

2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim 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	-1		
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada	-1		
China		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom	-1		
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		-0.30 (35%)	

Background

Preliminary studies have identified traces of microplastics in the air,²⁹⁴⁵ water,²⁹⁴⁶ and food²⁹⁴⁷ 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.²⁹⁴⁸ The G20 first addressed protecting the global marine environment at the

²⁹⁴⁵ 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/>

²⁹⁴⁶ 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>

²⁹⁴⁷ 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>

²⁹⁴⁸ 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.^{2949,2950}

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.²⁹⁵¹ G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents as well as offshore oil and gas exploration and development accidents.²⁹⁵² 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.²⁹⁵³

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.”²⁹⁵⁴ 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.²⁹⁵⁵

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.”²⁹⁵⁶ 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.

²⁹⁴⁹ 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>

²⁹⁵⁰ 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>

²⁹⁵¹ 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>

²⁹⁵² 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>

²⁹⁵³ 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>

²⁹⁵⁴ 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>

²⁹⁵⁵ 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>

²⁹⁵⁶ 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.”²⁹⁵⁷ According to WHO, “microplastics encompass a wide range of materials composed of different substances, with different densities, chemical compositions, shapes and sizes.”²⁹⁵⁸ 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.”²⁹⁵⁹ “Reduce” is understood as “to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”²⁹⁶⁰ The word “discharges” is defined as “something that discharges or releases.”²⁹⁶¹ 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.²⁹⁶² 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.

²⁹⁵⁷ 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/

²⁹⁵⁸ 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/

²⁹⁵⁹ Prevent, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

²⁹⁶⁰ Reduce, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

²⁹⁶¹ Discharge, Meriam-Webster 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discharge>

²⁹⁶² Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 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: -1

Argentina 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.

Argentina 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.²⁹⁶³

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1.

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 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.²⁹⁶⁴

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.”²⁹⁶⁵ 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

²⁹⁶³ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/foreign-policy/environment, <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news>, www.theguardian.com/environment/plastic, www.lanacion.com.ar, www.argentina.gob.ar, www.lavoz.com.ar, www.neomundo.com.ar, www.telam.com.ar, www.argentinaambiental.com, www.elpais.es, www.losverdes.org.ar, www.conicet.gov.ar

²⁹⁶⁴ 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>

²⁹⁶⁵ 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>

implementation of bans, levies or voluntary measures.”²⁹⁶⁶ 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.²⁹⁶⁷

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.²⁹⁶⁸

On 8 November 2019, the Australian government released their 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 2030.²⁹⁶⁹ 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.²⁹⁷⁰

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.²⁹⁷¹ 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.²⁹⁷² 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

²⁹⁶⁶ 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>

²⁹⁶⁷ 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>

²⁹⁶⁸ 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>

²⁹⁶⁹ 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>

²⁹⁷⁰ 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>

²⁹⁷¹ 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>

²⁹⁷² 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>

Guidelines and 2025 National Packaging Targets.²⁹⁷³ The government announced that the government-owned Australia Post will move to 100 per cent recycled plastic postage bags by the end of 2021.²⁹⁷⁴

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.²⁹⁷⁵

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist

Canada: -1

Canada 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.

Canada 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.²⁹⁷⁶

Thus, Canada receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Naomi Butterfield

²⁹⁷³ 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>

²⁹⁷⁴ 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>

²⁹⁷⁵ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <http://www.brazil.gov.br/about-brazil/news?fbclid=IwAR0K7VadI-zw4w-cP71bZj8UPXXpzZmJjz81E49xYC41l9ImQklyxYFQUiY>, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.unenvironment.org/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/environment+world/brazil>

²⁹⁷⁶ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/international-commitments/ocean-plastics-charter.html>, <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/collaboration/partnership-projects/055-eng.html>, <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2018/06/10/working-together-climate-change-oceans-and-clean-energy>, <https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/mammals-mammiferes/ghostgear-equipementfantome/index-eng.html>, <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/06/10/government-canada-taking-action-reduce-plastic-pollution>, <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html>, <https://www.canada.ca/en/news.html>

China: 0

China 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 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 both non-biodegradable plastic products containing microbeads by the end of 2020 and single-use plastics across the country by 2025.²⁹⁷⁷

China has voiced the intention towards the prevention of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics, but it has not taken stronger action.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

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.²⁹⁷⁸ 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 2040.²⁹⁷⁹

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 2025.²⁹⁸⁰

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.

