic waste. As well, Korea has complied with their commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of microplastics to the oceans by implementing their Fifth Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the Integrated Water Resource Management strategy aimed at reducing microplastic discharge into the ocean.

⁵³⁶⁶ Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁶⁷ Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁶⁸ Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁶⁹ Plastic Waste Recycled as High Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁷⁰ Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

⁵³⁷¹ Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meimenat Cheng

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to take national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 5 December 2019, the Senate of Mexico in conjunction with various plastic industry associations and civil society groups, signed the National Agreement for the New Plastics Economy in Mexico.⁵³⁷² This agreement aims to reduce, recycle and make compostable plastics in Mexico by 2030.⁵³⁷³ Senator Ricardo Monreal Ávila stated that in Mexico, “waste destroys the ecosystems as litter goes into rivers, oceans, jungles and forests.”⁵³⁷⁴ Overall, this agreement seeks to reduce single-use plastics and estimates that all plastic products should contain 20 per cent recycled material by 2025.⁵³⁷⁵

On 7 July 2020, the approval for the Sectorial Program for the Environment and Natural Resources 2020-2024 was published in the Federal Gazette.⁵³⁷⁶ The program contains five key objectives: promote the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of ecosystems, take stronger climate action, promote water management strategies, rid the water, air, and soil from contamination and encourage citizen participation in environmental policy-making decisions.⁵³⁷⁷

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources published a guideline created by the Secretariat of the Environment of the Fourth Transformation.⁵³⁷⁸ The guideline envisions seven transitions the government will pursue to restore and conserve the environment.⁵³⁷⁹ In particular, the guideline outlined the administration’s goal to transition to improve upon waste management, improve water management and to achieve water that is free from contamination.⁵³⁸⁰

⁵³⁷² México logra Acuerdo Nacional para la nueva economía de los plásticos, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 10 December 2019. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.portalam biental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

⁵³⁷³ Industria y Senado firman Acuerdo Nacional por una Nueva Economía del Plástico, Senado de la República (Mexico City) 5 December 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <http://comunicacion.senado.gob.mx/index.php/informacion/boletines/47095-industria-y-senado-firman-acuerdo-nacional-por-una-nueva-economia-del-plastico.html>

⁵³⁷⁴ Industria y Senado firman Acuerdo Nacional por una Nueva Economía del Plástico, Senado de la República (Mexico City) 5 December 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <http://comunicacion.senado.gob.mx/index.php/informacion/boletines/47095-industria-y-senado-firman-acuerdo-nacional-por-una-nueva-economia-del-plastico.html>

⁵³⁷⁵ México logra Acuerdo Nacional para la nueva economía de los plásticos, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 10 December 2019. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.portalam biental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

⁵³⁷⁶ Publica Semarnat su Programa Sectorial 2020-2024, Semarnat (Mexico City) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/publica-semarnat-su-programa-sectorial-2020-2024?idiom=es>

⁵³⁷⁷ Publica Semarnat su Programa Sectorial 2020-2024, Semarnat (Mexico City) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/publica-semarnat-su-programa-sectorial-2020-2024?idiom=es>

⁵³⁷⁸ Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

⁵³⁷⁹ Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

⁵³⁸⁰ Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

Mexico has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans through the National Agreement for the New Plastics Economy in Mexico. The Mexican government has also expressed intentions to implement future policies aimed at improving waste management and reducing pollution in its waters. However, it has failed to take national action to prevent and reduce discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ivette Ordonez Nunez

Russia: -1

Russia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 July 2019, the first joint committee meeting for the implementation of a memorandum of understanding was held in Rome between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia and the Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Protection of the Territory and Sea of Italy.⁵³⁸¹ The memorandum of understanding established that Italy and Russia will jointly pursue future endeavors to monitor and prevent water pollution, preserve ecological diversity, and improve upon waste water management techniques, among other measures.⁵³⁸² The joint committee approved to pursue these measures from 2019-2021.⁵³⁸³

On 18 October 2019, the Federal Consumer Protection Service indicated that it would release a draft bill to phase out single-use plastics bags in collaboration with other national governmental agencies.⁵³⁸⁴ The Federal Consumer Protection Service did not indicate both when the bill might be presented and if there was a particular timeline or projected date for full national implementation of the proposed phase-out.⁵³⁸⁵

While Russia has collaborated with Italy to address water pollution and has released a draft bill to phase out single-use plastic bags, the first action does not address marine plastic litter or microplastics, specifically, and neither action meet the criteria of statistically significant reduction.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Katherine Yarun

⁵³⁸¹ Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/

⁵³⁸² Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/

⁵³⁸³ Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/

⁵³⁸⁴ Article: Russia moves to phase out plastic bags in new draft law, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/18/russia-moves-phase-out-plastic-bags-new-draft-law-a67791>

⁵³⁸⁵ Article: Russia moves to phase out plastic bags in new draft law, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/18/russia-moves-phase-out-plastic-bags-new-draft-law-a67791>

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 14 July 2019 Saudi Arabia's National Center for Waste Management signed a memorandum of understanding with the Riyadh municipality and the Saudi Investment Recycling Company to strengthen cooperation and coordination for a waste management strategy in Riyadh.⁵³⁸⁶ The strategy intends to include recycling of municipal waste, including plastics.

