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19 – 23 March

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



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Conference A

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Committee Staff

Director	Maya Kazamel
Assistant Director	Shelsy Mireles
Chair	Leonardo Vargas Talamantes
Rapporteur	Tracy Choong

Agenda

- I. Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health
- II. Eliminating Urban Slums and Ensuring Access to Adequate Housing
- III. Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Urbanization through Information and Communications Technology

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UN-Habitat 1/1	Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health	Adopted without a vote
UN-Habitat 1/2	Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health	39 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 3 abstentions
UN-Habitat 1/3	Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health	30 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 6 abstentions
UN-Habitat 1/4	Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health	38 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 4 abstentions

Summary Report for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Urbanization through Information and Communications Technology
- II. Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health
- III. Eliminating Urban Slums and Ensuring Access to Adequate Housing

The session was attended by representatives of 42 Member States, and two non-governmental organizations. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, III, and I, beginning discussion on the topic of “Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health.”

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of five proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, such as promoting education to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), increasing education on the dangers of open defecation and its impact on WASH, and mitigating the effects of climate change to promote urban health. The importance of these issues sparked debate on methods of wastewater sanitation, initiatives to obtain adequate funding, and implementing information and communication technology to collect data for WASH. The atmosphere in the committee was cooperative and enthusiastic, and on Tuesday the committee took initiative to merge working papers.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, three of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, one of which was adopted by acclamation. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including sharing knowledge on best-practices to finance WASH programs and initiatives, methods of wastewater treatment to promote urban health, establishing public-private partnerships for water distribution and wastewater management, and working to provide access to water to vulnerable populations. Through working inclusively and in a collaborative manner, delegates were able to effectively address the broad, multifaceted nature of the topic.



Code: UNHABITAT/1/1

Committee: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Topic: Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to promote Urban Health

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

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3 *Affirming the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to adequate*
4 *living conditions for the health and well-being of all individuals,*

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6 *Guided by the standards set forth in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development which includes Sustainable*
7 *Development Goals (SDGs) regarding efficient economic and social development aided directly by access to water,*
8 *sanitation, and hygiene programs, specifically highlighting SDG 6 focusing on the access to improved drinking*
9 *water sources and basic sanitation services through implementation of integrated water resources management at all*
10 *levels,*

11 *Stressing the need for an improved international exchange of water-related knowledge,*

12
13 *Concerned by the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Health and Sustainable Development, which identified the*
14 *importance of pollution, overcrowding, and underdeveloped waste treatment infrastructure,” identified pollution,*
15 *overcrowding, and underdeveloped waste treatment infrastructure as menaces to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene*
16 *(WASH) and urban health,*

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19 *Noting the success of international economic summits and world forums in bringing decision makers together,*

20
21 *Taking into consideration Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 9, promoting availability and sustainable*
22 *management of water and sanitation for all and promoting the building of resilient infrastructure and sustainable*
23 *industrialization and foster innovation and reemphasizing the necessity of sustainable infrastructure and improving*
24 *urban communities as stated by SDG 11,*

25
26 *Following the Urban Water Management Programme (UWMP) focusing on developing sustainable urban water*
27 *management strategies,*

28
29 *Reemphasizing the necessity of sustainable infrastructure and improving urban communities as stated by SDG 11,*

30
31 *Noting with approval the work of the Water Footprint Network in identifying the sustainability, efficiency, and*
32 *equitability of water use around the world,*

33
34 *Guided by ECOSOC resolution 2016/ 23 of 2016, titled Science, technology and innovation for development, which*
35 *encourages the use of technology which creates sustainable development to form safe and sustainable urban areas,*

36
37 *Keeping in mind the necessity of multi-stakeholder participation and community empowerment, specifically the*
38 *guiding principles of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) and collaborative efforts led by UN-*
39 *Habitat’s Water for Asian Cities Programme, particularly the positive effect that including women in WASH*
40 *initiatives can have in ensuring universal access to infrastructure,*

41
42 *Convinced of the potential of information and communication technology (ICT) to increase understanding and*
43 *control of operations and consequently optimizing the use of limited water resources by interacting with city*
44 *officials,*

45
46 *Concerned by the lack of technical expertise to provide necessary infrastructure and integrated water resources*
47 *management in many countries,*

