

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

The world population is increasing time to time. It also in line with the evidence of globalization. The number of industry is raising, the population movement has been spreaded over the world and the number of consumption to fulfill the needs of human is also increasing over the time. With those evidences, it affects to the ecosystem in the earth which then tend to the rising of environmental problem. The states' concern are shifting to how they will survive in facing the effect of globalization toward their environment.

The states might face any kind of environment problem regarding to the geographical situation and their social condition. The countries which dominant by the forest will struggle to save their forest far away from illegal logging and deforestation. For instance, Brazilian Amazon as the world's largest tropical rainforest has reached 920 km<sup>2</sup> of deforestation. (Spring, 2019) The countries which have most of industries in their area have to be ready to face problems like pollution coming from the industries and the waste in their environment caused by lack of waste management and treatment. It happened in India that has total population of 1.252 billion. India produces 62 metric tons of waste each year with the fact only 43 million metric tons of waste that been collected. Then, from 43 million, there is only 12 million metric tons that treated with disposal methods while the other 31 million metric tons not treated or being dumped. (Musulin, 2016) The countries that most consists by the sea might be threatened to deal with the marine pollution issues. For instance, Indonesia with the total ocean area of 3,25 million km<sup>2</sup> out of 7,81 million km<sup>2</sup>

(Roza, 2017) and it is reported in a study by Jenna Jambeck in 2015 that Indonesia is reputed as the second-biggest producer of marine pollutant in the world. (Vinanda, 2019)

As one of the environmental problem, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), marine debris is defined as “*any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment*”. (Pawar, 2016) Marine debris has become the complex issue that giving significant impacts to the marine and coastal environment and it also impacts the human activities all over the world.

The type of marine debris includes plastic, glass, metals, styrofoam, rubber, derelict fishing gear and derelict vessels. According to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC), the marine debris listed as plastic (soft, foam, ropes, nets, moulded, monofilament line, buoys), smoking related items like lighters and cigarette butts, glass (buoys, fluorescent globes, bottles, light globes), fisheries related equipment, paper rubber and cloth, metal (drink cans, pull tabs, bottle caps) and processed timber. The sources of marine debris come from land-based sources which include as the 80% source of marine debris and the rest come from the sea-based activities.

The source of marine debris coming from land-based sources includes the rubbish from streets that discharged by the storm water and it might directly brought into the ocean or to the rivers which then carried into the ocean; rubbish that coming from combined sewers that discharged into the nearby rivers or oceans; litter left by beachgoers at the coast including the beverage containers and food packaging, plastic beach toys, cigarette butts and fishing gear coming from fisherman activities; illegal dumping

coming from domestic and industrial wastes and industrial activities covering the industrial products that improperly disposed. Another sources of marine debris coming from ocean-based sources include commercial fishing producing nets, strapping bands, bait boxes, bags, lines and ropes; recreational boaters producing bags and food packaging; merchant, military and research vessels producing rubbish which accidentally released into the water and offshore oil and gas platforms and exploration. (Pawar, 2016)

Marine debris problem may give significant impacts on some aspects: ecological, social and economic impacts. For ecological impacts, the macroplastics as the product of marine debris affected to some biota such as dolphin, seal and albatross. Most of them become the victims by supposing the plastics as their food. Marine debris also damage the habitats of cold and warm water coral reefs. Another impacts on social and economic aspects, marine debris can cause the reduction in income through the decreasing of fishing days and decreasing of tourist numbers due to the presence of litter in the coastal area. (The UNEP Secretariat, 2016)

The problem of marine debris result the serious impact to the marine wildlife as the biodiversity of one's country. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there are two primary threats caused by plastic marine debris towards marine wildlife; entanglement and ingestion. Entanglements can be happened when the animal is attracted to some debris with their curiosity. For instance, seabirds may see fish in a net as their source of food but then they are entangle while catching the fish. The entanglement will be harmful for the wildlife because: it can cause wounds and then lead to infections; it may cause choking or suffocation; and it can make the wildlife becoming difficult to move, find food and escape from predators. Then, ingestion can be

happened when animals swallow plastic marine debris. It can happen accidentally but mostly it happens because the animals think that the debris is their food. For instance, a floating plastic bag can be look like a jellyfish. Ingestion can lead to choking or starvation even lessen the desire to feed. It can be worsen if the animals ingest sharp object, it can damage their digestive tract then can cause infection or pain. (NOAA Parine Debris Program, 2015)

Responding to the issue of marine debris problem as one of environmental problems, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) becomes the international regime of global environmental issues. It was founded in June 1972 as the result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Through the global environmental agenda set by UNEP, it aims to provide leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by informing, inspiring and enabling people and nations in order to improve the quality of life. The UNEP also conduct several convention, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies on environment as the attempt of promoting the coherent implementation of the environment dimension under the United Nations system. As the international regime, UNEP is bringing the nations and the community to deal with the challenges of environment problems in the world. ("About UN Environment," n.d.)