On 16 June 2020, Saudi Arabia announced that the second phase of their oxo-biodegradable plastics regulation, which was set to come into force on 1 April 2020, will be delayed until further notice.⁵³⁸⁷ The initial phase of the three-phased approach (implemented on 14 April 2017) required that single-use plastic bags, garbage bags, table covers, woven bags, and disposable cutlery be produced from an oxo-biodegradable plastic material.⁵³⁸⁸ The first phase of the regulation will remain in effect.⁵³⁸⁹

On 23 July 2020 the Council of Ministers established the Environment Fund and four specialized environment centres.⁵³⁹⁰ The establishment of these centres included an assessment regarding the including of waste management. It is not clear if this covers plastics or microplastics.

Saudi Arabia has taken some action on recycling plastics at the municipal level and on waste management broadly at the national level. There is not enough evidence to show Saudi Arabia took swift action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.⁵³⁹¹

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Amira Higazy

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

From 21 to 22 November 2019, South Africa's Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy hosted a Plastic Colloquium attended by several key stakeholders within South Africa's government, industry and civil society.⁵³⁹² The Plastic Colloquium involved discussions on recent research on plastic waste, the implementation and effectiveness of awareness campaigns, and

⁵³⁸⁶ The National center for Waste Management, the Riyadh Municipality and the Recycling Company Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Start Waste Recycling Activities in Riyadh, Argaam, 14 July 2019. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1301195>.

⁵³⁸⁷ Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529

⁵³⁸⁸ Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529

⁵³⁸⁹ Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529

⁵³⁹⁰ In the Era of "Salman"...5 Historic Decisions Pledging to the Environment Safety, Saudi Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture, 23 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/55464.aspx>.

⁵³⁹¹ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://saudigazette.com.sa/>, <https://www.alriyadh.gov.sa/en/>, <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/home.aspx>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz0zl4t/saudi-arabia>

⁵³⁹² Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

international best practices and actions in tackling plastic waste.⁵³⁹³ This colloquium was divided into six main topics which later formed the basis of the South Africa Plastic Pact, namely, product standards and certification, product design, development and innovation, integration of the informal waste economy, biodegradable and compostable plastics, infrastructure and consumer education.⁵³⁹⁴

On December 2019, South Africa announced the launch of National Marine Month 2020, a national environmental awareness campaign set to take place throughout the month of October 2020.⁵³⁹⁵ The educational campaign is intended to raise awareness within the country of the benefits provided by South Africa's marine and coastal environments provide recommendations to households on ways to preserve the health of South Africa's marine and coastal lines, including the reduction of plastic consumption.⁵³⁹⁶

On 30 January 2020, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy launched the South Africa Plastic Pact.⁵³⁹⁷ This pact follows the National Environmental Management Waste Act: Consultation on National Waste Management Strategy conducted in December 2019, which identified single-use plastics used in consumer packaging to be the primary cause of plastic pollution throughout the coastal and marine environments.⁵³⁹⁸ The South Africa Plastic Pact — a national initiative within the Global Plastics Pact Network — was designed to address both global and domestic plastic waste and pollution challenges using the objectives of the Plastic Colloquium.⁵³⁹⁹ The Deputy Director-General of Oceans and Coast added that regular meetings and workshops would be held to check progress and to account for work done.⁵⁴⁰⁰

On 9 September 2020, the South African Cabinet approved the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 to replace the previous National Waste Management Strategy from 2011.⁵⁴⁰¹ The updated strategy targets three main objectives — waste minimization, sustainable services and waste awareness and compliance.⁵⁴⁰² Notable changes adopted in the 2020 strategy include implementing strategies to increase residential waste sorting and separation programs, investing in businesses who transport waste to recycling facilities and promoting innovative product and packaging designs that promote reuse,

⁵³⁹³ Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

⁵³⁹⁴ Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

⁵³⁹⁵ Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

⁵³⁹⁶ Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

⁵³⁹⁷ Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

⁵³⁹⁸ National Environmental Management: Waste Act: Consultation: National Waste Management Strategy, South African Government (Cape Town) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.gov.za/documents/nationalenvironmental-management-waste-act-consultation-national-waste-management>