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49 *Emphasizing* the importance of cooperation between the public and the private sector as well as with civil society for
50 ensuring access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene to promote urban health,
51
52 *Recalling* the success of the *International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015*, declared in General
53 Assembly resolution 58/217 of 2003, which has enabled access to enriched sources of water and sanitation to more
54 than two billion people,
55
56 *Noting with gratitude* the work of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) in coordinating
57 cooperations between civil society organizations and learning institutions and supporting intra-regional Water
58 Operator Partnerships,
59
60 *Praising* the UN-Water Activity Information System (UN-WAIS) as an online-platform for UN-Water and its
61 members as well as its partners including to present and share information on water-related projects and learning
62 initiatives,
63
64 *Concerned by* the widening infrastructure gap in emerging economies, especially within WASH infrastructure,
65
66 *Noting with gratitude* the work of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in identifying the benefit of cross-industry
67 and cross cluster collaboration to build linkages between cities,
68
69 *Further concerned by* the reducing contributions to international development, affecting WASH program,
70
71 *Noting with deep concern* the lack of projects accessible to project financing and project financiers, including private
72 and institutional investors,
73
74 *Noting with satisfaction* that e-platforms provide transparency to civil servants and society to reduce corruption and
75 risk,
76
77 *Taking into account* the work of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to transform communities
78 towards realising the Sustainable Development Goals,
79
80 *Noting* the success of international economic summits and world forums in bringing decision makers together,
81
82 *Fully aware* that corruption and theft impedes the success of WASH infrastructure delivery,
83
84 *Noting* the success of technology through big data to reduce theft in water distribution networks,
85
86 *Conscious of* the need to educate communities in WASH to ensure successful behavioural modification,
87
88 *Emphasizing* the need to build local capacity to ensure sustainable management of WASH infrastructure,
89
90 *Fully aware of* the importance of financial governance of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) collaborative financing
91 arrangements,
92
93 *Taking into consideration* the benefit of regular reporting and knowledge sharing of success across the international
94 community,
95
96 *Noting that* underwriting WASH project risk by development banks and inter-government bodies facilitates cross-
97 industry and cross-geographic knowledge sharing,
98
99 *Recognizing* that technology allows the capture of information of WASH infrastructure (e.g. water distribution
100 networks) performance, allowing best practice to be identified and subsequently shared within the international
101 community,
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103 *Recognizing* the benefit of e-platforms and ICT solutions in the exchanging of ideas and advancing information
104 transparency within Public Private Partnerships,

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Regretting the use of unsafe materials such as lead in the carrying, transport, and cleaning of water,

1. *Establishes* a “Water Friendship Programme” as part of the new International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, which initiates “Water Friendships” between “Water Friend Cities” across the world, i.e. cities that have applied to the “Water Friendship Programme” to enhance the exchange of water-related knowledge and technology on topics such as water resource management and wastewater treatment for urban health among correspondent parties from all civil society sectors;
2. *Suggests* that an online-platform integrated in the existent structure of the UN-Water Activity Information system (UNW-AIS) shall be established for the “Water Friendship Programme” to allow each two cities from different countries (“Water Friend Cities”) and especially their civil society organizations, students, experts and academics, to connect with counterparts from their correspondent “Water Friend City” and share their knowledge, experience and best-practice examples in ensuring access to adequate water to promote urban health;
3. *Decides* that the “Water Friendship Programme” is to be coordinated by the then-appointed Director of the International Decade for Action in cooperation with the GWOPA Secretariat under the wing of UN-Habitat;
4. *Recommends* that an expert group of the GWOPA Secretariat shall pair up at least each two cities from different countries (“Water Friend Cities”) for “Water Friendships” based on the evaluated needs and capabilities of the respective cities;
5. *Further decides* that the “Water Friendship Programme” shall be financed through the allocation of evaluated sums of the UN-Habitat budget as well as financial resources within the “International Decade for Action 2018-2028 Water for Sustainable Development” upon request by the then-appointed Director of the International Decade for Action in cooperation with the GWOPA Secretariat;
6. *Expresses its hope* that the exchange within the “Water Friendship Programme” will stimulate the transfer of water-related knowledge and technology as well as initiate financial cooperation among not only public but also private stakeholders for the promotion for urban health;
7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant UN bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the UN as well as the private sector, to contribute to the “Water Friendship Programme;”
8. *Encourages* Member States to attract and seek finance through private and institutional investors, recognising the knowledge sharing that occurs within Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), whilst reducing the gap in WASH infrastructure;
9. *Encourages* the connection of development banks, UNDP, and donor recipient countries to identify scoped, sustainable, and feasible water and sanitation opportunities through major international economic summits and exchange programs such as the “Water Friendship Programme” and the World Urban Forum (WUF), and e-platforms, highlighting project availability;
10. *Takes note* of the importance of Public Private Partnerships in sharing knowledge and building capacity in donor recipient countries, working towards long term WASH Infrastructure management;
11. *Takes note of* the social benefits of WASH projects and programs via educating users to build confidence and trust in municipal government;
12. *Encourages* Member States to monitor performance of financing projects such as those who can be created throughout the “Water Friendship Programme” sought through private and institutional investors (i.e. through Public Private Partnerships) in order to create a basis of exchanging experience and knowledge for further investments by:
 - a. Governing projects through appropriate government structures in Member States’ Departments of Finance that enable monitoring by considering to establish a branch in charge;

