

Towards a Clean and Healthy Environment: Enhancing Efforts to Curb Plastic Pollution Globally

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Towards a Clean and Healthy Environment: Enhancing Efforts to Curb Plastic Pollution Globally

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Abstract

This paper critically discusses the need to curb plastic pollution. It argues that curbing plastic pollution is a key measure towards realizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The paper defines plastic pollution and examines its causes and effects. It also explores the progress made and challenges faced towards curbing plastic pollution. The paper further suggests reforms aimed at enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally towards a clean and healthy environment.

1.0 Introduction

Every person has the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment¹. It has been noted that since human rights and the environment are interdependent, a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is necessary for the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, such as the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation and development, among others². Further, the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to information, participation and access to justice, is of great importance to towards conserving the environment³.

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¹ United Nations Development Programme., 'What is the Right to a Healthy Environment?' Available at <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-01/UNDP-UNEP-UNHCHR-What-is-the-Right-to-a-Healthy-Environment.pdf> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

² Ibid

³ Ibid

The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment encompasses various elements including clean and balanced ecosystems, rich biodiversity and a stable climate⁴. This right recognises that nature is a keystone of a dignified human existence⁵. The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right that has been equated to the right to life⁶. Since the environment contains virtually all ingredients required to sustain human beings, a threat to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment could potentially hinder attainment of other rights such as the right to food, water, health and sanitation among others⁷.

The importance of this right has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly which has adopted a *Resolution* declaring that everyone on the planet has a right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment⁸. The resolution by the United Nations General Assembly affirms the importance of the right a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for the enjoyment of all human rights⁹. The declaration by the United Nations General Assembly demonstrates global acceptance of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right and could stimulate global efforts towards attaining this right. It has been argued that this Resolution will have a trickle-down effect, prompting countries to enshrine the right to a healthy environment in national constitutions and regional treaties, and encouraging states to implement those laws while also giving environmental campaigners more ammunition to challenge ecologically destructive policies and projects¹⁰.

⁴ Zimmer K, 'The Human Right That Benefits Nature' <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210316-how-the-human-right-to-a-healthy-environment-helps-nature> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Peter K. Waweru v Republic, Misc. Civil Application No. 118 of 2004, (2006) eKLR

⁷ Muigua. K., 'Recognising a Human Right to Safe, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.' Available at <http://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Recognising-a-Human-Right-to-Safe-Healthy-andSustainable-Environment-Kariuki-Muigua-1st-April-2021.pdf> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁸ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 'The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.' UNGA Resolution 'A/76/L.75.'

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme., 'In Historic Move, UN Declares Healthy Environment a Human Right' Available at <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/historic-move-un-declares-healthy-environment-human-right> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

The United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* also recognizes the fundamental importance of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in promoting Sustainable Development¹¹. It aims at fostering this right by protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations¹². At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals which seek to strike a balance between environmental conservation, economic development, and social progress¹³.

At a national level, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment has been enshrined under the *Constitution of Kenya*¹⁴ which stipulates that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures¹⁵. The Constitution further sets out several obligations in respect of the environment aimed at fostering the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment¹⁶. These include ensuring sustainable exploitation, utilisation, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits; encouraging public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment; protecting genetic resources and biological diversity and eliminating processes and activities that are likely to endanger the

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Constitution of Kenya., 2010., Government Printer, Nairobi

¹⁵ Ibid, article 42

¹⁶ Ibid, article 69

environment¹⁷. Attaining these obligations is integral in fostering the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in Kenya.

One of the key problems hindering the attainment of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is pollution¹⁸. It has been noted that pollution compromises the quality of air, water and soil and could result in concerns such as health hazards and diseases thus hindering the realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment¹⁹. Therefore, it is necessary to curb pollution in order to achieve the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

This paper critically discusses the need to curb plastic pollution. It argues that curbing plastic pollution is a key measure towards realizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The paper defines plastic pollution and examines its causes and effects. It also explores the progress made and challenges faced towards curbing plastic pollution. The paper further suggests reforms aimed at enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally towards a clean and healthy environment.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Muigua. K., 'Recognising a Human Right to Safe, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.' Op Cit

¹⁹ Ibid

2.0 Plastic Pollution: Causes and Effects

Pollution refers to the indirect or direct alteration of the biological, thermal, physical, or radioactive properties of any medium in such a way as to create a hazard or potential hazard to human health or to the health, safety or welfare of any living species²⁰. Environmental pollution has also been described as the contamination of the physical and biological components of the earth/atmosphere system to such an extent that normal environmental processes are adversely affected²¹. It can also refer to any discharge of material or energy into water, land, or air that causes or may cause acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term) detriment to the Earth's ecological balance or that lowers the quality of life²². Pollution occurs in various forms including water pollution, land pollution, noise pollution, and air pollution²³.

Pollution has been identified as one of the major global challenges facing humanity and a key cause of morbidity and mortality²⁴. It is among the triple planetary crisis alongside climate change and biodiversity loss²⁵. Pollution hinders development outcomes²⁶. For example, air pollution, exposure to lead and other chemicals, and hazardous waste including exposure to improper e-waste disposal, causes debilitating and fatal illnesses,

²⁰ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Pollution' Available at <https://leap.unep.org/en/knowledge/glossary/pollution#:~:text=The%20indirect%20or%20direct%20alteration,welfare%20of%20any%20living%20species.%20> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

²¹ Ullah, S., "A sociological study of environmental pollution and its effects on the public health Faisalabad city," *International Journal of Education and Research*, Vol. 1 No. 6 June 2013, p.2

²² Coker, A.O., "Environmental Pollution: Types, Causes, Impacts and Management for the Health and SocioEconomic Well-Being of Nigeria," p.1. Available at <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/8e7b/a9595bab30d7ea87715533353c53f7452811.pdf> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Khasanova, S., & Alieva, E., 'Environmental Pollution: Types, Causes and Consequences' Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1051/bioconf/20236307014> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

²⁵ United Nations Climate Change., 'What is the Triple Planetary Crisis?' Available at <https://unfccc.int/news/what-is-the-triple-planetarycrisis#:~:text=The%20triple%20planetary%20crisis%20refers,change%2C%20pollution%20and%20biodiversity%20loss> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

²⁶ World Bank Group., 'Pollution' Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pollution> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

create harmful living conditions, and destroys ecosystems²⁷. In addition, pollution stunts economic growth, exacerbates poverty and inequality in both urban and rural areas, and significantly contributes to climate change²⁸. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) notes that environmental pollution significantly contributes to non-infectious diseases like cancer and respiratory illnesses, causing approximately nine million deaths annually²⁹.

Plastic pollution has been identified as growing worldwide environmental concern³⁰. The widespread use and improper disposal of plastic products are the primary causes of plastic pollution³¹. It is estimated that approximately 400 million tonnes of plastic waste are produced every year³². Plastic production has surged over the past decades and it is growing faster than any other material³³. It is estimated that each year, around 20 million tonnes of plastics ends up in rivers, lakes and seas being equivalent to the weight of 20,000 cargo ships³⁴. Plastic waste takes years to decompose and it is altering our ecosystems and wildlife and impacting human health³⁵. It has been noted that plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, since the rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them³⁶.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Pollution and Health' Available at <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/pollution-and-health> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

³⁰ DGB Group., 'The Rising Tide of Plastic Pollution' Available at <https://www.green.earth/plastic-pollution> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ The Commonwealth., 'Commonwealth Meeting in Nairobi Seeks to Advance Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution' Available at <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/commonwealth-meeting-nairobi-seeks-advance-global-treaty-plastic-pollution#:~:text=Global%20efforts%20to%20combat%20plastic,equipped%20to%20deal%20with%20it> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Parker. L., 'The World's Plastic Pollution Crisis, Explained' Available at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-pollution> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

UNEP notes that much of the plastic originates on land and winds its way into the oceans through rivers and sewage systems³⁷. Plastic pollution has significant impacts on human and animal health³⁸. For example, up to 90 per cent of sea birds are being found with plastic in their guts, and microplastic has been found in the placentas of unborn babies³⁹. Plastics are polluting the planet and choking up oceans, harming human health, and damaging ecosystems vital to our livelihoods⁴⁰. According to Ocean Conservancy, every year, 11 million metric tons of plastics enter into oceans on top of the estimated 200 million metric tons that currently circulate in marine environments⁴¹. It notes that so much plastic is ending up in oceans that in just a few years, we might end up with a pound of plastic for every three pounds of fish in seas⁴².