⁵³⁹⁹ Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

⁵⁴⁰⁰ Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

⁵⁴⁰¹ Statement on the Virtual Cabinet Meeting of 9 September 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-9-september-2020-10-sep-2020-0000>

⁵⁴⁰² Statement on the Virtual Cabinet Meeting of 9 September 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-9-september-2020-10-sep-2020-0000>

reduce overall waste and support markets for properly sorting recyclables, among other measures.⁵⁴⁰³ The implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 is part of the government's broader goal of circular economic green recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁰⁴

On 19 September 2020, Minister Creecy announced the launch of the Inkwazi Isu Project which aims to collaborate with businesses, plastics manufacturers, government stakeholders, citizens and non-governmental organizations to promote recycling measures and localized solutions to implementing a circular plastics economy.⁵⁴⁰⁵ The project will work to support the Source to Sea program, which is aimed at reducing marine plastic litter by improving waste management strategies and supporting physical river cleanups throughout South Africa.⁵⁴⁰⁶

South Africa has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter as seen in the implementation of the South Africa Plastic Pact, the National Waste Management Strategy 2020, and the Inkwazi Isu Project. However, it has not taken action to prevent and reduce microplastic discharge to the oceans.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Amira Higazy

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to take national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 2 January 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization implemented a recovery share tax on the packaging used by oil, pharmaceutical, electronic goods and beverage manufacturers and importers.⁵⁴⁰⁷ The tax is to be paid directly to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance of Turkey. The companies can offset this tax by requiring their customers to pay a recyclable packaging deposit, thus encouraging recycling measures and reducing the amount of plastic waste.⁵⁴⁰⁸

Turkey has taken national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a tax on packaging from various industries. However, Turkey has not taken national action to prevent and reduce the discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Katherine Yarun

⁵⁴⁰³ Minister Barbara Creecy: SA Recycling Week, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-sa-recycling-week-14-sep-2020-0000>

⁵⁴⁰⁴ Minister Barbara Creecy: SA Recycling Week, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-sa-recycling-week-14-sep-2020-0000>

⁵⁴⁰⁵ Minister Barbara Creecy: International Coastal Clean-Up and launch of Inkwazi Isu Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2020. Access Date 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-international-coastal-clean-and-launch-inkwazi-isu-project-19-sep>

⁵⁴⁰⁶ Minister Barbara Creecy: International Coastal Clean-Up and launch of Inkwazi Isu Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-international-coastal-clean-and-launch-inkwazi-isu-project-19-sep>

⁵⁴⁰⁷ Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>

⁵⁴⁰⁸ Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 31 August 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that it extended taxation upon single-use carrier plastic bags into April 2021.⁵⁴⁰⁹ The taxation now applies to all retailers across the nation and has increased in cost for each bag from GBP5 to GBP10. With this legislation, the UK aims to reduce the single-use plastic carrier bag waste generated by small businesses and incentivize consumers to rely on long-life bags made from sustainable materials.⁵⁴¹⁰ The announcement is part of the UK's ongoing efforts to curb all avoidable plastic waste reduce and prevent marine plastic litter by the end of 2042 as outlined in their 25 Year Environment plan.⁵⁴¹¹

On 1 October 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that legislation banning plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds came into effect.⁵⁴¹² It aims to completely eliminate the usage of these single-use plastics. The ban was initially set to be implemented by April 2020, but was delayed in its implementation due to the collective closure of businesses nation-wide as a result of COVID-19.⁵⁴¹³ The announcement is part of the UK's ongoing efforts to curb all avoidable plastic waste and reduce and prevent marine plastic litter by the end of 2042 as outlined in their 25 Year Environment plan.⁵⁴¹⁴

The UK has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a tax to reduce single-use plastic bags and thereby incentivizing consumers to adopt long-life bags instead. As well, the UK has further demonstrated their compliance by outright banning several single-use plastics throughout the nation. The UK, however, has failed to implement targeted strategies to prevent or reduce the discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ivette Ordóñez Nunez

⁵⁴⁰⁹ War on Plastic Waste Stepped up with Extension of Plastic Bag Charge, Gov.UK (London) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

⁵⁴¹⁰ War on Plastic Waste Stepped up with Extension of Plastic Bag Charge, Gov.UK (London) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

⁵⁴¹¹ A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HM Government (London) 11 January 2018. Access Date: 4 October 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁵⁴¹² Start of Ban on Plastic Straws, Stirrers and Cotton Buds, Gov.UK (London) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/start-of-ban-on-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds>