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- b. Reporting to UN-Habitat on PPP outcomes every twelve months, highlighting successes to encourage future investment and knowledge sharing to facilitate cross-border dialogue via e-platforms sharing projects' progress and investments;
 - c. Publishing information on successful projects through e-platforms to give benchmarks for effective projects and to increase transparency and encourage future private and institutional financing;
13. *Seeks* to implement sustainable urban water management strategies at Member States' discretion to address urban infrastructure and water management, including water use and reuse, in accordance with UWMP including local water use and reuse in household water treatment initiatives, combining water expertise with various ICT applications to improve the management of water resources in smarter water applications;
14. *Moves* to allocate viable funding for global access to WASH keeping in mind internal state growth, and moving forward with inclusive implementation of ICT and connectivity of communities;
15. *Recommends* that Member States promote urban health through ICT-informed infrastructure;
16. *Trusts* that Member States will work toward reducing waterway and water source pollution through;
- a. Actively cleaning up lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams;
 - b. Decreasing current pollution by factories and mines;
 - c. Installing appropriate sewage systems so that water sources are not polluted by human waste;
17. *Endorses* resilient infrastructure development programs that include stakeholders in the creation and maintenance of infrastructure, with the larger goal of capacity building, while also:
- a. Actively engaging women, both in the use of ICT and the creation of infrastructure as well as in ensuring equal access to and distribution of WASH related resources;
 - b. Respecting local traditions and cultures, and ensuring state sovereignty;
18. *Invites* all Member States to adopt a database-centric infrastructure as part of an integrated water management solutions in urban areas, in order to manage efficiently existing resources and determine the present and future needs through existing and new techniques;
19. *Recommends* the implementation of wastewater infrastructure treatment plans that convert water that can be recycled into a drainage mechanism that can be either restituted to the hydrological cycle which is the continuous movement of water on, above and below earth's surface known as the water cycle;
20. *Calls upon* Member States to promote sustainable water systems by creating or upgrading water systems, such as grouped water mains, water sanitation plants, and reuptake systems in cooperation with local citizens and data-centric infrastructure, with respect to intellectual property, in order to spread potable water to all who need it and promote urban health utilizing the framework of the Water Framework Directive as put forth by the EU with focus on ensuring the active participation of all stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and local residents, as well as balancing environmental protection with the interests of the people and:
- a. Better managing and distributing water so that unsustainable trends that put regions under water stress caused by an over consumption of water resources, inefficient usage, and leakage can be corrected;
 - b. Establishing new drilled wells, sand dams, spring protection and rainwater catchment;
21. *Affirms* the necessity that Member States promote and support technology innovation to restore, protect, and secure the access to water and proper sanitation through the use of innovative ICT, such as, but not limited to:

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- a. Desalination technology and facilities in Member States located in arid and coastal regions, where production of water and disposal excess saline is more feasible;
 - b. Water recycling and reuse characterized by the use of municipal wastewater that has been treated to meet specific quality criteria with the intent of being used for a range of beneficial purposes;
- 224 22. *Encourages* every Member State to implement a smart water network that integrates a set of systems that enable
225 water utilities to monitor and diagnose problems, preemptively prioritize and manage maintenance issues, and
226 control and optimize all aspects of the drinking water distribution network using data-driven insights and
227 through private, international and voluntary funding so as to not put any strain on low and middle income
228 Member States' budget;
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- 230 23. *Reiterates* its request that the location of future infrastructure projects take into consideration the employment
231 opportunities, respect of cultural landmarks, proximity to industrial sectors and other social facilities;
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- 233 24. *Calls upon* Member States to mitigate urban sprawl and reduce the environmental footprint through emphasis
234 on the importance of the centrality of water infrastructure;
- 235
- 236 25. *Strongly encourages* the international community to provide appropriate assistance through water-related
237 disasters including:
- 238
- a. Measures to better coordinate the supply of safe drinking and sanitation to prevent the spread of
239 infectious diseases through:
 - 240 i. Measuring water quality through the creating of green systems;
 - 241 ii. Ranking water sources based on levels of cleanliness and potential to propagate infectious
242 diseases;
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 - b. Flood control and the management of excess water by returning surplus water to aquifers to minimize
245 its impact on ecosystems, a process considered best practice for surplus water management;
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 - c. Earthquake damage to important hygiene infrastructures, like sewage and erosion control facilities,
248 while taking into consideration the environment of the inhabitants.
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Code: UNHABITAT/1/2