In the United Nations Environment Programme, the world's highest-level decision-making body belongs to the United Nations Environment Assembly that was created in June 2012. It aims to address the environmental challenges critically in facing the world's environment situation today. The representatives of each states will meet once in two years (biennially) in order to decide the action and priorities for global environmental policies. With the resolutions and calls to action from the United Nations

Environment Assembly, it will encourage and catalyze the state's action on the environment. The first and second sessions of The UN Environment Assembly discussed on major issues of illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the Green Economy, the Sustainable Goals and “delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Particularly, in the third session of UN Environment Assembly, the leaders were discussing under the theme “Towards a pollution-free planet” by addressing some sub-themes: water pollution, land pollution, marine pollution, air pollution and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste. The third session of United Nations Environment Assembly was held on December 4th-6th, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. (“UN Environment Assembly and Governing Council,” n.d.)

As the second biggest polluter of plastic waste and the first biggest polluter in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is responsible for 3.22 million metric tons of waste that mismanaged every year. (Ismail, 2018) Moreover, according to the Nature Communications, it was stated that four of Indonesia's rivers (Solo, Serayu, Progo and Brantas) were in the position among 20 most polluted rivers in the world. Through the participation of Indonesia in United Nations Environment Programme, the position of Indonesia can be seen from the speech for National Statement of Indonesia at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly delivered by His Excellency Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Soehardjono Sastromihardjo in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)-3. (UN Environment Assembly, 2017) In his speech, Mr. Soehardjono delivered that Indonesia had put its effort to improve the water quality related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 6 about Clean Water and Sanitation. Indonesia has reduced the water pollution

by knowing from the industrial water efficiency from 492 million metric tons to 535 million metric tons. Further, Indonesia is continuing to reduce 90% domestic waste water load by the target of water quality improvement in 2030. (United Nations Environment Programme, 2017)

Besides, Indonesia is also continuing to take action in reducing marine litter, nutrient pollution mitigation, and chemicals. By adopting circular economy, Indonesia is implementing sustainable solid waste management. Mr. Soehardjono also delivered that Indonesia had committed to reduce 70% of marine litter by 2025, reducing 30% and handling 70% of domestic solid waste. (“National Statement of Indonesia at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,” 2017)

Another program in dealing with marine debris issue held by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the #CleanSeas campaign that was launched at the Economist World Ocean Summit in February 2017 in Bali. The campaign urged the governments to pass plastic reduction policies, call on consumers to change their habits in throwaway the waste and target the industry to minimize the plastic packaging. All that effort is done as the responsible to our seas before irreversible damage happened. (“Indonesia Joins UN in a Bid to Eradicate Ocean Plastic,” 2017)

The #CleanSeas campaign has become a global movement with the target of governments, industry and consumers as the urgency to reduce the production and the habit of using plastics that impacted to the earth’s oceans pollution, marine life damage and human health threat. UN Environment is purposing of transforming the change of habits, practices, standards and policies around the world to reduce marine debris and the damage it causes. (“Indonesia Joins UN in a Bid to Eradicate Ocean Plastic,” 2017)

Indonesia is one out of ten countries to join the #CleanSeas campaign with the ambitious pledges to clean up the seas. In the campaign, Indonesia takes its position in pledging to reduce plastic waste in 25 coastal cities and reduce 70% marine litter in just eight year. The other nine countries that joined this campaign are Belgium, Costa Rica, France, Grenada, Norway, Panama, Sierra Leone and Uruguay. By the campaign, Uruguay also committed to tax single-use plastic by the end of 2017 and Costa Rica plan to take measures to reduce single-use plastic by doing better waste management and education. (“Indonesia Joins UN in a Bid to Eradicate Ocean Plastic,” 2017)

In this research, the writer will focus in discussing the influence of Indonesia’s participation in the United Nations Environment Programme towards Indonesia’s foreign policy in tackling marine debris issue.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the explanation above, the research question that proposed by the writer in this paper, is:  
*How does the participation of Indonesia in United Nations Environment Program influence Indonesia’s foreign policy in tackling marine plastic debris issue?*

## **C. Theoretical Framework**

In order to answer the research question above, this research will use the theory of international regimes and the concept of foreign policy changes.

