Country: Türkiye

Committee: UNEP

Topic:Plastic pollution ın the oceans

Türkiye is a transcontinental country bridging Europe and Asia, with a population of approximately 86 million. Its rich culture blends Eastern and Western influences, shaped by Ottoman, Byzantine, and Anatolian heritage, and is celebrated through its cuisine, music, and arts. The country has a dynamic education system with rising global recognition and a young, vibrant population. Politically, Türkiye is a presidential republic and a key regional player, balancing modernization with tradition while navigating challenges like political polarization and economic shifts. Its strategic location and deep historical roots make it a cultural and geopolitical hub.

Plastic pollution poses a significant threat to Türkiye's marine environments, with approximately 24,000 tons of plastic waste entering surrounding seas annually. In response, Türkiye has implemented several initiatives to combat this issue. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization developed Marine Litter Action Plans for coastal provinces, focusing on both sea-based and land-based pollution sources. Additionally, cities like İzmir have adopted action plans to tackle plastic pollution, including measures such as banning single-use plastics in municipal buildings and enhancing recycling efforts. Non-governmental organizations, such as WWF-Türkiye, have launched projects like 'Adopt a Beach' to engage volunteers in cleaning and monitoring coastal areas, aiming to reduce plastic waste and gather scientific data on marine pollution. These combined efforts reflect Türkiye's commitment to addressing the pressing issue of plastic pollution in its marine ecosystems.

To address plastic pollution in Türkiye's seas, solutions include improving waste management systems, reducing single-use plastics, and promoting public awareness and education. Strengthening Marine Litter Action Plans, supporting circular economy initiatives, and investing in monitoring and research are essential. Collaboration with international organizations and neighboring countries is crucial for tackling transboundary pollution. Additionally, eco-tourism and stricter regulations for fishing and shipping industries can help mitigate plastic waste. These combined efforts aim to protect Türkiye’s marine ecosystems and reduce plastic pollution effectively.

References: [www.wwf.org.tr](http://www.wwf.org.tr)

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www.greenpeace.org