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THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY
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2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Report

Prepared by

Kaylin Dawe, Mary Noh and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Alexander Ignatov and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

G20@utoronto.ca

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18. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter

“We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.10 (55%)	

Background

The accumulation of plastics and microplastics in the world’s oceans pose a significant environmental, health, and economic threat to marine and coastal ecology and biodiversity.⁵²³⁰ The large-scale production of plastics and the ongoing trends of rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased resource consumption have contributed to the issue of marine plastic litter.⁵²³¹ According to the World Economic Forum, without concrete and sustained action, the world’s oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.⁵²³² Thus, protecting the global marine environment through actions to reduce and prevent the effects of plastics and microplastics has received increasing attention at G20 summits.

⁵²³⁰ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁵²³¹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁵²³² More Plastics than Fish in the Ocean by 2050: Report Offers Blueprint for Change, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 19 January 2016. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-ocean-by-2050-report-offers-blueprint-for-change/>

The G20 first recognized marine environmental protection as a distinct commitment area at the 2011 Cannes Summit.⁵²³³ While safeguarding the marine environment had been mentioned at the Toronto and Seoul Summits, this summit was the first to offer a more serious consideration of the issue. G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents and those relating to offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities.⁵²³⁴ They further called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on the progress made on the commitment area the following year and committed to discuss marine environmental protection with relevant international organizations and stakeholders.⁵²³⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders welcomed “the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.”⁵²³⁶ The following year, G20 leaders stated “We appreciate the progress achieved since the establishment of the G20 Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) Initiative and welcome the launch of the GMEP Initiative website as a key element of the GMEP Mechanism for the voluntary exchange of national best practices to protect the marine environment, in particular to prevent accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We encourage participants to make full use of the website and share relevant information under the auspices of the G20 in cooperation with relevant international organizations in accordance with the GMEP mandates.”⁵²³⁷ The marine environment was not mentioned at the 2014 Brisbane, 2015 Antalya or 2016 Hangzhou Summits.

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized the need to reduce and prevent marine litter for the preservation of human health and marine and coastal ecosystems.⁵²³⁸ To display their commitment to marine environmental protection, the G20 members launched the G20 Marine Litter Action Plan to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics.”⁵²³⁹ Additionally, the summit emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange and dissemination on marine plastic prevention and reduction amongst G20 members.⁵²⁴⁰

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members committed to taking “national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans” thereby affirming the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁵²⁴¹

⁵²³³ 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: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁴ 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: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁵ 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: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁶ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁵²³⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵²³⁸ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²³⁹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²⁴⁰ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²⁴¹ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the Saudi presidency prioritized safeguarding the planet and signalled a strong commitment to the issues of sustainable development, ocean preservation, and the reduction of food loss and waste.⁵²⁴² Saudi Arabia built on the Japanese G20 presidency and advanced discussions on marine ecosystem preservation.⁵²⁴³ The commitment made by G20 leaders to reaffirm the Osaka Blue Vision highlights the growing importance and urgency of collective environmental protection.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁵²⁴⁴ The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision “aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognising the important role of plastics for society.”⁵²⁴⁵ In this commitment, there are four requirements: 1) to reduce marine plastic litter, 2) to reduce microplastic waste, 3) to prevent marine plastic litter and 4) to prevent microplastic waste.

Marine plastic litter is any human-created plastic, “a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum” discarded or disposed of in the environment, sea, ocean, or coastlines.⁵²⁴⁶ Plastic litter can come in different shapes or sizes, but plastic pieces less than 5 mm in length are called microplastics.⁵²⁴⁷ There are two categories of microplastics: 1) primary, which are released directly as small particles in the environment and 2) secondary, which originate from degraded larger pieces of plastic litter.⁵²⁴⁸ Examples of materials and products defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, plastic straws, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles and caps, plastic packaging, and microbeads, etc.

The “life-cycle approach” to waste management considers the environmental impact (emissions and resource consumption) of a product through its lifetime.⁵²⁴⁹ The life cycle of a product starts from its natural extraction to material processing, its manufacturing, distribution, and use, and ends with its re-use, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal.⁵²⁵⁰

The word “reduce” means to “diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”⁵²⁵¹ The word “additional” is understood as a preventative measure meaning “more than is usual or expected,” whereby “prevent” means “to keep from happening or existing.”^{5252,5253} Therefore, G20 members are

⁵²⁴² Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁵²⁴³ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁵²⁴⁴ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵²⁴⁵ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

⁵²⁴⁶ Marine Plastics, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/marine-plastics>

⁵²⁴⁷ What are microplastics?, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

⁵²⁴⁸ Microplastics: sources, effects and solutions, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20181116STO19217/microplastics-sources-effects-and-solutions>

⁵²⁴⁹ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁵²⁵⁰ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁵²⁵¹ Reduce, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

⁵²⁵² Additional, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/addition>

required to take action to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans and to stop the release of plastic litter into the oceans.

G20 members can take domestic (or in the case of the EU, supranational) and international action to achieve compliance. Domestic actions refer to federal or national government-level initiatives undertaken by G20 members. Examples of domestic action include, but are not limited to, legislation that improves methods of waste management, the national reduction or prohibition of single-use plastics and microbeads, private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic litter and improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems to reduce or remove microfibers.⁵²⁵⁴ International action refers to efforts undertaken by G20 members at the international or global level. Examples of international action include, but are not limited to, international cooperation with other members or states to improve national technical capacities, waste generation and littering and the promotion of sustainable consumption, engagement in information-sharing and scientific knowledge production on best practices through the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, and international private sector engagement for the advancement of resource-efficient business models and environmentally sound product design.⁵²⁵⁵ Actions can also be partial or strong actions. If a G20 member gives verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of preventative/reduction strategies, organizes ocean clean ups or initiates environmental campaigns on marine plastic litter and microplastic waste, it would only be considered partial action. For strong action, a G20 member would have to engage in strong domestic or international actions listed above.

For full compliance, a G20 member must take domestic and international action to reduce and prevent both marine plastic litter and microplastic waste. Therefore, a G20 member would have to take domestic and international action to reduce marine plastic litter, reduce microplastic waste, prevent marine plastic litter and prevent microplastic waste. If a G20 member only takes action, domestically and/or internationally, to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter and/or microplastic waste, it would still be considered partial compliance. Actions that do not result in the reduction or prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste will receive a negative score.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member takes no action to reduce NOR prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.
0	The G20 member takes action to EITHER reduce OR prevent marine plastic litter AND/OR microplastic waste.
+1	The G20 member takes actions both domestically and internationally to both reduce AND prevent marine plastic litter AND microplastic waste.

*Compliance Director: Nammal Khan
Lead Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁵²⁵³ Prevent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

⁵²⁵⁴ Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/index.html>

⁵²⁵⁵ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

On 30 November 2020, Argentina banned the production, importation, and marketing of cosmetic and care products containing microbeads.⁵²⁵⁶ According to the regulation, the cosmetic industry and companies have two years to adapt and exhaust their current stock.⁵²⁵⁷

On 8 April 2021, Argentina and 29 other countries signed on to a new United Nations-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁵²⁵⁸ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁵²⁵⁹

Argentina has taken domestic action through the ban on microbeads in cosmetic and care products and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 December 2020, Australia passed the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, the first national waste reduction plan.⁵²⁶⁰ The legislation has the objectives of reducing the “impact on human and environmental health of products” and to “develop a circular economy that maximizes the continued use of products and waste material over their life cycle and accounts for their environmental impacts.”⁵²⁶¹ This legislation serves to encourage the prevention of marine plastic litter by “regulating the export of waste material to promote its management in an environmentally sound way.”⁵²⁶²

On 17 February 2021, Australia joined the Global Oceans Alliance. The Alliance’s goal is to protect at least 30 per cent of the world’s oceans marine protected areas and marine conservation measures by 2030.⁵²⁶³ Additionally, Australia pledged AUD67.4 million to protect Australia’s oceans and

⁵²⁵⁶ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁵²⁵⁷ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁵²⁵⁸ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁵²⁵⁹ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁵²⁶⁰ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶¹ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶² Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶³ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

marine ecosystems, AUD14.8 million to reduce the impacts of ghost nets and plastic litter, and AUD28.3 million to enhance marine parks.⁵²⁶⁴

On 4 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment reaffirmed its commitment to the Pacific Ocean Litter Project.⁵²⁶⁵ This project works in tandem with Pacific island states to adopt single-use plastic bans, promote ocean cleanup plans, and raise “consumer awareness, support and motivation for reducing the use of single-use plastics.”⁵²⁶⁶ The Australian government has committed to investing a total of AUD16 million through 2025 to support this project.⁵²⁶⁷ Further, the federal government committed support to “coordinated global action to address marine plastic” with the United Nations.⁵²⁶⁸

On 4 March 2021, Environment Minister Sussan Ley unveiled the National Plastics Plan 2021, which works to “fast-track the phase-out of particularly problematic plastic materials.”⁵²⁶⁹ The plan affirms that by 1 July 2021, unsorted mixed plastic exports will be banned. Unprocessed single polymer plastic exports will be banned by 1 July 2022.⁵²⁷⁰ Minister Ley stated that the plan serves to encourage Australians to change the way they “produce, consume and recycle plastic.”⁵²⁷¹

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government invested an additional AUD100 million towards the management of ocean and coastal environments and global emissions reduction.⁵²⁷² The investment aims to cut emissions to create cleaner beaches, improve fish stocks, and offer better protection and assistance for marine animals and indigenous communities reliant on oceans for their livelihoods.⁵²⁷³

On 2 May 2021, the Australian government announced an investment of AUD14.8 million towards Parks Australia’s efforts to track and identify sources of ghost nets and ensure their removal from

⁵²⁶⁴ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁵²⁶⁵ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁶⁶ Pacific Ocean Litter Project, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra). Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/international-activities/pacific-ocean-litter-project>

⁵²⁶⁷ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁶⁸ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia's plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁵²⁶⁹ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁷⁰ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁷¹ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia's plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁵²⁷² Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷³ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

bodies of water.⁵²⁷⁴ The funding will get invested in initiatives that address ghost nets and marine debris litter, such as data collection and new technology.⁵²⁷⁵

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government unveiled its 2021-2022 budget, which includes funding for oceans, recycling, biodiversity, and climate resilience.⁵²⁷⁶ The budget sets aside AUD5 million to support small and medium-sized businesses to adopt the Australian Recycling Label and an additional AUD5.9 million for investments in industry-led stewardship schemes to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.⁵²⁷⁷ The budget further includes a new AUD100.1 million Oceans Leadership Package, which aims to restore blue carbon ecosystems, expand Australia's marine park network to protect 45 per cent of Australian waters, and protect marine species.⁵²⁷⁸

Australia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste through its 2021-2022 budget, National Plastics Plan 2021 and Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Brubacher

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 8 April 2021, Brazil and 29 other countries signed on to a new UN-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁵²⁷⁹ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁵²⁸⁰

Brazil has taken partial action by supporting international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken domestic action to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter or microplastic waste.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

⁵²⁷⁴ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷⁵ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷⁶ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁷ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁸ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁹ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁵²⁸⁰ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 9 December 2020, Canada concluded a public consultation period on a proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution, initiated by a paper on the subject published in October 2020. The purpose of this initiative is to provide “the basis for the developed of an integrated management approach to plastics, including proposed actions across the value chain to achieve zero plastic waste (including a ban on plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics), as well as systemic improvements to recover and recycle plastic,” with regulations expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. This work directly stems from Canada’s adoption of the Ocean Plastics Charter in June 2018.⁵²⁸¹

On 5 March 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced four winners of the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges.⁵²⁸² These small and medium companies, Magemi Mining Inc., CACITH Inc., Met-Tech Inc., and Singular Solutions In., will receive up to CAD150,000 to develop solutions to address plastic waste.⁵²⁸³ The Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges are a part of the innovative Solutions Canada program and support Canada’s commitment to plastic waste reduction.⁵²⁸⁴

On 31 March 2021, Canada’s Parliamentary Committee passed a bill banning the export of non-recyclable plastic waste from Canada to foreign countries.⁵²⁸⁵ Bill C-204, sponsored by Member of Parliament Scot Davidson, was adopted by the environmental committee in a 6-5 vote.⁵²⁸⁶ The committee also approved an amendment requiring the Canadian government to implement the bill within 12 months of receiving royal assent.⁵²⁸⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Joël Lightbound announced a CAD1 million investment to BOSK Bioproducts Inc.⁵²⁸⁸ The investment is a part of the

⁵²⁸¹ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁵²⁸² Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸³ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸⁴ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸⁵ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁶ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁷ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁸ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

second phase of the Bioplastics Challenge, aimed to help small businesses reduce pollution by turning forest-based residue into sustainable plastic materials.⁵²⁸⁹ The BOSK Bioproducts Inc. will focus on installing a small-scale production line for proto-typing the formulations of compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass.⁵²⁹⁰

On 15 April 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada's transition to a circular plastics economy.⁵²⁹¹ The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics. The projects receiving funding from the government include the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, the Canadian Coalition for Green Healthcare, the Conference Board of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Ontario, and Scout Environmental.⁵²⁹²

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, the federal economic development agency for southern Ontario, invested CAD5 million to the City of Guelph to develop the Circular Opportunity Innovation LaunchPad (COIL).⁵²⁹³ COIL is Canada's first circular economy test platform and is expected "to create 400 jobs, commercialize over 100 new products or services, and support the development and growth of up to 70 businesses."⁵²⁹⁴

On 12 May 2021, Canada published the Order Adding a Toxic Substance to Schedule 1 to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 regarding adding plastic manufactured items to the list of toxic substances. The purpose of this is to achieve zero-plastic waste by 2030 as stipulated under the Oceans Plastics Charter.⁵²⁹⁵

Canada has taken domestic action through public and private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic waste. However, it has not taken international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

⁵²⁸⁹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁵²⁹⁰ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁵²⁹¹ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁵²⁹² Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁵²⁹³ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁵²⁹⁴ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁵²⁹⁵ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, through a video conference, highlighted the importance of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and the marine ecological environment.⁵²⁹⁶ According to the consultation suggestions, provincial ecological and environmental departments would further fulfil their primary responsibilities and provide technical guidance and supervision to protect the marine environment.⁵²⁹⁷

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Measures on the Use and Recycling of Disposable Plastic Products in the Commercial Field (Test) to encourage and guide the commercial field to reduce the use and actively recycle plastic bags and other disposable plastic products.⁵²⁹⁸ The measures aim to promote recyclable, easy to recycle and biodegradable alternatives, thereby reducing the severe threat that plastics pose to the sustainable development of soils, oceans, organisms and people.⁵²⁹⁹

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce unveiled a nationwide reporting system to record the use and recycling of disposable plastic products.⁵³⁰⁰ The reporting system intends to urge businesses to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and supports China's efforts to control plastic pollution by 2025.⁵³⁰¹

On 8 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that China will institute a sweeping ban on all solid waste imports, which will come into force on 1 January 2021.⁵³⁰²

On 9 December 2020, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, called on all parties to take joint action on building a maritime community with a shared future under

⁵²⁹⁶ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁵²⁹⁷ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁵²⁹⁸ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁵²⁹⁹ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁵³⁰⁰ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁵³⁰¹ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁵³⁰² In green milestone, China to end solid waste, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201208_811909.shtml

the issue of oceans and the law of the sea at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.⁵³⁰³

On 1 January 2021, China's plastic ban took effect, prohibiting restaurants and stores across the country from providing single-use plastic straws and plastic shopping bags.⁵³⁰⁴

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and National Development and Reform Commission issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution, which covers three periods of time: 2020, 2022 and 2025, and sets out tasks and objectives for strengthening the control of plastic pollution in different stages.⁵³⁰⁵ By 7 January 2021, 31 provinces had issued and enacted implementation or action plans related to plastic pollution control.⁵³⁰⁶

On 4 February 2021, China and Japan, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁵³⁰⁷

On 23 February 2021, the State Council issued the Guidelines on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-Carbon, and Circular Economic System for Development. The Guidelines suggest the consumption of green products, a green and low-carbon lifestyle, the prevention of food and beverage waste, and the sorting, reduction, and recycling of household waste per local conditions.⁵³⁰⁸ Additionally, they promote the prevention and treatment of plastic pollution throughout the supply chain.⁵³⁰⁹

China has taken domestic actions and promoted bi-lateral and international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁵³⁰³ China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations has called for joint efforts to build a maritime community with a shared future, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/09/content_5568474.htm

⁵³⁰⁴ China: Single-Use Plastic Straw and Bag Ban Takes Effect, Library of Congress (Washington) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/china-single-use-plastic-straw-and-bag-ban-takes-effect/>

⁵³⁰⁵ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁵³⁰⁶ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁵³⁰⁷ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁵³⁰⁸ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁵³⁰⁹ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

On 1 January 2021, France enacted several measures as part of its anti-waste law to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics in the country.⁵³¹⁰ In particular, the enacted measures banned the distribution of plastic bottles in public and commercial facilities and professional premises, the use and production of plastic confetti and expandable polystyrene containers and the production and use of single-use plastics.⁵³¹¹ Additionally, supermarkets in the country are now obligated to provide sorting containers to encourage recycling.⁵³¹² Further, France outlined future commitments: amongst them, effective 1 January 2022, public facilities must have at least one drinking water fountain on site, press publications will have to be expedited without plastic wrapping, toys distributed to children as part of menus will have to be plastic-free, and the State will no longer purchase single-use plastic whether for usage in its workplaces or the events it organizes.⁵³¹³ To reduce microplastic in oceans, France announced that effective 1 January 2025, washing machine manufacturers must install a microfibre filter on any new washing machine put on the market.⁵³¹⁴

On 11 January 2021, France participated in the One Planet Summit to discuss accelerating international action against climate change.⁵³¹⁵ France and Costa Rica launched the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, now composed of 52 states, pledging to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030.⁵³¹⁶ President Macron announced France's commitment to abide by this level of protection by 2022 and published in January 2021 the National Protected Areas Strategy, which documents the efforts to reach this objective.⁵³¹⁷

On 12 January 2021, France, along with Spain and Monaco, launched the Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030.⁵³¹⁸ The coalition is built around four commitments of developing a grid of protected areas, putting an end to overfishing, fighting against marine pollution and putting an end to single-use plastic, and "greening up" maritime transport.⁵³¹⁹

On 16 April 2021, France issued a decree on the presence of industrial plastics in the environment.⁵³²⁰ The decree stipulates the obligation for all sites producing, manipulating and/or

⁵³¹⁰ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹¹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹² The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹³ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹⁴ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹⁵ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁶ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁷ National Strategy for Protected Areas, French Office for Biodiversity (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ofb.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-les-aires-protégees>

⁵³¹⁸ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁹ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³²⁰ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

transporting industrial plastic granules to adapt their equipment and set up procedures to prevent plastic leakages into the environments.⁵³²¹

France has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 11 January 2021, Germany participated in the One Planet Summit, where Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that “Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC).”⁵³²² The HAC for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group, composed of 50 states, committed to protecting 30 per cent of the world’s land and ocean inhabitants by 2030.⁵³²³

On 9 February 2021, Germany amended the Packaging Act to ban the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at the point of sale of goods, such as malls, grocery stores, and markets.⁵³²⁴ The ban will become effective starting 1 January 2022, and merchants will face a fine of up to EUR100,000 for violating the ban.⁵³²⁵

On 19 April 2021, Germany entered a partnership with India to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” programme.⁵³²⁶ The programme aims to reduce the discharge of waste into bodies of water.⁵³²⁷ The project will operate in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi, and Kanpur for a period of three and a half years.⁵³²⁸

On 6 May 2021, the German Bundestag adopted the law to “implement the requirements of the single-use plastics directive and the waste framework directive in the packaging act and other laws.” With this action, the European Directive (EU) 2019/904 will be implemented into German law. The aim of the European Single-Use Plastic Directive is to reduce plastic products waste on European

⁵³²¹ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021.

Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁵³²² One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁵³²³ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁵³²⁴ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁵³²⁵ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁵³²⁶ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁵³²⁷ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁵³²⁸ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

beaches, protect the environment from plastics and microplastics, and promote recycling-oriented management of plastics.⁵³²⁹

Germany has fully complied with this commitment through bi-lateral initiatives and a verbal declaration of support for an intergovernmental initiative to safeguard the oceans. Additionally, it has taken measures to implement EU Directive 2019/904 to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, India and the UK launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁵³³⁰ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁵³³¹ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁵³³²

On 16 February 2021, Minister of Earth Sciences Madhavan Rajeevan announced India's intent to strengthen collaborations with Japan on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁵³³³ Secretary Rajeevan announced this collaboration during the Indo-Japan online seminar "Marine Plastic Prevention and Management."⁵³³⁴

On 19 April 2021, India and Germany signed an agreement to establish the "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment" program.⁵³³⁵ The project aims to enhance practices to prevent plastic accumulation in oceans that adversely affect marine ecosystems on the national level.⁵³³⁶ The

⁵³²⁹ Drucksache 19/27634, German Bundestag (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/276/1927634.pdf>

⁵³³⁰ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³¹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³² Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³³ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³³⁴ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³³⁵ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁵³³⁶ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

project will operate in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur over a span of three and a half years.⁵³³⁷

India has taken partial action through bilateral efforts to engage in information sharing on best practices for marine plastic reduction. However, India has not taken domestic action to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Linda Wang

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Indonesia has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments both domestically and internationally to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.⁵³³⁸

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 December 2020, Italy published the budget law, which postponed the entry into force of the plastic tax from 1 January 2021 to 1 July 2021 (article 1084).⁵³³⁹ The plastic tax established the charge of EUR0.45 per kilogram of single-use plastic produced from virgin feedstock (i.e., not recycled).⁵³⁴⁰

Although Italy has the intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter, Italy has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.⁵³⁴¹

Analyst: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

⁵³³⁷ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁵³³⁸ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.indonesia.go.id/>, <http://www.menlhk.go.id/>, <https://kkp.go.id/>, <https://g20mpl.org>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/>, and <https://www.reutersevents.com/>

⁵³³⁹ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁵³⁴⁰ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁵³⁴¹ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <http://www.governo.it/>, www.minambiente.it, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.governo.it/notizie-presidente>, <https://g20mpl.org/partners/italy>, <https://www.thelocal.it/>, and <https://www.corriere.it/>

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 18 January 2021, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi gave a speech at the 204th session of the Diet and said that “Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle global issues by making active and strategic use of Official Development Assistance. In particular, actively working on solving marine plastic litter issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”⁵³⁴²

In January 2021, the Ministry of the Environment released its initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reiterated the Ministry’s resolution to promote measures to tackle marine plastic pollution in Japan and abroad.⁵³⁴³

On 19 January 2021, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment jointly compiled the Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy.⁵³⁴⁴ The purpose of the guidance was to improve Japanese companies’ ability to promote a circular economy over the medium or long term and enhance the resource circulation for plastics waste.⁵³⁴⁵

On 4 February 2021, Japan and China, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁵³⁴⁶

On 16 February 2021, Japan and India announced their intent to collaborate on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁵³⁴⁷ This collaboration got announced during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁵³⁴⁸

Japan has verbally reaffirmed its commitment and encouraged bi-lateral and international cooperation to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken concrete domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

⁵³⁴² Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI to the 204th Session of the Diet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001106.html

⁵³⁴³ Japan Environment Quarterly, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/jeq/issue/vol26/vol26l.pdf>

⁵³⁴⁴ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁵³⁴⁵ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁵³⁴⁶ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁵³⁴⁷ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³⁴⁸ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

Korea: -1

Korea has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Korea has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments, domestically or internationally, to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Korea receives a score of -1.⁵³⁴⁹

Analyst: Linda Wang

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Senator Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué, the President of the Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change called for more extensive regulation on the use of plastics and microplastics in Mexico during an Open Parliament session.⁵³⁵⁰ Senator Cué has proposed a legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution.⁵³⁵¹

On 16 February 2021, Senator Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz affirmed the legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution by placing an emphasis on coordinating state and municipal action.⁵³⁵²

Mexico has affirmed its intentions to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Brubacher

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 5 March 2021, Russia, along with other members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) revealed plans to impose a ban on single-use disposable plastic bags by the end of March 2021.⁵³⁵³

⁵³⁴⁹ This non-compliance was determined after deep search of the following websites:

<https://english1.president.go.kr/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.korea.net>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.mof.go.kr/>, <http://www.koica.go.kr/>, and <http://www.moe.go.kr/>

⁵³⁵⁰ Legislador urge una regulación viable sobre uso de plásticos Portal Ambiental (Ciudad de México) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁵³⁵¹ Legislator urges viable regulations on the use of plastics, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁵³⁵² Management of plastic waste in states and municipalities must be coordinated, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210218/manejo-de-residuos-plasticos-en-estados-y-municipio-debe-ser-coordinado>

On 12 March 2021, Russia and Norway began discussing the MPA-5 project which aims to tackle marine litter and microplastics in the Barents Sea.⁵³⁵⁴ Several Russian officials in the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the Marine Environment Monitoring Department of the Federal State Budgetary Institution attended the meetings. In addition, several Russian Oblasts are taking initiatives to reduce waste.⁵³⁵⁵

On 12 May 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin reaffirmed the government's intentions of developing a circular economy during the State Duma's annual performance review.⁵³⁵⁶ He stated, "we are also going to develop a circular economy, stimulate businesses to stop making products that cannot be recycled, and generally reduce unnecessary packaging."⁵³⁵⁷

Russia has affirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 November 2020, Saudi Arabia's National Centre for Waste Management issued a new promotion of the circular economy activation.⁵³⁵⁸ These new measures include communications with different stakeholders to prevent and reduce plastic waste generation.⁵³⁵⁹

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued new environmental regulations to achieve its 2030 vision by using best international practices.⁵³⁶⁰ As part of the new environmental regulations, The Saudi Council of Ministers produced an initiative to develop and implement a Marine Litter

⁵³⁵³ Russia & Eurasian Economic Union to Ban Disposable Plastics By End March 2021, Russia Briefing (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021 <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-eurasian-economic-union-to-ban-disposable-plastics-by-end-march-2021.html/>

⁵³⁵⁴ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁵³⁵⁵ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁵³⁵⁶ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁵³⁵⁷ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁵³⁵⁸ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁵³⁵⁹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁵³⁶⁰ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

Prevention Strategy that will commence in 2022.⁵³⁶¹ Some of these practices include the identification of existing initiatives and projects to align and incorporate in the strategy where needed.⁵³⁶²

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued some of their best practices that evolve in three different sectors: national level, private sector and international cooperation.⁵³⁶³ The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in different national companies such as the Saudi in Saudi Investment Recycling Company.⁵³⁶⁴ In the private sector, The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in a private company named “Sabic” to reduce plastic waste generation.⁵³⁶⁵ The Saudi Council of Ministers will also be internationally cooperating with countries like Spain, Sweden, United States, Australia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Germany to protect Marine Areas and practice waste management.⁵³⁶⁶

Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter by using and sharing best practices and developing a Marine Litter Prevention Strategy. However, Saudi Arabia has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 March 2021, South Africa launched its National Water Week, hosted by Plastics SA and their partners.⁵³⁶⁷ The initiative aims to promote the importance of clean water and the involvement in marine and coastal clean-ups.⁵³⁶⁸

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy made amendments to Plastic Carrier Bags and Plastic Flat Bags Regulations.⁵³⁶⁹ These amendments focus

⁵³⁶¹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶² Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶³ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶⁶ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁵³⁶⁷ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

⁵³⁶⁸ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

on all policies regarding plastic bags in the country and concentrate on promoting a circular economy.⁵³⁷⁰ The amendment prohibits the manufacture, trade or commercial distribution of domestically produced or imported plastic flat bags and requires all plastic bags to contain 50 per cent recycled content starting in 2023 and increasing to 100 per cent by 2027.⁵³⁷¹

On 4 May 2021, South Africa implemented a mandatory extended producer responsibility fee for any company or brand that produces plastic packaging for distribution.⁵³⁷² Existing plastic producers must register with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries between 5 May 2021 to 5 November 2021.⁵³⁷³

On 14 May 2021, Minister Creecy delivered the budget speech to the National Assembly.⁵³⁷⁴ The speech called for the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 and emphasized plastic reduction as a crucial component of managing environmental pollution.⁵³⁷⁵

South Africa has taken domestic action through the ban on plastic production and restriction of commercial plastic bag usage to prevent additional pollution from plastic waste. However, it has not taken domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Turkey announced that it is working to institute a credit rebate to citizens for recycling beverages and other containers.⁵³⁷⁶

⁵³⁶⁹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷⁰ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷¹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷² South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁵³⁷³ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁵³⁷⁴ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁵³⁷⁵ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁵³⁷⁶ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/turkey>

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment by working on an initiative that will give a credit rebate for recycling, which will support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, Turkey has not taken concrete action on this commitment.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, the UK and India launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁵³⁷⁷ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁵³⁷⁸ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁵³⁷⁹

On 18 March 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs released plans for a new Waste Prevention Programme for England.⁵³⁸⁰ This program sets out how the UK and industry can minimize waste and its impact on the environment across seven key sectors, including packaging, plastics, and single-use items.⁵³⁸¹ The plan will be open for stakeholder consultation until 10 June 2021.⁵³⁸²

On 30 April 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rebecca Pow announced that the charge for plastic bags in all UK retail stores would be doubled to GBP0.10, starting on 21 May 2021.⁵³⁸³ This is a delay from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' original plan to implement the change in April 2021.⁵³⁸⁴

⁵³⁷⁷ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁷⁸ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁷⁹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁸⁰ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁵³⁸¹ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁵³⁸² Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

⁵³⁸³ Exclusive: 10p Plastic Bag Charge To Be Rolled Out In All Shops From May 21, Politics Home (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/exclusive-10p-plastic-bag-charge-to-be-rolled-out-in-may#.YlwkGYBDHIs.twitter>

⁵³⁸⁴ War on plastic waste stepped up with extension of plastic bag charge, Department for Environment-Food & Rural Affairs (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment by reducing and preventing additional pollution in India, has announced a new initiative to minimize waste and has implemented a higher charge for plastic bags. However, the UK has yet to implement significant concrete actions or support international efforts.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 21 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. This act aims to improve work and research surrounding marine debris and waste management.⁵³⁸⁵ The act created a Marine Debris Foundation and a Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovation, alongside grants for waste management and mitigation studies.⁵³⁸⁶ It also formalized US policy on international cooperation and federal outreach around Marine debris, encouraging action and cooperation to prevent and reduce marine litter.⁵³⁸⁷

The United States has partially complied with its commitment by passing a law that will support the reduction and prevention of marine plastic litter. However, the United States has not taken enough significant, concrete actions on the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission's Independent Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) unveiled a Scientific Opinion on Plastics' Biodegradability in the Open Environment, a report highlighting recommendations to assess which specific biodegradable plastic applications can offer environmental benefits.⁵³⁸⁸ According to the Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, the report's conclusions "provide a sound basis for the policy framework for biodegradable and compostable plastics announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan."⁵³⁸⁹

⁵³⁸⁵ Bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Signed into Law, Sheldon Whitehouse: US Senator for Rhode Island (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/-bipartisan-save-our-seas-20-act-signed-into-law>

⁵³⁸⁶ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁵³⁸⁷ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁵³⁸⁸ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

⁵³⁸⁹ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive.⁵³⁹⁰ The initiative aims to grant all individuals in member states better access to drinkable tap water and reduce plastic waste from water bottles.⁵³⁹¹

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission adopted new rules regarding the export, import and intra-EU shipment of plastic waste.⁵³⁹² Moving forward, the export of plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned, with an exception for clean plastic waste destined to be recycled.⁵³⁹³ Additionally, stricter controls will be implemented regarding plastic waste exported from the EU to OECD countries as well as imports within the EU.⁵³⁹⁴

The European Union has taken action through information sharing and regulations to prevent additional pollution from plastic litter. However, it has not taken supranational or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

⁵³⁹⁰ The revised Drinking Water Directive, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 18 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/legislation_en.html

⁵³⁹¹ Commission welcomes final agreement on water quality and access to drinking water, European Commission (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2417

⁵³⁹² Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁵³⁹³ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁵³⁹⁴ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en