²⁹⁷⁷ 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>

²⁹⁷⁸ 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>

²⁹⁷⁹ 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>

²⁹⁸⁰ 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>

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.²⁹⁸¹ 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.²⁹⁸²

In 2019 the Oceans Plastics Lab, an initiative co-founded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, continued to operate.²⁹⁸³ 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.²⁹⁸⁴

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.²⁹⁸⁵

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.

India 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.²⁹⁸⁶

Thus, India receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Chantal Elias

²⁹⁸¹ 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>.

²⁹⁸² Joint Actions, JPI Oceans, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/search-joint-actions-and-projects>.

²⁹⁸³ About Ocean Plastics Lab, Ocean Plastics Lab, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://oceanplasticslab.net/de/uber/>.

²⁹⁸⁴ 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/>

²⁹⁸⁵ Campaign "No to the Throwaway Society," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020.

²⁹⁸⁶ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, <https://www.india.gov.in/>, <https://in.reuters.com/>,

<https://www.unenvironment.org/>, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/india>, <http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/>

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.²⁹⁸⁷

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.²⁹⁸⁸

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.²⁹⁸⁹

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

Italy: -1

Italy 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.

Italy 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.²⁹⁹⁰

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist

²⁹⁸⁷ 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>

²⁹⁸⁸ 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>

²⁹⁸⁹ 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/>

²⁹⁹⁰ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <http://www.governo.it/notizie-presidente>, <http://www.governo.it/it/notizie-chigi>, <http://www.governo.it/it/notizie-dai-ministeri>, <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/ufficio-stampa>, <https://unfccc.int/>

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.²⁹⁹¹

On 13 September 2019, Minister of the Environment Shinjiro Koizumi iterated Japan's commitment to leading a global movement towards plastic reduction. Kozumi outlined his intention to collaborate with 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.²⁹⁹²

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.²⁹⁹³ 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.²⁹⁹⁴

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.²⁹⁹⁵ 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.²⁹⁹⁶ The purpose of the meeting was to share best practices among the members, provide updates on actions taken by the

²⁹⁹¹ 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

²⁹⁹² 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>

²⁹⁹³ 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)

²⁹⁹⁴ 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)

²⁹⁹⁵ 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

²⁹⁹⁶ 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

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 G20.²⁹⁹⁷

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 2020.²⁹⁹⁸

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).²⁹⁹⁹ 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.³⁰⁰⁰ 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.³⁰⁰¹

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

²⁹⁹⁷ 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

²⁹⁹⁸ 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>

²⁹⁹⁹ 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=>

³⁰⁰⁰ 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=>

³⁰⁰¹ 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=>

turning the plastic bottles into a high quality textile material.³⁰⁰² Minister stated that the ministry would launch a “Pilot Project for the Separate Disposal of Transparent Used Plastic Bottles” throughout the municipalities of Seoul, Busan, Cheonan, Gimhae, Jeju and Seogwipo.³⁰⁰³ 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.³⁰⁰⁴ 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.³⁰⁰⁵ Should the pilot prove successful, the ministry indicated that it would likely implement the program nation-wide by 2021.³⁰⁰⁶

Korea taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

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.³⁰⁰⁷ This agreement aims to reduce, recycle and make compostable plastics in Mexico by 2030.³⁰⁰⁸ Senator Ricardo Monreal Ávila stated that in Mexico, “waste destroys the ecosystems as litter goes into rivers,

³⁰⁰² 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>

³⁰⁰³ 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>

³⁰⁰⁴ 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>

³⁰⁰⁵ 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>

³⁰⁰⁶ 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>

³⁰⁰⁷ 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.portalambiental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

³⁰⁰⁸ 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>

oceans, jungles and forests.”³⁰⁰⁹ Overall, this agreement seeks to reduce single-use plastics and estimates that all plastic products should contain 20 per cent recycled material by 2025.³⁰¹⁰

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. However, it has not taken 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 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.³⁰¹¹ 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.³⁰¹²

Russia has not taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter and microplastic discharge to the oceans.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Katherine Yarun

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 (MOU) with the Riyadh municipality and the Saudi Investment Recycling Company to strengthen cooperation and coordination for a waste management strategy in Riyadh.³⁰¹³ The strategy intends to include recycling of municipal waste, including plastics.