Committee: The United Nations Human Settlements Program

Topic: Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Program,*

2
3 *Paying tribute to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which emphasizes that each person must have
4 access to water and sanitation resources and will promote urban health,

5
6 *Recognizing* the importance of sustainable development established in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*
7 *Development* and in particular *Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6* and its aims to guarantee the universal
8 access to water and sanitation for all individuals, including youth and women, and reducing water pollution,

9
10 *Further recalling* General Assembly resolution 69/283 of 2015, which establishes the *Sendai Framework for*
11 *Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030*, and fully aware of the impact disasters have on Water, Sanitation, and
12 Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, leading to pollution and contamination,

13
14 *Further examining* the *Johannesburg Declaration on Health and Sustainable Development* of 2002, which identifies
15 wastewater treatment as a vital part to urban health and water waste management,

16
17 *Having examined* the Simavi organization that empowers developing countries to improve access to WASH,

18
19 *Emphasizing* the significance of World Water Day celebrated on March 22, which raises awareness within Member
20 States on the importance of water saving all over the world and the struggle of dehydration faced in developing
21 countries,

22
23 *Impressed by* the success of the regional forums on Water Footprint Assessment which act as a catalyst for change,

24
25 *Noting with deepest appreciation* the project of Bahrain's Sanitary Engineering Operations and Maintenance, which
26 successfully addresses the inefficiency of poorly connected sewage systems and promotes interconnected networks
27 of sewage and which in effect promotes wastewater treatment capacity,

28
29 *Taking into consideration* the UN-Water report *Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water*
30 (2014), which outlines the shortcomings of current WASH initiatives with vulnerable populations,

31
32 *Emphasizing* the focus of the *New Urban Agenda* on providing basic services for all citizens including safe drinking
33 water and sanitation in addition to making cities and human settlements inclusive and sustainable,

34
35 *Recognizing* the importance of safe drinking water and sanitation in coordination with the health sector within
36 Member States for preventing waterborne diseases through improving hygiene conditions by providing wells and
37 latrines in social infrastructures projects,

38
39 *Highlighting* to the international community the necessity to implement suitable measures in order to improve health
40 and medical systems so as to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases,

41
42 1. *Encourages* Member States to develop adequate monitoring and regulatory systems regarding waterborne
43 diseases in cities, with the goal of increasing urban health;

44
45 2. *Calls upon* Member States that have already acquired effective frameworks, policies and water extraction
46 programs to share their expertise to developing countries through, training, information and communications
47 technology (ICT) transfer and information sharing through the use of Water Footprint Network;

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- 49 3. *Recommends* governments to improve the accessibility of wastewater treatment facilities to all Member States
50 which will eliminate harmful pollutants in water before being returned to the environment, and can be done by:
51
- 52 a. Developing an effective waste treatment channel within Member States and forming a legal
53 framework in order to ensure a proper and smooth functioning of this channel;
54
 - 55 b. Working together with industries and creating products which are free from chemicals that are
56 harmful to human health;
57
 - 58 c. Creating effective sewage system infrastructures that would be resilient enough to natural disasters;
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 - 60 d. Collaborating with research institutions to conduct more advanced and innovative researches on how
61 to better treat water and maintain good water quality;
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- 63 4. *Further recommends* Member States to join the UN-Habitat's initiative of Participatory Slum Upgrading
64 Program and focus its resources on wastewater management to:
65
- 66 a. Include urban populations in the creation and implementation of WASH programs and infrastructure;
67
 - 68 b. Equip Member States with the skills to develop and maintain WASH infrastructure, and empower
69 community leaders to continue sustainable development with urban health;
70
- 71 5. *Encourages* UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab to implement emergency assistance-based initiatives
72 for disaster relief and sanitation, such as Floating City Apps, a freight container that is shipped to waterfront
73 urban slums and recreation disaster stricken areas with a customized sanitary system in place for a particular
74 area through the utilization of ICTs;
75
- 76 6. *Calls upon* all Member States and local authorities to Adopt the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, which are
77 formulated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030, in order to monitor, analyze,
78 and manage the causes of disasters through:
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- 80 a. Flood control and the management of excess water by returning surplus water to aquifers to minimize
81 its impact on ecosystems with a process based on the sharing of best practice for surplus water
82 management;
83
 - 84 b. Earthquake damage to important hygiene infrastructures, like sewage and erosion control facilities,
85 while taking into consideration the environment of the inhabitants;
86
- 87 7. *Calls upon* all Member States to implement the Sanitation, Hygiene and Water (SHAW) Programme pioneered
88 by the Simavi organization which works with:
89
- 90 a. Volunteers to motivate communities to raise awareness of using clean water for sanitation and
91 hygiene;
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 - 93 b. Communities and other stakeholders, such as governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
94 and private companies to provide financial resources to accommodate the health concerns of urban
95 populations;
96
 - 97 c. Community groups to address demand for sanitation facilities by making stakeholders aware of their
98 rights and how to prevent the spread of diseases;
99
 - 100 d. Children and youth as agents of change by implementing SHAW in schools and ensuring that the
101 interests of all the community members are represented;
102

- 103 8. *Urges* UN bodies, Member States, NGOs, and community leaders to work in cooperation to upgrade
104 dilapidated infrastructure as well as to improve the accessibility of water for the general urban areas with an
105 emphasis on vulnerable populations:
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- 107 a. Requesting the cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information to raise
108 awareness through campaigns led by community leaders to increase accessibility to WASH facilities
109 which promotes urban health;
110
 - 111 b. Calling upon the improvement of World Health Organizations (WHO) Joint Monitoring Program with
112 United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on the collection of national, regional, and global water
113 supply and sanitation to be monitored within a targeted period of every five years in order to check
114 for misuse and mismanagement of water resource;
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 - 116 c. Suggesting that Member States share the best practices of interlinking sewage systems which
117 efficiently isolates as well as recycles wastewater and furthers the universal access to the services of
118 water treatment facilities;
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- 120 9. *Suggests the implementation of* Total Water Cycle Management (TWCM) on a global scale to facilitate
121 sustainable development and planning by:
122
- 123 a. Requiring infrastructure planning to be linked with land use planning;
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 - 125 b. Using ICT to monitor and forecast water usage to reach an efficient, sustainable cycle of water
126 management;
127
- 128 10. *Calls upon* Member States to focus on the implementation of water and sanitation infrastructure in cities and
129 rural areas with using renewable energy sources in order to maintain the commitments of SDGs, to guarantee
130 basic human rights and to reduce the impact of climate change and environmental degradation. These
131 infrastructures should be implemented through:
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- 133 a. Elaborating national action plans that may collaborate with NGOs or civil society representatives and
134 all involved entities that are aimed at using a supply-side management energy portfolio in cities, and
135 that supply-side strategies for energy use in the healthcare industry include:
 - 136 i. Practice green health via electricity produced from solar, wind, biomass, biogas and low-
137 impact small hydroelectric sources;
 - 138 ii. Geothermal energy which involves digging deep wells and pumping the underground heated
139 water or steam to the surface to generate electricity;
140
 - 141 b. Promoting renewable energy services with the aim to guarantee access to adequate clean water
142 appropriate for drinking, hygiene and domestic use. Energy services are the key for meeting the goal
143 through:
 - 144 i. Purification of drinking water;
 - 145 ii. Pumping to gain access to water;
 - 146 iii. Water desalination.



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Code: UNHABITAT/1/3

Committee: The United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Topic: Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

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3 *Taking into consideration* General Assembly resolution 70/169 of 2015, which emphasizes the importance of equal
4 access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a vital human right,

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6 *Urging* Member States to recommit to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, ensuring healthy lives and
7 promoting wellbeing for all, SDG 6, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for
8 all, and SDG 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,

9

10 *Guided by* the UN-Habitat definition of a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an
11 urban area who lack one or more basic infrastructure means, including easy access to safe water in sufficient
12 amounts at an affordable price and access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a
13 reasonable number of people,

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15 *Recognizing* how different vulnerable groups living in urban areas are particularly affected: women, who are more
16 likely to have lower education levels; children, who are constantly exposed to a whole range of impacts; people with
17 disabilities, who suffer due to the slums' dilapidated infrastructure, and migrants, refugees and internally displaced
18 persons, and unskilled youth, who are excluded from economic and employment opportunities and are affected by
19 conflict,

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21 *Cognizant* of the fact that women and girls living in urban slums also often face gender-based violence, such as
22 sexual harassment and rape, while openly defecating or commuting to public toilets, according to UN-Water,

23

24 *Aware* of the need to eliminate gender disparities in water accessibility by 2030 in accordance with the fifth SDG to
25 ensure equal access to all levels of education,

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27 *Recognizing* the efforts of the Association for Women's Rights in Development in bringing attention to the impact
28 of women, and solving the particular issues women and other vulnerable populations face while assisting Member
29 States in sustainable development to ensure that women's rights are fully realized,

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31 *Bearing in mind* the *World Cities Report* which states that vulnerable populations of urban households are the least
32 likely to receive the benefits of improved sanitation and water-quality programmes,

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34 *Noting* that while efforts towards water access have progressed, many urban areas, especially in developing and least
35 developed countries (LDCs) remain dependent on unsanitary water systems,

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37 *Reaffirming* the work of the Third World Network (TWN), which considers the unique needs of LDCs in creating
38 capacity building and implementing policy through North-South cooperation,

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40 *Deeply concerned* that 1.1 billion individuals (15% of the world's population) continue to practice open defecation,
41 according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and over 300,000 children die every year from diarrheal
42 diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation, according to the United Nations Children's Fund,

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44 *Noting* that ensuring sustainability for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and programs to address
45 the problems of vulnerable populations will require substantial capacity building of developing nations to ensure
46 country-owned, rights-based, transparent, participatory, and bottom-up oriented planning,

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Approving of the initiative taken by the Global Water Brigades, a non-governmental organization (NGO), which partners volunteers with local engineers and technicians to construct water systems and provides education to improve family health and to maintain the implemented systems politically, economically, socially, but recognizes the lack of projects by the Global Water Brigades in urban areas,

Noting with satisfaction the progress of Sanitation and Water For All, a global partnership of over 150 state governments, private sector and civil society organizations, research institutions, and other developmental partners, in order to inspire action to provide universal access to clean water and adequate sanitation to the most vulnerable populations,

Applauding the success of WaterCredit, a platform promoting foreign direct investments to provide affordable loans to empower more than four million people across eight countries with access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure with a 99 percent repayment rate, and 93 percent of persons taking out loans from WaterCredit are women,

Drawing attention to the Amendis Initiative in Tangier, which permitted low-income households to have access to private piped water access through no-interest credit, leading to more security and leisure time for families, especially women,

Applauding the Muslims for Humanity initiative, educating on proper infrastructure, which aims to rebuild infrastructure inside communities to ensure that health, education, and employment opportunities are given to members within the community,

Emphasizing the Rainbow School Toilet Programme from the World Toilet Organization which has built sanitation and toilet facilities in schools to teach young students how to properly manage toilet facilities and has given courses on hand-washing techniques,

1. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to initiate community-based town centers in urban areas, including slums, to:
 - a. Ensure vulnerable populations living in slums see improved access to potable water, keeping in mind that more facilities make for lower commute time to potable water for women and other vulnerable populations;
 - b. Implement measures similar to the Amendis Initiative in Morocco to increase access to safe drinking water;
 - c. Increase the availability of safe and private restroom and showering facilities throughout urban areas to include multiple locations in pre-urban and informal settlement areas at the Member State's discretion;
 - d. Act as a model for further sanitary installation implementation throughout the slums to ensure sustainability;
- 2.
3. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to fund a collaboration between UN-Habitat and WaterCredit to:
 - a. Ensure that vulnerable populations in urban areas are given equal socioeconomic opportunities by having access to funds for sanitary infrastructure improvement;
 - b. Achieve successful implementation and improvement of accessible water and sanitation, especially in informal urban settlements, by the individuals that constitute these vulnerable communities;
 - c. Enable private corporations as well as individuals to fund bottom-up clean water initiatives in urban settings;
 - d. Give vulnerable communities the possibility to become self-sufficient and independent by providing an alternative to larger binding and often hindering loans;

