



# The Use of Single-Use Plastic Products and their Impact on the Environment

*What actions are being taken against this issue?*



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Why plastic surrounds us in every way possible is solely because it happens to be extremely convenient, easy to use and easy to make. However, the use of plastic has only led to more problems, putting our environment at risk. Disregarding the fact that it is made from non-renewable resources. Plastic is not biodegradable, meaning that it must be reused as many times as possible to have some sustainability in its purpose. Which raises the question: *'What can be done about Single-use plastics?'*

Single-use plastics are those which are only used once (maybe slightly more times if somehow recycled).

These include plastic straws, cups, and supermarket plastic water bottles. The problem with these items is that they are mass produced, and once thrown out they cause detrimental damage to our environment.

All around the world, countries have begun to ban or restrict the use of single-use plastics, marching towards a greener, more sustainable society. One would assume that reducing the production and use of SUPPS (single-use plastic products) would be the key to solving the problem, however, although there has been much effort in implementing these measures, according to the article written by the 'UN Environment Program: How to reduce the impacts of single-use plastic products', *"simply banning SUPPs and switching to single-use products made of other materials is not the solution."*

It has become apparent that different measures need to be applied to quicken the progression towards the elimination of SUPP pollution. In an interview with the representative of China, it was mentioned that *"(...) because of our large population, we have a high demand for plastic."* The delegate emphasized that the costs of handling SUPP's was one of the main struggles when battling the issue. *"So, we were trying to replace that (recycling the plastics) with better solutions (...). More cost-efficient solutions, like paper or wood, for example, would be easier to recycle than plastic(...)."*, meaning that the delegate is willing to act by suggesting a few measures to combat this issue.

On the other hand, however, the delegate of India was leaning more towards simply being a supporter of these suggestions, clarifying that they were willing to assist any fellow delegates in the process of improving the environment's condition. *"As many people know, India is one of the most polluted countries in the whole world. It's also one of the most populated,"* they stated, highlighting the correlation between the country's population and pollution, *"so obviously there's a ton of plastic in the country, and it's really contributing to (...) plastic pollution around the world."* The delegate claims to have co-submitted to a few clauses, further giving examples of their support towards the cause.

It is reassuring to know that there are nations willing to make a change in the world, understanding their faults and doing their absolute best to fix them. At this rate, we may have a better chance of living in a world where the one thing that supplies us with all of our basic necessities is at its best condition, harboring all of the diverse organisms and ecosystems. Only once we are aware of the consequences will we be inclined to work on the issue. Hence, the reason why the delegates should be appreciated as they are the ones who will bring forth a solution.

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