

## Resolution presented by

Republic of Ecuador

Theme: Sustainable Development

Concerning the protection of nature through its recognition as a legal entity

General Assembly,

Notes	that our ocean is increasingly polluted by chemicals, plastics and other hazardous wastes, that the content of chemicals in our ocean has increased by 12% between 2003 and 2022, that 17 million tons of plastic were measured in the ocean in 2021, with this number expected to double or triple in 2040 without countermeasures,
Is concerned	that pollution of the aquatic environment is destroying habitats and contaminating drinking water sources,
Is alarmed	that microplastics and other pollutants of high toxicity accumulate, especially in living organisms, and can cause cancer, infertility, endocrine disruption and damage to the immune system,
Recalls	that the over-fertilisation of water bodies by nutrients from industry and agriculture is driving enormous algal growth, and that when the algae die they consume large amounts of the oxygen bound in the water, creating deadly shorelines for many marine organisms,
Expects	that the ocean's ability to sequester carbon will continue to decline, contributing to climate warming,
Shows	that this increase in CO <sub>2</sub> goes against the goals of the Paris climate agreement,
Draws attention	to the fact that in Spain, for example, in order to protect the ecosystem and prevent the increase in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, the "Mar Menor" has been given its own legal personality and enforceable rights,
<b>Requires</b>	<b>that ecosystems be recognised as legal entities;</b>
<b>Resolves</b>	<b>that affected states must represent these legal subjects in court and that penalties or damages be used to repair the damage.</b>

The German text is binding; le texte allemand fait foi; the German text is binding