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4. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat establish regional micro-loan platforms to facilitate the transfer of capital between citizens of all socioeconomic statuses, while specifically focusing on vulnerable populations, to ensure the success of water access initiatives in urban settings;
 5. *Encourages* the reinstatement of the Interagency Gender and Water Task Force with members from UN-Habitat and other UN organizations to:
 - a. Focus on obtaining gender disaggregated data, or disaggregate existing data to reflect the experiences of the most vulnerable populations;
 - b. Ensure deeper analysis of the specific discrimination faced by the most marginalized people in their communities regarding WASH;
 - c. Allow Member States, NGOs and UN-related organizations to use this data to their discretion, notably to promote non-discrimination in WASH;
 6. *Further recommends* the collaboration of UN-Habitat and Global Water Brigades through Sanitation and Water for All to initiate the mitigation of gender-based violence by implementing more urban community water sources to ensure the safety and security of all residents;
 7. *Suggests* that UN-Habitat increase collaboration with the Association for Women’s Rights in Development to assist Member States in implementing national legislation that aims to prevent discrimination against vulnerable populations with respect to water and sanitation infrastructure in urban slums;
 8. *Recommends* UN-Habitat expand programs similar to the Rainbow School Toilet Programme to provide awareness to adults and vulnerable populations in urban areas about the importance of toilet maintenance and infrastructure by educating community leaders through WASH workshops;
 9. *Promotes* UN-Habitat to further facilitate North-South cooperation by collaborating with the TWN as a way to promote water access projects in LDC urban areas that distribute data to the urban policy sector and take into account all urban stakeholders related to water access in urban areas;
 10. *Recommends* that regional monitoring programs be implemented and modelled after monitoring framework in the Integrated Water Resources Management strategy from the Global Water Partnership to aid Member States in overseeing the implementation of water lines and infrastructure compatible with the specific needs of people with disabilities to informal settlements in effort to promote inclusive toilet installation projects for vulnerable populations;
 11. *Suggests* the implementation of employment initiatives for vulnerable populations in informal settlements settings similar to the initiatives on education on proper infrastructure implemented by Muslims for Humanity to help with building and rebuilding water and sanitation infrastructure within informal urban settlements.



Code: UNHABITAT/1/4

Committee: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Topic: Ensuring Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*
2
3 *Affirming* that access to clean water represents a universal human right,
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5 *Considering* the benefits of cooperation when dealing with global problems such as the lack of access to clean water
6 supply and sanitation and to basics health services in urban areas,
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8 *Confident* in the necessity of realizing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which incorporates the
9 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
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11 *Stressing* the importance of SDG 6 on the provision of clean water and sanitation and of SDG 11 on making cities
12 and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,
13
14 *Endorsing* the *New Urban Agenda*, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in January 2017, and promoting
15 a new global strategy in the matter of urban planning and urban health,
16
17 *Reaffirming* the importance of financially supporting the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in fostering and
18 facilitating the urban growth process,
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20 *Reminding* all Member States of the importance of the public-private partnerships (PPPs) in housing and urban
21 development implemented by UN-Habitat,
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23 *Emphasizing* the existing *2015 UN-Habitat Programme Accountability Framework*, designed to ensure good
24 governance, consider relevant leading practices, create the necessary environment of accountability and
25 transparency in UN-Habitat, and guarantee that UN-Habitat business operations are carried out effectively through
26 continuous improvement,
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28 *Recognizing* the success of the *UN International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015*,
29
30 *Convinced* by the important effects of the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) during times of emergency and water
31 shortages in urban areas,
32
33 *Believing in* the partnership between UN-Habitat and the Global Water Operator Partnership Association
34 (GWOPA),
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36 *Further believing in* the Local Governments for Sustainability Initiative (ICLEI), which facilitates local
37 governments input to the United Nations,
38
39 *Stressing* the importance of UN-Habitat's water and sanitation (WATSAN) programmes, covering support for
40 policy, technology, and finance,
41
42 *Fully aware* that research is crucial to the development of new sustainable water and sanitation technologies,
43
44 *Bearing in mind* that collecting data is primordial in order to correctly distribute water,
45
46 *Realizing* the importance of sharing water distribution and wastewater recycling technologies and expertise, in order
47 to improve urban health universally,
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- 49 1. *Emphasizes* the need for the creation of a framework that will facilitate implementation and negotiation of PPPs
50 for the sole purpose of developing efficient distribution of clean water and sanitation infrastructure in urban
51 areas through:
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- 53 a. Sufficient communication between contributing states and organizations;
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 - 55 b. Financial investment;
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 - 57 c. Education opportunities for trained professionals;
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 - 59 d. Advancement of sustainable clean water and sanitation infrastructure technologies for urban areas
60 through research;
 - 61
- 62 2. *Calls upon* the Member States to create a framework that allows and facilitates PPPs between all actors of the
63 civil society, such as, but not limited to:
64
- 65 a. The private sector, start-up companies and national and international firms;
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 - 67 b. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
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 - 69 c. Subnational authorities;
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 - 71 d. Supranational institutions and international organizations;
 - 72
 - 73 e. International development banks;
 - 74
 - 75 f. Private investment banks and financial institutions;
 - 76
 - 77 g. Government, communities and individual citizens;
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- 79 3. *Declares* the relationship between all previously listed actors is that:
80
- 81 a. Governments are considered initiators of private and public partnerships (PPP) agreements signed with
82 the private sector in order to maintain control of the government's owned facilities and to hold the
83 private sector accountable, while securing basic operations costs and efficiency;
 - 84
 - 85 b. Private parties work along with development banks and private investments banks, which are engaged
86 in the financing, in order to provide capital leading to design, construction, maintenance, and operation
87 of the infrastructure project;
 - 88
- 89 4. *Declares* that the PPPs allowed by this framework will address the immediate need to provide clean water in
90 urban centers through distribution systems and the need to collect waste through parallel sewage systems by
91 facilitating large initial investments in basic urban clean water distribution and waste management
92 infrastructure's needs and by including universities and research facilities engaged in the planning of the
93 projects and in collecting the information needed for such projects;
- 94
- 95 5. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat advisors to provide policy and technical support to partner countries and local urban
96 authorities in the negotiation and management of the partnerships who lack skilled advisors in legal, financial,
97 economic and sector specific areas to ensure fair and safe negotiations and implementation practices;
- 98
- 99 6. *Affirms* the right for private sector actors engaged in the partnership negotiated with the government to retain
100 the operation contracts of urban distribution and waste management system for a pre-determined long term
101 duration following the start of the distribution of clean water through pre-negotiated contracts for which
102 relationships and terms will vary accordingly to specific partnerships;
- 103

