

Cerritos Advanced Conference 2020

4th The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)



Topic A: The Situation in Hong Kong

Topic B: Marine Habitat Destruction

Director: Joshua So

POSITION PAPERS DUE on October 17th by 11:59 pm to Committee Email

October 24-25, 2020

To Delegates of CHSMUN Advanced 2020

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Advanced 2020!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2020 online advanced conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host our very first advanced conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although this wasn't what we expected, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the online conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2020, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With this strong circuit consisting of 6 schools and over 500 delegates, CHSMUN Advanced 2020 will provide a quality experience for intermediate delegates to enhance their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Advanced 2020!

Sincerely,

Anjali Mani and Karishma Patel

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Secretary-Generals

A Note From The Director

Delegates,

I'm Joshua, your chair for 4th SPD. For the past 5 years in MUN, I've taken as many committees as possible centered around global politics, so it brings me great joy to be chairing another conference, this time with topics I've specifically selected. Throughout these past 5 years, I've learned that there is no possible way to describe and explain a well throughout and VIABLE solution within one minute, but as delegates, we must try. Furthermore, there are many other countries whose interests will directly conflict with your goal on these controversial topics. My challenge to all delegates is to know and stick to your country's policy and understand the complex global, political interests at play when proposing solutions on any topic. Hopefully, the proposals of political solutions will at least save us from asking the unsolvable question of funding.

As a hyper-competitive person by nature, I understand the hunger and drive to win awards at conferences. However, I will not be the last to tell you that as much as awards are nice to have, the value of your MUN experience in the long-term will be determined by the effort you give to your preparation and performance. Do you truly understand the complexities of the situation and your policy? Are your solutions truly politically realistic, feasible to implement, and scalable? Honing your skills in disciplined preparation, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, and presentation is the true purpose of this committee. So, if you can keep all that in mind as you give your best to compete, then hopefully you will walk away from my committee satisfied simply by the effort YOU have put in and fulfilled in a way that goes beyond a piece of paper or gavel.

Sincerely,

Joshua So

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Director, SPECPOL

Committee Introduction:

The fourth committee of the United Nations General Assembly is the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPD or SPECPOL). This committee was established in 1993 as a combination of the two committees which broadened the range of its focus from a previous concentration on the decolonization of the world in the 20th century. The decolonization committee had an active hand in facilitating the independence of many former European colonies particularly within the continent of Africa. Although SPECPOL still takes interest in decolonization with hearings for Western Sahara, Gibraltar, and more, the focus on decolonization has largely declined. In the current day, SPECPOL has taken a role in monitoring the situation in Israel and Palestine with current draft resolutions [[A/C.4/74/L.16](#)],

[A/C.4/74/L.15], and [A/C.4/74/L.14] along with two reporting bodies including UNRWA and Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Due to the mostly obsolete focus of decolonization and the combination of two committees, this committee is flexible on the topics it considers and will often focus on the political aspects of a situation rather than broad humanitarian issues covered by the rest of the general assembly. SPECPOL has previously given guidance to the security council through various resolutions that have the power to call for other UN bodies to take action. The topics for action range from the situation in Israel-Palestine, to decolonization and the political issues of Africa, to even the use of outer space.

Topic A: The Situation in Hong Kong

Background:

Hong Kong is a former British colony that was returned to China in 1997 under the promise of autonomous rule for at least until 2047. The “one country, two systems” plan was supposed to guarantee the ability of Hong Kong to rule itself, free of mainland China’s influence. So far, Hong Kong has maintained a distinct separation from China, where President Xi and the Communist Party maintain a totalitarian surveillance state. Hong Kong has a separate language, currency, passport, judicial system, and legislative party. Hong Kong’s parliament is far more democratic than any elections in mainland China, but China continues to have a strong influence by choosing the Hong Kong Chief Executive. At every point of new intervention from China, Hong Kong citizens and pro-democracy supporters urge China to honor the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which was the 1984 agreement between Hong Kong, China, and Britain determining the way Hong Kong would be incorporated in the People’s Republic of China while maintaining the independence and separation that Hong Kong residents had enjoyed under British rule.

Hong Kong has had a long history of protests starting in 2003 with pro-democracy protests of about 500,000 residents erupted in response to a national security bill. Smaller protests occurred later in 2012 in response to proposed school curriculums including the history and culture of China that were seen as Chinese propaganda aimed at Hong Kong students. Again in 2014, mass demonstrations of protests organized in the “Umbrella Revolution” which was named for the organized use of umbrellas by protesters to protect against police weapons. More pro-democracy protests occurred in 2016 and in 2019. The 2019 protests in response to China’s proposed extradition bill gathered an estimated 2 million residents in support out of 7 million total Hong Kong residents. The local government headed by Chief Executive Carrie Lam, appointed by China, has further used protests as a justification for the use of government emergency powers to protect the status quo. For example, the Lam administration banned the wearing of masks in public gatherings in an attempt to discourage protests by removing anonymity. Obviously, this was prior to the current coronavirus situation.

This year's situation of protests in response to China's national security bill is comparable to the situation from 2003. The security bill allows for increased power to infringe on free speech and any threats of Hong Kong independence that can be labeled as "treason." Reports of arrests of activists for "treason" have made international headlines. However, the latest news of China's breaches of individual civil rights has been largely overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic and other news. The cover that the global pandemic provides has emboldened the Chinese Communist Party to clamp down on protests that the party sees as a threat to their political control in China. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to be wary of all perceived threats to its power over the country including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet. Most recently on August 9, 2020, the Hong Kong police arrested 7 men under the new national security law. Among the 7 men was millionaire activist Jimmy Lai who is known for financially supporting the pro-democracy movement.

Another large part of the new national security bill deals with user data and internet service, an expansion of China's surveillance state and Great Firewall. Within China exists an information blackout from the outside world on the internet. Free speech is restricted and information about historical events such as the Tiananmen Square massacre is scrubbed to keep the image of the CCP. Now, it is in the CCP's best interest to expand the Great Firewall to include Hong Kong which would strengthen China's influence. Currently, internet service providers and other internet applications have already begun exiting Hong Kong over the fear of repercussions and punishment from China for failing to provide law enforcement with user data or by hosting online content deemed dangerous to China's national security.

The seizure of emergency powers by the government continues to intimidate the Hong Kong public as citizens fear that the government will use the current coronavirus pandemic to quell insurgency while justifying their use of emergency powers. Some citizens fear bank account forfeiture or wealth confiscation as police expand their raid areas to search for "treason." As the looming threat of censorship and an imposing authoritarian regime creeps into Hong Kong, citizens are fleeing to other developed countries and are attempting to take as much of their assets as possible. This is resulting in capital flight through Hong Kong's wealthiest citizens, the citizens who can afford to migrate.

United Nations Involvement:

Although representatives from the United States and the United Kingdom attempted to bring up the situation in Hong Kong for discussion, no action has been taken due to China's permanent presence as a security council member with veto powers. China has also threatened to take countermeasures to UN action which has discouraged other smaller countries from taking both symbolic and meaningful action. Furthermore, 53 countries on the United Nations Human Rights Council have publicly supported China's new legislation while only 27 countries opposed it. Europe has taken a particular interest in support of democracy and most recently has considered a coordinated international lawsuit through the International Court of Justice. In 2018, countries from the United Nations singled out the situation in Hong Kong for the first time, proposing courses of action to protect individual freedoms and democracy within Hong Kong.

Again, as China proposed the controversial extradition bill in Hong Kong, nations and individuals within the United Nations such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called for restraint within the Hong Kong police force while also condemning violent protests.

The UN Human Rights Council surprised the world in 2019 by calling out the Hong Kong police force for brutal tactics deviating from international norms. Most recently, the arrest of pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai also sparked international condemnation from the EU, Britain, and the United Nations. With the results of the new national security law visible to the world, the international community has taken collective action starting with the suspension of extradition treaties with Hong Kong. The United States recently joined the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany in suspending their bilateral agreement to put political pressure on China while also continuing to bring international attention to the issue.

Case Study: Tibet

The case of the Tibet Autonomous Region in China has been brought to international attention this year as a side effect of the China-India border clash that left 20 Indian army soldiers dead at the border between India and Tibet. Tibet, like Hong Kong, is an autonomous region of China, only Tibet covers a much larger portion of China without the economic importance of Hong Kong. A Sino-Tibet bilateral agreement signed in 1951 guarantees Tibet's right to autonomy much like Hong Kong. However, Tibetan citizens have felt their right to autonomy has continuously been violated by the Chinese Communist Party which has an interest in keeping a strong hold on Tibet to prevent it from ever breaking apart from China. Despite calls of a renewed agreement for autonomy from the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, the CCP continues to hold power. Many human rights experts from the international community have expressed interest in monitoring Tibet, knowing China's history of state-sponsored oppression of ethnic minorities. China claims that Tibetans have autonomy because they are well represented in local and regional government despite accounting for about one percent of the population of China. However, Tibetans occupy over 25% of China's landmass. Furthermore, the power of these regional and local governments pales in comparison to the power and influence that the central government wields over Tibet much like how China influences Hong Kong through the chief executive.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: The Western Bloc primarily headed by the United States and the United Kingdom have largely supported Hong Kong and democracy. The US and UK were the primary supporters of Hong Kong independence and protests at the United Nations and have passed legislation in support of Hong Kong. Europe, excluding Russia, has also been vocal within the

United Nations about their support for Hong Kong. The Western Bloc is primarily made up of democracies that view China's infringement on Hong Kong's sovereignty as a threat to democracy. The growth of China's influence presents a threat to western dominance in the global order, therefore the western bloc has a keen interest in supporting any regional opposition.

Latin America and the Caribbean Bloc: Cuba from the Latin American bloc represented the 53 countries in the UNHRC that support China's new legislation including Venezuela and Nicaragua also from the Latin America and the Caribbean bloc. These bloc countries support China's legislation typically because revolution anywhere in the world presents a threat to authoritarian regimes anywhere in the world. However, these countries do not represent the entire bloc. Many do not have strong stances on the situation given their political and geographical distance and independence from China.

African Bloc: Like the Latin America and the Caribbean Bloc, the African Bloc includes many nations with authoritarian governments that support China's action in Hong Kong precisely because it allows the governments of these countries to do the same. Many African nations comprise the 53 countries in support of China's national security bill within the UNHRC. This is also due to China's incentives through the Belt and Road initiative which holds the promise of billions of dollars in underdeveloped African nations. Countries within the African bloc that receive significant investment through China are likely to place their economic interests ahead of democratic ideals.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: Multiple South East Asian countries have publicly supported China's national security bill at the UNHRC. However, larger and wealthier countries in the Asian-Pacific bloc have much more political and economic independence from China and do not support the government clampdown. China's longtime rivalries with Asian-Pacific countries are bound to influence individual country policies. China's rivals in the Asian-Pacific Bloc typically support the Hong Kong protestors for two reasons. First, any weakening of China and the CCP allows for China's rivals to gain regional power. Second, China's rivals are democracies in Taiwan, Japan, Korea, etc. who are connected to Hong Kong economically and whose populations empathize with support for democracy in Hong Kong.

Possible Solutions:

Legal action through the International Court of Justice by the European Union could bring official international law to the situation in Hong Kong. However, the fact remains that China has not recognized the International Court of Justice and has previously rejected its rulings.

Any international condemnation of breaches of international law or Hong Kong independence must also include measures for international collaboration to sanction the individuals and government responsible. Agreements for travel bans, asset freezes, and sanctions are some basic measures that a coalition of countries could implement to ensure that UN resolutions on the situation in Hong Kong will be taken seriously.

On an independent national level, the United States has banned the sale of rubber bullets to the Hong Kong police while the United Kingdom has promised pathways to citizenship for over 3 million Hong Kong residents in the case of dire crisis, made possible by their historical ties to the city. Allowing Hong Kong residents to move to migrate to a country is an attractive solution since it brings educated and enterprising immigrants along with their wealth. However, the UK was in a special situation given their past with the special administrative region while other countries without that relationship fear they may be called on in the future to help provide shelter to less appealing refugees. Other individual country actions to cut off supplies to the Hong Kong police could also help mitigate some of the police brutality.

Individual delegates should consider their country policy and the potential resources they could offer to help Hong Kong citizens through either safe refuge or other support. Political pressure on China continues to pressure the CCP to allow for more independence, but the struggle remains that the CCP will ultimately preserve the party's interest, which is keeping power at all costs. Delegates must consider solutions that either directly challenge China's power or indirectly support Hong Kong citizens and principles of democracy practically.

A large portion of solutions can also be aimed at trying to break through the Great Firewall which is the censoring of information available to Chinese residents that may soon apply to Hong Kong residents. By continuing to support free access to information, countries can support independence and democracy by ensuring Hong Kong citizens continue to have unfiltered information and awareness of their situation.

Questions to Consider:

1. Is my country in support of or in opposition to the National Security legislation enacted by China in Hong Kong?
2. Is my country a democracy or dictatorship and how will that affect my country policy?
3. Does my country have economic ties to China that must be prioritized over democratic ideals?
4. What creative resources does my country have at its disposal to support the citizens of Hong Kong?
5. Does my country have leverage in any way over China either politically or economically that can be used to support my country's position?
6. What can the United Nations do to circumvent China's power within the security council and United Nations Human Rights Council?
7. What can be done to increase transparency of the effects of the national security legislation in Hong Kong?
8. What mechanisms can be put in place to deter future infringements of Hong Kong's independence?
9. Would my country consider providing citizenship for Hong Kong citizens fleeing China?

10. Does my country have an interest in keeping the power of China contained?

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Topic B: Marine Habitat Destruction

Background:

Approximately 50-80% of all life on this planet is located within the oceans which provide 99% of the planet's living space. Less than 10% of the oceans have been explored, which leaves up to 25 million species to be discovered within the ocean. However, marine life is under attack from human actions that threaten the entire ocean ecosystem. The preservation of marine life may sound like a strictly environmental topic, however, the further emphasis on the underlying subtopics reveals the extremely political problems and solutions to be discussed. Fishing, overfishing, and illegal fishing pose direct threats to marine life and the ability of the marine ecosystem to sustain itself. Massive fleets of fishing vessels have made headlines for fishing off the coasts of other countries just outside their exclusive economic zones. Yet, even in international waters, there is little international law to regulate and enforce environmental protections that prevent the absolute destruction of marine ecosystems through fishing. How can countries monitor the borders of their exclusive economic zones and protect their rightful natural resources from predatory fleets? How can countries come together to protect marine biodiversity and stocks of fish? Coastal countries, especially Asian countries with growing populations and population density, have a direct interest in exploiting their environmental resources and international waters to their maximum potential to feed their populations, yet this directly conflicts with the interests of all other countries that mean to protect both their coastal environments and the shared world ecosystem. Another existential threat to marine life comes from the broad topic of climate change. As the climate changes at an increasingly rapid pace, the ocean has been crucial in mitigating rapid global upheaval. However, the nature of the ocean to absorb chemical emissions has also had adverse effects. Climate change has caused an exponential increase in ocean acidification, coral bleaching, and the presence of dead zones which all have adverse effects on aquatic organisms. The majority of the emissions behind ocean acidification killing marine wildlife comes from either energy production, transportation, or industry. Specifically, the pace of development in the last century has called for increased energy production and cement manufacturing. In the last 40 years, energy consumption per capita has increased by 45% and global cement production is expected to reach 4,370 tons in 2020, a 4 fold increase since production in 1990. Together, these two actions are the two largest industries contributing to greenhouse gas emissions which, in turn, acidify the ocean. The most concerning effect of ocean acidification is the increased difficulty for small aquatic organisms to calcify. Many aquatic organisms rely on calcium to build their shells, but increasing acidification neutralizes calcium making this process harder. The disruption of these organisms, who make up the base of the ocean ecosystem, has already begun to alter ecosystems. Coral bleaching, a result of the disruption of plankton and stress on coral, has been recorded in almost all reefs worldwide. Most notably, 90% of the Great Barrier Reef is suffering from this phenomenon and 50% of it is already dead. Countries with these reefs are suffering greatly from lost tourism revenue to these environments, yet environmental regulations and restrictions directly conflict with the energy interests of many countries that use fuel sources such as coal for reliable and cheap energy production. Additionally, dead zones, suboxic regions within the ocean, have been increasing in

size and frequency. These dead zones are a direct result of global warming and chemical pollution, both of which hinder the ability of water to hold oxygen. Therefore, it is not just carbon emissions, but also nitrogen and phosphorus runoff from agriculture and rivers that continue to kill marine ecosystems and wildlife. Over 500 dead zones around the world have had adverse effects on the extensive aquaculture industry which relies on the health of the coast. Harmful algal blooms in Alaska have disrupted fisheries that once produced 5 million pounds of shellfish per year. Invisible dead zones have collapsed lobster fisheries in Norway, shrimp fisheries in Louisiana, and bottom-dwelling populations in the Gulf of Mexico. Although chemical fertilizers and pesticides are necessary for the cultivation of stable food supply for growing populations, their adverse effects also present a dilemma for an international community concerned about the destruction of marine life. As the world develops, The United Nations must ensure the oceans are preserved to prevent the destruction of ocean ecosystems.

United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations declared its commitment to preserving the ocean in goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The General Assembly voted to support this goal through resolution 73/292 which will set up the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. However, this resolution, the latest in a long series of 49 resolutions since 2000, is merely a symbolic gesture. The real progress made toward reducing the root causes of ocean acidification, ocean deoxygenation, and coral bleaching comes from the action on climate change as a whole, starting with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was adopted in May 1992. Two years later, the convention entered into force with 196 parties who convene once a year at the Conference of the Parties. After 3 Conferences of the Parties, the international community adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which was a treaty calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 5.2% below emissions levels recorded in 1990. Although 37 developed countries joined the European Union in the first commitment period, not all countries ratified the treaty. The Kyoto Treaty omitted over 100 countries from responsibility including China and India. The United States would refuse to ratify the protocol and 4 other developed countries would not commit to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Later the DOHA agreement would amend the accords to create a 100 billion dollar development fund to assist developing countries in reaching their emissions reduction goals. The goals would also be reviewed every 5 years. Finally, the most recent international landmark action on the root cause of the destruction of the ocean is the Paris Agreement. The comprehensive agreement has been signed by 175 countries who have pledged themselves to many clauses addressing long term goals, mitigation of climate change effects, market and non-market-based approaches to sustainable development, and more. Unfortunately, this legislation has not been adopted by some of the countries most responsible for the pollution underlying the destruction of the marine ecosystem. Although the United Nations many environmental committees have passed resolutions on protecting the ocean through events such as the Ocean Conference, SPECPOL will attempt to specifically address the political roadblocks in the many subtopics that contribute to the destruction of marine life. With many conflicting country policies on fishing, mass use of chemicals in agriculture, carbon emissions, and other

topics, SPECPOL will provide the environment for delegates to come to agreements and compromises for the sake of the greater good.

Case Study: Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

In the latest news, one of the world's largest fishing fleets from China has been operating concerningly close to the Galapagos Islands which house the Galapagos Marine Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Concerns over the fleet's positioning, technically in international waters but encroaching on the protected area and Ecuador's exclusive economic zone, have circulated the media in recent days. Some ships in the fleet are linked to Chinese companies with histories of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices. In 2017, Ecuador previously caught a Chinese reefer in the protected waters illegally fishing for massive amounts of sharks that included endangered species. Although prosecution of the illegal fishing vessel and fisherman was successful, Ecuadorians and other Latin American countries have not forgotten the blatant disregard for national borders. Confrontations like these between ships of different countries, even if over simple fishing disputes, also pose a threat of international conflict. The fleet has been accused of turning off their GPS trackers to fish in protected areas and has also been accused of targeting endangered species. Although the Chinese government has denounced illegal fishing of all forms, many developing countries in Latin America have been amongst the first to call for greater accountability from countries for the ships that fly their flag.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: The Western Bloc has typically been one of the main supporters of the Paris Climate Agreement among other international environmental regulations. They have generally led the global community in taking steps to reduce carbon emissions. These western countries have the resources to shift towards more sustainable sources of energy production which have reduced gas emissions. The wealth of the western bloc allows it to generally have more flexibility with regulations that may limit economic growth for environmental reasons. Many of these Western countries also have their own systems of regulating fishing within their coastal territories to preserve the sustainability of aquaculture.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: Many Asian countries, especially East Asian and Southeast Asian countries compete amongst themselves for territorial rights specifically for fishing rights to feed their populations. This competition has directly contributed to overexploitation and the destruction of marine life, so it would be in the best interest of the Asian bloc for the international community to develop an equitable way for ensuring the sustainability of marine life. However, Asian bloc countries are also home to rapidly expanding urban populations which require an increasing amount of food and energy. Potential regulations of carbon emissions from energy production or fertilizers and pesticides from agricultural production will meet resistance from some countries

within the Asian bloc that view these regulations as conflicting with their national interests. Contrary to that position, many Asian-Pacific Bloc countries also have special interests in preserving their coral reefs which are crucial to their tourism industries and thus their GDP.

Latin American and the Caribbean Bloc: A large portion of countries in the developing world resides in the Latin American Bloc. These countries are generally opposed to binding international environmental regulations that would stifle economic growth for a reduced carbon footprint. On a large scale, these countries do not have the resources to build industry or energy infrastructure in the ideal, sustainable, and environmentally friendly way that more developed countries would encourage. Nevertheless, the Caribbean Bloc has an interest in protecting their coral reefs for economic and environmental reasons while all of Latin America has a genuine regional interest in uniting to condemn UUI fishing in international waters outside of their exclusive economic zones that threaten the health of their coastal waters as well as their national sovereignty.

African Bloc: Similar to the Latin American Bloc, the African Bloc largely consists of developing countries with rapidly growing populations that require increasingly demanding energy and food production. These countries are generally likely to be adverse to constantly environmental regulations and outright bans on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Contrastingly, the African Bloc is likely to look favorably upon international action to combat UUI fishing in order to protect their coastal waters and the natural resources of African countries from being exploited by other countries seeking to plunder their resources.

Possible Solutions:

The fish catch in international waters is typically highly unregulated except for the existence of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations whose membership consists of regional countries as well as countries involved in fishing within the area. However, the RFMOs do not cover all international waters which leave a concerningly large portion of international waters open to fishing with no oversight. One solution may be to create a specialized organization to assume responsibility for the oversight of these regions. However, a proposal for an international organization of that size must take into consideration member states involved as well as the international appetite for such oversight and regulations. Additionally, there must be a viable way to enforce regulations. As seen previously, Ecuador was previously able to apprehend, prosecute, and punish the illegal fishing in the Galapagos Islands in 2017 only because they successfully caught the ship within their territorial waters.

On the side of environmental regulations over climate change, there must be a real effort for international collaboration with incentives, checks, and balances in place to ensure accountability. The Paris Climate Agreement continues to hold, so a new international agreement over emissions is unnecessary. Furthermore, there must be accountability in place to hold all major polluters to a basic international standard for emissions so that no country can opt-out and destroy the incentive for the entire global community to sacrifice. Furthermore, the international community must come together to radically overhaul energy production and industry development in both the public and private sectors to have any impact at all on the emissions that

are causing the problem of ocean acidification. Phasing out coal, especially lignite, must be the first step for any plan aimed at slowing the rate of ocean acidification. New technologies will not help unless they are economically viable to be mass-produced for the developed and developing world. Therefore, there must be complex solutions proposed to create the infrastructure for global collaboration that such an undertaking requires.

Basic anti-corruption measures to prevent governments from taking responsibility for their fleets that destroy marine life must be put in place. However, proposals for such anti-corruption measures must also include specific enforcement or incentive mechanisms that the international community can agree to adhere to. For example, an agreement could be made to impose restrictions and additional oversight for ships from companies of histories of illegal fishing or ships from countries that refuse to apprehend and prosecute fleets responsible for environmental damage.

Any solution whether addressing UUI fishing, carbon emissions, chemical use and runoff, corruption, or international collaboration must take into account the political complexities and driving motivators of the policies of countries involved. New proposed international law must include well thought out incentives and enforcement mechanisms as with any other international agreement.

Questions to Consider:

1. Does my country's policy align with calls for environmental regulation and if so what type?
2. Does my country have an economic or political incentive to stop illegal fishing, ocean acidification, or marine habitat destruction?
3. How was my country successfully or unsuccessfully managed the resources within its coastal borders and exclusive economic zone?
4. Does my country need help from the international community to enforce protections for our EEZ?
5. Does my solution have viable incentives for countries to want to implement it?
6. Are my solutions applicable to only a specific region or can they be applied to all international waters to protect marine life?
7. What international agreements have my country already ratified related to the destruction of marine life and its underlying causes? Has my country made progress in a way that can be replicated by other countries?
8. How will ensure international regulations are enforced in an equitable way that does not exclude even the largest and most powerful countries from accountability?

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