³⁰⁰⁹ 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>

³⁰¹⁰ 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.portalambiental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

³⁰¹¹ 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>

³⁰¹² 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>

³⁰¹³ 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>.

On 23 July 2020 the Council of Ministers established the Environment Fund and four specialized environment centres.³⁰¹⁴ 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.³⁰¹⁵

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.³⁰¹⁶ The Plastic Colloquium involved discussions on recent research on plastic waste, the implementation and effectiveness of awareness campaigns, and international best practices and actions in tackling plastic waste.³⁰¹⁷ 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.³⁰¹⁸

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 2020.³⁰¹⁹ 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.³⁰²⁰

³⁰¹⁴ 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>.

³⁰¹⁵ 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>

³⁰¹⁶ 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>

³⁰¹⁷ 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>

³⁰¹⁸ 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>

³⁰¹⁹ Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

³⁰²⁰ Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

On 30 January 2020, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy launched the South Africa Plastic Pact.³⁰²¹ 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.³⁰²² 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.³⁰²³ 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.³⁰²⁴

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. 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.³⁰²⁵ 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.³⁰²⁶

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

³⁰²¹ 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>

³⁰²² 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/nationaleenvironmental-management-waste-act-consultation-national-waste-management>

³⁰²³ 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>

³⁰²⁴ 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>

³⁰²⁵ Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetydailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>

³⁰²⁶ Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetydailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>

United Kingdom: –1

The United Kingdom 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.

The UK 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.³⁰²⁷

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of –1.

Analyst: Ivette Ordonez Nunez

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.³⁰²⁸ 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.³⁰²⁹

On 22 October 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army repealed an amendment of the Code of Regulation.³⁰³⁰ 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).³⁰³¹ 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.

³⁰²⁷ This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://www.gov.uk/>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment>, <http://www.greenmatch.co.uk/>, <https://www.bbc.com/>, <https://www.ft.com/>, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>, <https://elpais.com/america/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/>

³⁰²⁸ 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)

³⁰²⁹ 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)

³⁰³⁰ 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>

³⁰³¹ 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>

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.³⁰³² The Strategic Agenda is a framework of action intended to build a “climate neutral, green, fair and social Europe.”³⁰³³ 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 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.³⁰³⁴ 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.³⁰³⁵

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.³⁰³⁶ 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.³⁰³⁷

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission announced its commitment towards implementing the European Green Deal.³⁰³⁸ 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’ (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development agenda and the sustainable development goals

³⁰³² 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

³⁰³³ 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/>

³⁰³⁴ 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

³⁰³⁵ 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

³⁰³⁶ 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)

³⁰³⁷ 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)

³⁰³⁸ 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

and overall protecting citizens' health from environmental-related factors.³⁰³⁹ 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.³⁰⁴⁰

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.³⁰⁴¹

On 11 March 2020, the European Commission adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).³⁰⁴² 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.³⁰⁴³ The plan also restricts the use of intentionally added microplastics in products such as cosmetics, detergents and paints, among other things.³⁰⁴⁴ It further restricts the release of microplastics by developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures.³⁰⁴⁵ Finally, the CEAP outlines the development of a policy framework for the use of bio-based plastics and biodegradable plastics.³⁰⁴⁶

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.

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³⁰³⁹ 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

³⁰⁴⁰ 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

³⁰⁴¹ 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/>

³⁰⁴² 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

³⁰⁴³ 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

³⁰⁴⁴ 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

³⁰⁴⁵ 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

³⁰⁴⁶ 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