- 104 7. *Draws the attention* to Member States that private actors operating the systems will guarantee fair distribution
105 and access to clean water through the agreed contracts as well as to ensure reasonable return on business
106 investments, as well as sanitary sewage systems to all citizens living within the boundaries of the projects,
107 without discriminating gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and age in accordance to contractual
108 obligation;
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- 110 8. *Recommends* the active participation and cooperation of all the concerned levels of government, authorities and
111 communities in the planning, the negotiation and the implementation of the partnership framework in further
112 private and public projects under the current framework in order to facilitate operational efficiency;
113
- 114 9. *Supports* the engagement and the participation of local populations, governments and companies to acquire the
115 necessary knowledge through the sharing of information and expertise when it comes to planning process,
116 construction and operations of water and sewage infrastructures, in order to allow autonomy in the future;
117
- 118 10. *Strongly recommends* the collaboration between the private sector, including start-up companies and
119 governments through GWOPA to provide expertise on irrigation projects and on the edification of desalination
120 facilities, as well as technologies that enable urban areas to recycle sewage water by:
121
- 122 a. Promoting the expansion of the partnership between GWOPA, the ICLEI and UN-Habitat;
123
- 124 b. Advancing the cooperation between local authorities and the international community;
125
- 126 11. *Further suggests* the inclusion of the World Bank (WB) and different development banks into the partnership
127 framework within several phases of the financing process such as:
128
- 129 a. The allocation of funds to all Member States financing framework for specific partnerships be
130 considered according to different indexes such as gross domestic product (GDP) and the Gini
131 coefficient which will objectively indicate which countries who will benefit most of financial support;
132
- 133 b. The encouragement and endorsement of volunteer distribution of funds by all Members States in
134 relation to UN-Habitat mandates;
135
- 136 c. The fair and clear defining terms of accountability on how funds will be managed by members of
137 specific partnerships within the aforementioned framework ensuring adequate allocation of financial
138 resources;
139
- 140 12. *Encourages* the continuation of research partnerships between universities, experts and the private sector with
141 the goal of ensuring the sustainability and renewability of urban water supplies as well as the development of
142 innovative systems which will allow the exploitation of water sources, previously unavailable, as safe and clean
143 water;
144
- 145 13. *Also encourages* the creation of a committee of scientific and engineering professionals to develop universal,
146 sustainable water and sanitation technologies for urban health concerning water detection, desalination, water
147 decontamination, recycling of used water, and proper disposal of sewage;
148
- 149 14. *Also supports* actions to make water related technologies and sanitation technologies more affordable for LDCs
150 through innovation and research to help create more affordable technologies, sanitation technologies, and water
151 decontamination technologies;
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- 153 15. *Recommends* the promotion through educative programs about of clean, safe water, and sanitation throughout
154 local populations as well as public and private sectors, in order to facilitate the use of inlaid infrastructures,
155 addressing:
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- 157 a. The transformation of dirty water into clean and safe water;
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- 159 b. The importance of not wasting water;

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- c. The recycling of water for irrigation and agricultural purposes;
 - d. To give the necessary instructions to consumers on the effects that contamination by diverse products have on water quality and sanitation;
16. *Further recommends* implementing training opportunities for the local governments on the subject of clean, safe water and sanitation covering subject such as, but not limited to:
- a. Methods and instruments for monitoring water quality and sanitation;
 - b. Raising awareness among all relevant stakeholders;
17. *Declares* that any disputes arising between members of the contract be addressed according to predetermined arbitration process.