Plastic pollution is therefore posing an increasing threat to the environment, impacting habitats and natural ecosystems, with consequences for sustainable economic growth and human wellbeing⁴³. It arises as a result of improper waste disposal, and increased production and consumption of plastics including single-use plastics⁴⁴. The negative impacts of plastic pollution on the environment and human health include respiratory illnesses as a result of burning plastic, shortening of lifespans of animals consuming plastic, clogging of drains and floods as a result of littered plastic, and contamination of

³⁷ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Clean Seas Campaign Promotes the Right to a Healthy Environment, Including Plastic-Free Oceans' Available at <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/clean-seas-campaign-promotes-right-healthy-environment-including-plastic> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ United Nations Foundation., 'Protect Our Planet from Plastic Pollution: 5 Things to Know' Available at <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/protect-our-planet-from-plastic-pollution-5-things-to-know/> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁴¹ Ocean Conservancy., 'Fighting for Trash Free Seas' Available at <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development., 'Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040: A Policy Scenario Analysis' Available at <https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastics/Interim-Findings-Towards-Eliminating-Plastic-Pollution-by-2040-Policy-Scenario-Analysis.pdf> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁴⁴ DGB Group., 'The Rising Tide of Plastic Pollution' Op Cit

oceans and waterways⁴⁵. Plastic pollution therefore harms marine life, impacts human health, and results in economic costs arising from cost of cleaning up plastic waste, lost tourism revenue, and damage to fisheries and marine ecosystems⁴⁶. Plastic pollution also drives nature loss and destroys important ecosystems⁴⁷. It has been noted that every year, millions of tons of plastics leak into the environment damaging critical habitats, injuring and killing wildlife and impeding essential biological processes⁴⁸. Plastic pollution also fuels the climate crisis⁴⁹. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and the plastics industry has been identified as the fastest-growing source of industrial greenhouse gases⁵⁰. It has been noted that if not curbed, plastic pollution could prevent the world from achieving its climate goals⁵¹.

UNEP notes that plastic pollution aggravates the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste⁵². It hinders the right to a healthy environment⁵³. Plastic pollution also slows the attainment of Sustainable Development⁵⁴. It is therefore necessary to enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution globally. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) every year, the world produces around 430 million metric tons of new plastic⁵⁵. It further notes that at the current trajectory, global plastics use is expected to nearly triple by the year 2060⁵⁶. Enhancing

⁴⁵ Kaza. S., & Yao. L., 'Five ways Cities can Curb Plastic Waste' Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/sustainablecities/five-ways-cities-can-curb-plastic-waste> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁴⁶ DGB Group., 'The Rising Tide of Plastic Pollution' Op Cit

⁴⁷ United Nations Development Programme., 'Plastic Pollution' Available at <https://www.undp.org/chemicals-waste/plastic-pollution> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² United Nations Environment Programme., 'Civil Society to Tackle Plastic Pollution' Available at <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/civil-society-tackle-plastic-pollution> (Accessed on 24/05/2024)

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ United Nations Development Programme., 'Plastic Pollution' Op Cit

⁵⁶ Ibid

efforts to curb plastic pollution globally is therefore a key approach towards a clean and healthy environment.

3.0 Enhancing Efforts to Curb Plastic Pollution Globally

It has been suggested that adopting a global environmental agreement on plastic pollution will strengthen efforts towards curbing this problem⁵⁷. However, achieving this ideal may raise several challenges key among them being achieving consensus among nations on curbing plastic pollution⁵⁸. It has been noted that consensus is a fundamental principle in global diplomacy⁵⁹. It ensures that everyone is involved, it encourages ownership, and leads to decisions that all consider legitimate and fair⁶⁰. However, on a complex issue like plastic pollution, where some nations benefit from increased plastic production while others bear a disproportionate burden, consensus can be difficult to achieve⁶¹. It is therefore necessary for the global community to strike a balance between inclusivity and the need for prompt and effective action in order to achieve a binding global treaty on curbing plastic pollution⁶². It has been noted that global commitments have delivered measurable progress towards tackling plastic⁶³. However, the world is still off track to curb plastic pollution. It has been pointed out that voluntary action and commitments towards curbing plastic pollution are important but are not sufficient by themselves⁶⁴. A global binding treaty geared towards curbing plastic pollution is crucial to creating a level-playing field and driving change, including stimulating investment and innovation⁶⁵. Such a legally-binding treaty based on global rules and

⁵⁷ United Nations Development Programme., 'The Beginning of the End for Plastics Pollution?' Available at <https://www.undp.org/blog/beginning-end-plastics-pollution> (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Ellen Macarthur Foundation., 'A Circular Economy for Plastic' Available at [https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/plastics/overview#:~:text=A%20circular%20economy%20for%20plastic&text=It%20is%20based%20on%20three,value\)%2C%20and%20regenerate%20nature](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/plastics/overview#:~:text=A%20circular%20economy%20for%20plastic&text=It%20is%20based%20on%20three,value)%2C%20and%20regenerate%20nature) (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid

comprehensive circular economy measures represents a unique opportunity to accelerate systems change and end plastic pollution⁶⁶. The global community must therefore fast-track efforts towards adopting a global treaty in order to enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution globally.

Governments also have a vital role to play in curbing plastic pollution⁶⁷. Governments can implement laws and policies to support shifting away from plastic production and overconsumption⁶⁸. For example, African countries such as Kenya and Rwanda have banned single use plastic bags⁶⁹. Implementing such policies is vital in curbing plastic pollution. Governments can also enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution by adopting policy frameworks that incentivise design for circularity⁷⁰. In addition, governments are key stakeholders in enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution by implementing and investing in sustainable waste management practices⁷¹. It has been pointed out that in order to be effective, plastic policies need to be supported by an effective waste management system and the government's ability to enforce such policies⁷². It is therefore imperative for governments to enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution.

Further, it is vital to strengthen circular economy in order to enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution globally⁷³. Circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible⁷⁴. It is a system where

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ United Nations Foundation., 'Protect Our Planet from Plastic Pollution: 5 Things to Know' Op Cit

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ United Nations Development Programme., 'The Beginning of the End for Plastics Pollution?' Op Cit

⁷⁰ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development., 'Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040: A Policy Scenario Analysis' Op Cit

⁷¹ Kaza. S., & Yao. L., 'Five ways Cities can Curb Plastic Waste' Op Cit

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ellen Macarthur Foundation., 'A Circular Economy for Plastic' Op Cit

⁷⁴ European Parliament., 'Circular Economy: Definition, Importance and Benefits.' Available at <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20151201STO05603/circulareconomydefinition->

materials never become waste and nature is regenerated⁷⁵. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting⁷⁶. The circular economy considers every stage of a product's journey before and after it reaches the customer⁷⁷. It has been noted that this approach is not only vital to stop plastic pollution, but it also offers strong economic, social, and climate benefits⁷⁸. In order to create a circular economy for plastic, it is necessary to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastic items, innovate to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable, and circulate all the plastic items used in order to keep them in the economy and out of the environment⁷⁹.

According to UNEP, the world can end plastic pollution by embracing principles of circular economy⁸⁰. This can be achieved by reducing problematic and unnecessary plastic use, redesigning the system, products and their packaging and combining these with a market transformation towards circularity in plastics⁸¹. Significant reduction in the use of plastic can be achieved by redesigning the way in which products deliver their function to society⁸². In addition reusing products and refilling them makes more economic sense than throwing them away⁸³. The principles of reorient and diversify entails shifting the market towards sustainable alternatives, which will require a shift in

[importanceandbenefits#:~:text=The%20circular%20economy%20is%20a,cycle%20of%20products%20is%20extended](#) (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁷⁵ Ellen MacArthur Foundation., 'What is a Circular Economy?.' Available at <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circulareconomyintroduction/overview#:~:text=The%20circular%20economy%20is%20a,remanufacture%2C%20recycling%2C%20and%20composting> (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ellen Macarthur Foundation., 'A Circular Economy for Plastic' Op Cit

⁷⁸ Ibid

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Turning off the Tap: How the World can end Plastic Pollution and Create a Circular Economy' Available at <https://www.unep.org/resources/turning-off-tap-end-plastic-pollution-create-circular-economy> (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁸¹ Ibid

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ Ibid

the way products and packaging are produced, consumer demand, regulatory frameworks and costs⁸⁴. It is also necessary to ensure that where plastics are produced, there are designed to be recyclable in the market where they are sold while also ensuring that waste management and the recycling market are efficient and viable⁸⁵.

The private sector also has a key role to play in curbing plastic pollution. It has been noted that the private sector is best positioned to address the shift to environmentally sustainable products⁸⁶. As a result, it has been noted that policy, economic and social incentives need to be developed to make producers more responsible for the environmental costs of their products⁸⁷. According to the World Bank, private businesses such as formal recyclers and collection centers are positioned to be part of the solution towards curbing plastic pollution⁸⁸. These are often powered through the support of informal waste collectors – also known as waste pickers– who account for many more self-created livelihoods in the waste sector. They can enhance efforts towards curbing plastic pollution by collecting, sorting, and aggregating waste found in streets and landfills or sourced directly from households⁸⁹. They then sell recyclable waste, including plastic items, to buyback centers or formal recyclers⁹⁰. Financing these businesses is therefore key in enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally. In addition, it has been noted that businesses can leverage digital tools to connect informal waste pickers and buyback centers to major recycling companies⁹¹. Businesses can drive innovation and

⁸⁴ Ibid

⁸⁵ Ibid

⁸⁶ United Nations Development Programme., 'The Beginning of the End for Plastics Pollution?' Op Cit

⁸⁷ Ibid

⁸⁸ The World Bank Group., 'Tackling the Plastics Pollution Crisis by Channeling Private Capital to Projects that Reduce Plastic Waste' Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2024/01/25/tackling-the-plastics-pollution-crisis-by-channeling-private-capital-to-projects-that-reduce-plastic-waste#:~:text=Plastic%20pollution%20impacts%20the%20poorest,plastic%20collection%20and%20recycling%20projects>. (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

⁸⁹ Ibid

⁹⁰ Ibid

⁹¹ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Africa's Private Sector Supports Fight against Plastic Pollution' Available at <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/africas-private-sector-supports-fight-against-plastic-pollution> (Accessed on 25/05/2024)

market development through technology and infrastructure upgrades, supporting the public sector in managing plastic waste⁹². It is therefore necessary to strengthen the role of the private sector in order to enhance efforts to curb plastic pollution globally.

The foregoing measures are important in enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally.

4.0 Conclusion

Plastic pollution is a growing worldwide environmental concern⁹³. It is an increasing threat to the environment, impacting habitats and natural ecosystems, with consequences for sustainable economic growth and human wellbeing⁹⁴. Plastic pollution aggravates the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste and also hinders the right to a healthy environment⁹⁵. Enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally is therefore a key approach towards a clean and healthy environment. In order to realize this goal, it is necessary to: adopt a global environmental treaty on curbing plastic pollution⁹⁶; enhance the role of governments and the private sector in curbing plastic pollution⁹⁷; and strengthen circular economy⁹⁸. Enhancing efforts to curb plastic pollution globally is a vital agenda that needs to be implemented towards a clean and healthy environment.

⁹² Ibid

⁹³ DGB Group., 'The Rising Tide of Plastic Pollution' Op Cit

⁹⁴ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development., 'Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040: A Policy Scenario Analysis' Op Cit

⁹⁵ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Civil Society to Tackle Plastic Pollution' Op Cit

⁹⁶ United Nations Development Programme., 'The Beginning of the End for Plastics Pollution?' Op Cit

⁹⁷ Ibid

⁹⁸ Ellen Macarthur Foundation., 'A Circular Economy for Plastic' Op Cit

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Coker, A.O. "Environmental Pollution: Types, Causes, Impacts and Management for the Health and SocioEconomic Well-Being of Nigeria," p.1. Available at <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/8e7b/a9595bab30d7ea87715533353c53f7452811.pdf>

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Kaza. S., & Yao. L., 'Five ways Cities can Curb Plastic Waste' Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/sustainablecities/five-ways-cities-can-curb-plastic-waste>

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