### **a. International Regimes**

According to Krasner, International Regimes is defined as (Krasner, 1982):

*“Principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around which actor expectations converge in a given issue area or international relations. Principles are beliefs of fact, causation and rectitude; Norms are standard of*

*behavior defined regarding rights and obligation. Rules are specific prescriptions or prescriptions for action.”*

Based on the definition, in order to reach the regime governance that prior to be agreement, there will be some process in domestic and international level. In domestic post-agreement negotiation processes, there will consist of ratification, rule-making negotiation and negotiations concerning monitoring, enforcement and reporting. Ratification negotiations concern in order to achieve formal acceptance of regime agreements at the state level. This sub-process involves the participation including the government ministries and agencies, business group, NGOs, political parties and the public. The form of this sub-process will be in formal negotiations such as in the national parliaments and informal negotiations such as by through debates among the bureaucracy and in the public media. After ratification, it will come to the rule-making negotiation, the sub-process concern to the law and regulations that enacted to conform the provisions of an accepted international agreement. It involves the legislators and bureaucrats in government ministries and agencies as the party who have authority in order to make and change the regulations. It also involves the influence of lobby groups representing business, NGOs, political parties and the public. Then, it continues to negotiation concerning monitoring, enforcement and reporting. This sub-process concern in order to provide feedback towards the success or failure of laws and regulations implemented by the national and international agencies. The participants that will be involved in this sub-process are NGOs, scientific groups and economic stakeholders through the effective monitoring, reporting, debates and



bargaining between those actors with the government. (Spector & Zartman, 2003)

Furthermore, in international post-agreement negotiations processes, there will consist of three sub-processes. First, regime formation negotiation, it concerns on how the agreement provisions are operationally defined, formalized and implemented to create a regime. In this sub-process, it will include the discussion of membership rules, voting rules, institutional development and relationships among regime members and external parties. Second, regime governance negotiation, it concerns on the process when the information related with participant actions will be collected; compliance of the participant will be monitored, verified and enforced; and disputes will be resolved. Last, the sub-process of regime adjustment negotiation, it concerns on the renegotiation of current agreement after the rules, procedures and targets have been established. The renegotiation involves with the new information, new issues, new thinking and feedback from current activities on the effects of compliance and the science about the problem that learned more. This sub-process might result to the regime enlargement and contraction. (Spector & Zartman, 2003)

b. Foreign Policy Changes

According to K.J. Holsti, Foreign policy can be defined as the action or idea designed to solve problems or make changes in the environment. In general, each country will put the foreign policy as the function of ensuring the national interest of the country and maintaining the national security and also benefiting for the sake of the country. (Sukmawardani, 2016)

In the process of foreign policy making, there are several forms that cause the changes of foreign policy; contagion, control, consent and

conditionality. (O'Donell, Schmitter, & Whitehead, 1986)

Contagion may cause the change of foreign policy with the reason of the influence from other actors within the organization in some matters, such as the awareness of tackling marine debris. In participating through the United Nations Environment Programme, The member states may influence each other who also join this UN Bodies to do the same action in tackling marine debris issue based on their condition in their states. (O'Donell, Schmitter, & Whitehead, 1986)

Consent may cause the change of foreign policy that the reason coming from the internal of the state. The member states consider the importance of some issue to their foreign policy which caused from their internal condition, such as the marine debris issue, the state is raising their awareness of the issue because it can threat and become the serious problem in the domestic level. In this issue, the geographical condition can cause the consent of the member state to tackle the marine debris. (O'Donell, Schmitter, & Whitehead, 1986)

Conditionality may come from United Nations Environment Program as the international organizations that Indonesia join within it. There will be particular condition that has to be reached or fulfilled by the member states. In the third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3), the member state will be included to the resolutions and decisions adopted to address specific dimension of pollution and commitment by each governments to clean up the planet from pollution. (IISD Reporting Service, 2017)

Last, control from the external actors which in this condition, it is the United Nations

Environment Program. Participating in the United Nations Environment Programme, as the member state will be controlled their commitment as it has submitted in the previous assembly which it will report again in the next meeting, the United Nations Environment Assembly.

#### **D. Research Argument**

- a. By using the perspective of international regimes, with the participation of Indonesia in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the regimes related with issue of marine debris is on the sub-process of regime governance negotiation.
- b. By using the perspective of foreign policy change this research is arguing that Indonesia's foreign policy is changing based on consent and conditionality.

#### **E. Research Methods**

This research is expected to explain how the participation of Indonesia in United Nations Environment Programme can influence the foreign policy making of Indonesia in dealing with marine plastic debris issue. The data collection techniques used in this research were document studies done by collecting secondary data, in this case, the information derived from several relevant published materials such as a report, news and publication in the United Nations website. The writer also collect the data from another researcher as the standard of the research objectives.

#### **F. Writing System**

##### **Chapter I**

This chapter consists of background of the issue, research question, theoretical framework, research argument, research methodology and writing system.

## **Chapter II**

This chapter consists of explanation about marine debris and how the global response in dealing with global environment problem including the global existing frameworks and institutions

## **Chapter III**

This chapter consists of explanation of effort resulted in the discussion within the United Nations Environment Programme in dealing with marine debris issue

## **Chapter IV**

This chapter consists of explanation of Indonesia's actions in dealing with marine plastic debris including the participation of Indonesia in the United Nations Environment Programme and others actions

## **Chapter V**

This chapter consists of conclusion. It will end the paper by also having the conclusion and the answer from the research question.