⁵⁴¹³ Ban on Plastic Straws, Stirrers and Cotton Buds Delayed Due to Coronavirus Outbreak, Gov.UK (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/16/ban-on-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds-delayed-due-to-coronavirus-outbreak/>

⁵⁴¹⁴ A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, Gov.UK (London) 11 January 2018. Access Date: 4 October 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

United States: -1

The United States has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.⁵⁴¹⁵ The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the G20 Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.⁵⁴¹⁶

On 22 October 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army repealed an amendment of the Code of Regulation.⁵⁴¹⁷ The amendment, entitled 2015 Clean Water Rule: Definition of “Waters of the United States,” was repealed by the EPA in part due to its failure to “recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and right of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution” as outlined in 33 U.S.C. 1251 (b).⁵⁴¹⁸ The repeal thus restores the standards of American waterways back to its 1986 standards.

The United States has not complied national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, the United States receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Jared Forman

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 4 October 2019, the Council of the EU adopted its final conclusions in response to the Strategic Agenda initially adopted earlier in the year.⁵⁴¹⁹ The Strategic Agenda is a framework of action intended to build a “climate neutral, green, fair and social Europe.”⁵⁴²⁰ In response to the initial framework, the Council reiterated its commitment to combating marine litter in the form of plastics and microplastics originating from both land and water sources. Furthermore, the Council called upon the EU to fully

⁵⁴¹⁵ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵⁴¹⁶ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵⁴¹⁷ Navigable Waters Protection Rule, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/definition-waters-united-states-recodification-pre-existing-rules>

⁵⁴¹⁸ Navigable Waters Protection Rule, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/definition-waters-united-states-recodification-pre-existing-rules>

⁵⁴¹⁹ The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²⁰ A New Strategic Agenda, European Council (Brussels) 20 June 2019. Date Accessed: 6 February 2020.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/20/a-new-strategic-agenda-2019-2024/>

adopt the Plastics Strategy so as to support the EU's full transition into a circular economy, reduce plastic packaging, increase the use of recycled plastics and develop an environmental policy framework which supports the use of biodegradable plastics.⁵⁴²¹ Finally, the Council urged the European Commission to expedite the establishment of restrictions on the intentional addition of microplastics, and to consider avenues of reducing unintentionally released microplastics in a concerted effort to reduce the discharge of plastic and microplastic litter into the ocean.⁵⁴²²

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.⁵⁴²³ The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.⁵⁴²⁴

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission announced its commitment towards implementing the European Green Deal.⁵⁴²⁵ The European Green Deal is a framework of action dedicated towards achieving net neutrality within the EU by 2050, preserving the natural resources of the EU, decoupling economic growth from resource dependency, fully implementing both the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development agenda and the sustainable development goals and overall protecting citizens' health from environmental-related factors.⁵⁴²⁶ In particular, the Commission emphasized their commitment towards following up on its 2018 Plastics Strategy. The Commission outlined its distinct focus on addressing the unintentional releases of plastics and microplastics, creating biodegradable plastics, and implementing measures regarding single-use plastics. As well, the Commission iterated their intention to propose additional measures pertaining to runoff pollution from plastics and microplastics in ground and surface water.⁵⁴²⁷

On 5 March 2020, the European Council reaffirmed its commitment to implement the European Green Deal. The Council urged all member states to submit their national strategies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2020 in accordance with the Paris Agreement.⁵⁴²⁸

⁵⁴²¹ The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²² The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²³ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵⁴²⁴ G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

⁵⁴²⁵ The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²⁶ The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²⁷ The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁵⁴²⁸ Climate change: Council adopts EU long-term strategy for submission to the UNFCCC, European Council (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Date Accessed: 26 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/05/climate-change-council-adopts-eu-long-term-strategy-for-submission-to-the-unfccc/>

On 11 March 2020, the European Commission adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).⁵⁴²⁹ The plan includes mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles in order to ensure a sustainable use of plastics.⁵⁴³⁰ The plan also restricts the use of intentionally added microplastics in products such as cosmetics, detergents and paints, among other things.⁵⁴³¹ It further restricts the release of microplastics by developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures.⁵⁴³² Finally, the CEAP outlines the development of a policy framework for the use of bio-based plastics and biodegradable plastics.⁵⁴³³

Through the implementation of the Green Deal and the accompanying Circular Economy Action Plan, the EU has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist

⁵⁴²⁹ Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf

⁵⁴³⁰ Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf

⁵⁴³¹ Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf

⁵⁴³² Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf

⁵⁴³³ Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf