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Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

**Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of
environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical
munitions dumped at sea**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [65/149](#) of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972,¹

Noting relevant provisions of Agenda 21,² adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 and reaffirmed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),³ adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012,⁴

¹ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ Resolution 66/288, annex.



Recalling relevant international and regional instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁵ the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,⁶ the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,⁷ the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean,⁸ the Agreement on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific,⁹ the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area¹⁰ and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic,¹¹

Taking note of the ministerial declaration of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission) adopted in Copenhagen on 3 October 2013, in which the signatories recognized the need for forward-looking options for solutions and an assessment of the environmental risks posed by, inter alia, munitions dumped at sea, welcomed the 2013 report of the ad hoc expert group to update and review the existing information on dumped chemical munitions in the Baltic Sea and agreed to produce, by 2015, a one-off thematic assessment of the environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions,

Noting the activities of the commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic related to dumped munitions, including maintaining a database of the locations, types and quantities of materials dumped and reporting on encounters with chemical munitions dumped at sea,

Noting also the discussions of the contracting parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter on the location of historical sites of obsolete munitions and the efforts of the parties to raise awareness of such information by publishing it and to provide advice regarding the handling of such munitions found in fishing nets,

Noting further the initiative of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean to collect available country data on the sites of ammunition dumped into the Mediterranean Sea,¹²

Emphasizing that, in the report on the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, adopted in The Hague on 19 April 2013, the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction were invited to support voluntary sharing of information, raising awareness and cooperation on this issue,

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1102, No. 16908.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1648, No. 28325.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2099, No. 36495.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2354, No. 42279.

¹² See UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.338/2.

Noting that Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society have undertaken activities to discuss and promote the issues related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including international cooperation and exchange of experience and practical knowledge, in particular at the International Workshop on Environmental Effects Related to Waste Originating from Chemical Munitions Dumped at Sea, held on 5 November 2012 in Gdynia, Poland,

Noting also the national and regional scientific research on environmental effects related to chemical munitions dumped at sea, such as the Baltic Sea research project entitled “Chemical Munitions, Search and Assessment”,

Noting further the concerns about the potential long-term environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and its resources,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;¹³

2. *Notes* the importance of raising awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;

3. *Invites* Member States and international and regional organizations to keep under observation the issue of the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, to continue outreach efforts to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to that issue and to cooperate, including by strengthening existing efforts within regional seas conventions and other international, regional and subregional activities related to risk assessment, monitoring, information gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents;

4. *Encourages* voluntary sharing of information on waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea through conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses and publications aimed at the general public and industry to reduce related risks;

5. *Also encourages* partnerships between Governments, industry and civil society for raising awareness, reporting and monitoring waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;

6. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to consider providing assistance and sharing expertise aimed at building capacities related to risk assessment, monitoring, information gathering, risk prevention and response to incidents resulting from waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations on issues relating to the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, also with a view to exploring the possibility of establishing a database containing voluntarily shared information on, inter alia, the location of dumping sites, the type, quantity and, to the extent possible, the current condition of chemical munitions, the recorded environmental impact, best practices on risk prevention and

¹³ A/68/258.

response to incidents or accidental encounters and destruction or impact reduction technologies, building on and without duplicating existing activities, and of achieving efficiency and synergies among the relevant regional seas conventions, and also invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the progress achieved on these matters.
