



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26 April 2019

Excellency,

It is my pleasure to write to you in regard to my campaign against plastic pollution and single-use plastic 'Play It Out'. As part of this campaign, with the support of Member States, and in partnership with the Secretariat, we have been looking at how United Nations Headquarters in New York can follow the United Nations offices in Nairobi, Bangkok, and Geneva, and reduce its consumption of single-use plastics. For many years, UNHQ has sent zero waste to landfill.

I recall in this regard, that many Missions were particularly active on this agenda when the United Nations Environment Programme launched the #BeatPlasticPollution campaign in 2017. I commend you for this and I am pleased to inform you that there are many changes underway in terms of the products provided in all of the cafés and eateries around UNHQ. These will be noticeable in the coming weeks.

Internally, the United Nations has endeavoured to reduce the amount of single-use plastics available for purchase, but I would also request delegations to be conscious of single-use plastic consumption out of the premises as well. I also propose, Excellency, that you consider sharing the following three steps in order for us to demonstrate how we are delivering on our Sustainable Development Agenda, and on our commitment to our environment:

1. Reduce Use
Please limit consumption of single-use plastics where possible, and avoid bringing them into the building
2. Dispose Responsibly
If there is waste, kindly ensure that it is disposed of in the correct bin to maximize the amount we are able to recycle.
3. Inspire Change
Encourage those around you to also change their behavior

All Permanent Representatives and
and all Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

CC: All Heads of Departments and New York based offices

Together, I believe we can be the change we wish to inspire in all of the work that our Member States, and the United Nations does in its pursuit of a future that is sustainable, prosperous, and equitable for all.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés