



Documentation of the work of the **Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)** NMUN simulation*



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Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)

Committee Staff

Director	Nada Nassereddin
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Chair	Saki Takeshita

Agenda

1. Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9
2. Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
ECOSOC/1/1	Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9	29-2-4
ECOSOC/1/2	Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9	29-1-5

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9
- II. Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

The session was attended by representatives of 36 Member States;

On Monday, delegates discussed the adoption of the agenda and set it in the order I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9.”

By Tuesday afternoon, the Dais received a total of two proposals covering topics such as covering gaps in infrastructure knowledge, encouraging the use of public-private-partnerships to develop infrastructure, emphasizing aspects of urban development, and enhancing infrastructure within the context of disaster relief and resiliency.

On Wednesday, delegates showed both diplomacy and a strong understanding of the topic’s main discussion topics. Coordination efforts were further detailed for numerous bodies, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and ECOSOC’s regional commissions.

On Thursday, two draft resolutions discussing solutions to build sustainable and resilient infrastructure were approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. Both draft resolutions were voted on through a recorded vote, and both were approved as resolutions.



Code: ECOSOC/1/1

Committee: The Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9

The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), as well a number of other values, such as the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and plurinationality,

Acknowledging previous programs supported by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to improve infrastructure, such as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) resolution 9 on “Sustainable and resilient infrastructure” (2022),

Recalling the 2030 Agenda and highlighting the importance of accelerated action to achieve an effective implementation, more particularly of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (quality education), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities),

Deeply appreciative of past UN work on the issue of building sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including the *Paris Agreement* (2015), the *Monterrey Consensus* (2002), the *Doha Declaration* (2008) and its subsequent *Programme of Action* (2022), the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) (2015), the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (2015), and the *New Urban Agenda* (2020),

Acknowledging with deep gratitude the work of various UN bodies on the development of a multitude of important resolutions that have been created regarding funding for sustainable infrastructure, including General Assembly resolution 71/256 on “Urban infrastructure” (2016), UNEA-5.2 resolution 9 on “Sustainable and resilient infrastructure” (2022), General Assembly resolution 75/290B on “Creation of the high level political forum”, the “Ministerial declaration of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” (2017), the “Report of the Secretary-General on Industry 4.0 for inclusive development” (E/CN.16/2022/2), and General Assembly resolution 72/242 on “Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” (2017), and a multitude of other impactful resolutions,

Recognizing existing UN Economic Commissions such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which have helped in the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure,

Noting with concern that the 2022 global inflation rate of 9.8%, which represents an 8.1% increase from just two years prior, could have negative consequences for ongoing and potential long-term infrastructure projects, research and development (R&D) spending by Member States, innovation, and foreign aid,

Gravely concerned that problems do exist for ongoing infrastructure projects, including a lack of organization, bureaucratic impasses, and other structural difficulties that indirectly cause an increase

in the expense of sustainable projects and regularly leads to hasty decision-making by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private entities, and various Member States, as was exemplified by the recent abandonment of the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation or S3i project in Ghana, as detailed in a report to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS),

Concerned by the decrease in global net foreign direct investment (FDI) to least developed countries (LDCs), which has decreased by 3.5% in real terms between 2019 and 2021 according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), directly impacting the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing Member States who leverage these funds for long-term projects,

Re-emphasizing the promises and agreements reached with developed Member States on their official development assistance (ODA) commitments of 0.7% and 0.15 - 0.2% for LDCs, as reaffirmed by the AAAA and originally agreed to in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002), as these funds from developed Member States are vital to the progress of development projects in LDCs and developing countries,

Acknowledging technology clusters, such as the Tampere Information and Communication Technologies in Finland that have proven to be a strong drive for economic growth and local infrastructure, both financial and material,

Taking note of global best practices of certain Member States such as France's Debt-Reduction Developmental Contract (C2D) program that gives LDC's breathing room in debt servicing Member States of the Club de Paris who are encouraged to enter into C2D agreements with LDCs,

Reminiscent of predatory debt-trap diplomacy tactics, innovative development finance initiatives such as profit-sharing, where a benefactor nation pays for developmental needs upfront and then recoups the costs through future growth and tax revenues from beneficiary Member States,

Underlining the creation of programs such as the Republic of Chile's Green Bond Program, aimed at fostering investments in resilient and sustainable development, thereby enabling the development of climate-resilient infrastructure that is adapted to the local climate and meets the goals of SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and operative paragraph 75 of the AAAA,

Having adopted the AAAA, which provides a global framework for financing infrastructural development and makes clear that there is an investment crisis due partially to the shirking of responsibilities by parties to past agreements on financing for development, and further emphasizes the importance of drawing in global financial arms like sovereign wealth funds and the high priority that the UN places on making infrastructure everywhere resilient, sustainable, environmentally conscious, and safe,

Affirms the need for global infrastructure development plans such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Blue Dot Project, which are million-dollar infrastructural projects aimed to stimulate global infrastructural, economic, and social development, while protecting Arctic ice reserves and reaffirming the need for sustainable and green development and the reversal of the effects of climate change,

Recognizes the use of debt-for-development swaps as a bilateral agreement between creditor and debtor Member States as a means of encouraging infrastructure development, debt reduction, and international cooperation,

Firmly convinced that ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies, like the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and cross collaborative efforts between these specialized agencies and NGOs as well as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), multinational corporations (MNC), and non-profit organizations, are critical to bridge the funding gap for infrastructure development, in particular for least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), and other LDCs,

Recognizing the importance of each Member State in establishing a robust financial structure with clear guidelines for private and public investments to promote long-term and self-sufficient financing plans in infrastructure projects,

Recognizing that the European Investment Fund (EIF) is responsible for providing guidance and cornerstone funding for sustainable and resilient infrastructure to players in the emerging market, and specifically emphasizing its work to expand lower and mid-market operations,

Noting that, according to the World Bank, a lack of resilient infrastructure intended for facing natural disasters leads to 1.3 million deaths annually and costs approximately US \$18 billion a year in low- and middle-income Member States through direct damages on infrastructure,

Acknowledges the SDG Corporate Tracker that exists in the Republic of Colombia, which holds businesses accountable on their contributions towards the SDGs, and having resilient infrastructure in rural communities would allow the expansion of these platforms in pursuit of SDG 9, which would lead to the overall expansion of the SDGs,

Highlighting the disruption caused to traditional infrastructure by recent armed conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, which demonstrates the need for traditional infrastructure to evolve towards digitization and technology, especially in indigenous and rural areas to mitigate the disruption caused by global events,

Reaffirming the Secretary-General's report on "Socially Just Transition Towards Sustainable Development: the Role of Digital Technologies on Social Development and Well-Being of All," (E/CN.5/2021/3), stating that the advances in telecommunication technologies and global interconnectedness have the potential to improve development and progress leaving no one behind and bridging the digital divide,

Acknowledging UN specialized agencies, in particular the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and their constant efforts towards bridging the digital development divide and further connecting the unconnected,

Realizing the lack of adequate and efficient telecommunication lines in today's world as over 13% of the global population continues to rely on 2G networks with 27% having no access to a cellular network, according to the ITU,

Affirming the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (BCSD) and its 2025 Targets to expand broadband connectivity in underserved Member States to provide the structure to develop digital public infrastructure (DPI),

Having studied the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC) 2019 *Age of Digital Interdependence* report, which recommends addressing the divide in adapting DPI between developed countries and LDCs,

Calling attention to the Republic of India's successful efforts to implement DPI that has saved over \$12.6 billion and will boost gross domestic product by over 1.12% in India, providing evidence of the need for DPI in development for LDCs,

Emphasizing the need for digital infrastructure security when sharing potentially sensitive knowledge and research between Member States,

Recognizing how a deficit in digital skills in LDCs impairs efforts to digitize infrastructure,

Affirming that digital infrastructure is essential to achieve digital inclusion which is inherently vital to creating sufficient and effective educational infrastructure,

Acknowledging the Transforming Education Summit (2022), where the subject of digital inclusion through education was discussed,

Viewing with appreciation the work done by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on encouraging inclusive education for all,

Acknowledging the inherent curiosity of the human spirit and the transformative power of education for sustainable development, as well as recognizing the significance of successful international initiatives and cooperation,

Aware that 65% of the global rural population does not live near nor have easy access to all-season roads, according to the progress measured by SDG indicator 9.1.1,

Concerned by the impact natural disasters have on rural and indigenous communities and their infrastructure,

Profoundly concerned that urban infrastructure is not sufficient to cope with the overpopulation as a result of mass climate migrations towards cities, which has led to unsustainable urban areas,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 2000/22 on the "Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues," which established the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as a high-level advisory body to ECOSOC, and *further acknowledging* the importance of the UNPFII work on advocating the need for local infrastructural and Indigenous development,

Appreciating the note by the Secretariat on "Indigenous peoples and climate change" (E/C.19/2021/5), which emphasizes how traditional indigenous knowledge and technologies could be used in the face of climate change and natural hazards, and be applied to the development of infrastructure,

Appreciating further the note by the Secretariat on "The rights of indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the exceptional measures adopted during the pandemic" (E/C.19/2021/9), which highlights how digital inclusion for indigenous and rural communities after the COVID-19 pandemic is needed, specially through the education system,

Recognizing the note by the Secretariat on "Update on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (E/C.19/2022/2), which provides an update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of indigenous peoples,

Confident that recognizing indigenous traditional knowledge and technologies is of great value for the international community, in order to fulfill the 2030 Agenda's motto of "leave no one behind" while being respectful of communities and their heritage,

Noting the recognition given by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to the work of the 15 Minute City Project and its plan to create a more sustainable city framework to encourage urban density in its goal to create a more walkable and greener city,

Acknowledging that, according to UNICEF, 2 billion people do not have access to close clean water infrastructure, that 3.6 billion people do not have the groundwork to access a proper way to dispose of their body fluids, and that 2.3 billion people are not able to access proper hygiene practices,

Recognizing WaterAid's commitment to providing and enhancing access to clean water infrastructure for rural communities in LDCs,

Considering that, according to the 2022 *Revision of World Population Prospects* report by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the UN Secretariat, there will be 9.8 billion people on the Earth by 2050 according to the UN database and 40% of urban growth takes place in squalor,

Noting with approval how inland waterway transports (IWTs) have established themselves as an environmentally friendly method of transportation, proving how effective green infrastructure has the capability to be,

Acknowledging that 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions is a result of hard building infrastructure,

Noting with approval that the alliance of city leaders against climate change known as the GCom (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy) is indispensable for the fight against climate change, providing sustainable energy for the purpose of building more durable and resilient infrastructures,

Considering the potential benefits of carbon offsetting programs, which utilize rooftop gardens and densely packed urban parks to counteract the carbon depletion that stems from urbanization efforts,

Acknowledging that according to the International Energy Agency, as of 2018, 2.8 billion people live in areas without sustainable infrastructure, leading to a lack of electrical access and heavy reliance on solid fuels for cooking and heating, furthering environmental damage,

Further recognizing that because of natural and financial setbacks, many Member States struggle to build strong and resilient infrastructure, and many Member States lack cohesive plans that allow them to foster sustainable infrastructure,

Underlining the creation of the Sustainable Renewable Risk Mitigation Initiative that is a financial and technical support to improve private investment in sustainable and resilient disaster,

Appreciating the work of The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and their beneficiaries which work to prevent future infrastructure damages through multilateral collaboration and innovation,

Having considered UNEP and its attempt to address possible ways to combine the efforts of controlling climate change and what the environment is doing to infrastructure,

1. *Calls for* collaboration between various UN entities to increase research and development efforts of sustainable and resilient infrastructure by:
 - a. Encouraging the unification of already existing frameworks into a singular unified standard for infrastructure development in collaboration with UNIDO;

- b. Encouraging further collaboration with Member State's appropriate regional economic and social commissions to increase investment in future infrastructure projects;
 - c. Recommending the creation and publication of an annual report about the effect of inflation on Research and Development to be compiled by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) with programming to be administered in collaboration with ITU;
- 2. *Suggests* UN entities to prioritize the research and development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure by:
 - a. Recommending the research, facilitation, and encouragement of the usage of Green and Blue Bonds to bolster infrastructure investment by UNIDO;
 - b. Encouraging the creation and investment in global research products, such as economical, societal, and scientific research on the impact of inflation towards R&D funding for the creation of new infrastructure related to scientific research;
 - c. Calling for technical knowledge, expertise, and guidance to stakeholders either actively involved in infrastructure development and research or interested in getting involved in said projects;
- 3. *Encourages* the formation of bilateral and multilateral agreements between Member States in the creation, funding, and monitoring of sustainable in resilient infrastructure through:
 - a. Welcoming cooperation from UNIDO and UNDP to monitor progress on development and infrastructure, encouraging membership and cooperation with developing Member States, while addressing ecological concerns;
 - b. Calling upon WTO and the World Bank to facilitate bilateral debt-for-development swaps between debtor and creditor Member States to promote infrastructure development through debt relief swaps;
 - c. Advising the expansion of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) to create a funding database for sustainable infrastructure projects, the creation of a national action plan (NAP) to determine grant formulas for infrastructure development plans collaborating with Regional Economic Commissions;
 - d. Calling upon all Member States to contribute to various multilateral funds focused on sustainable and resilient infrastructure, in collaboration with the regional economic commissions with programs such as the AAAA, and Economic Commissions;
 - e. Calling upon all Member States to abide by commitments made in past multilateral agreements like the AAAA regarding official development assistance (ODA);
- 4. *Calls for* the implementation of loans and investments from the people-first public private partnership (PPP) and the World Banking Group to assist with the development and creation of sustainable infrastructure programs in developing Member States while:
 - a. Recommending public investments which allow the general public to fund programs without having to use taxpayer's money, alongside the World Banking Group (WBG),

to invest in innovative and sustainable infrastructure projects for developing Member States;

- b. Encouraging the development and investment of larger financial projects, with the increased participation of sovereign wealth funds, to take precedent as they will be more economical in the long run, compared to the funding of smaller scale projects that may become more costly overtime and not help as many communities as initially hoped;
 - c. Seeking the aid of leading banking economies with strong and stable private banking such as China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, to overlook the creation of low interest loans for developing nation's infrastructure projects;
5. *Encourages* other Member States to expand existing platforms to the SDG Corporate Tracker to hold private businesses accountable regarding their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals by:
- a. Promoting Public-Private Green Finance Tables, which are platforms that assemble governments, financial institutions, and key stakeholders to finance sustainable infrastructure projects, that include workshops that improve capacity building for small to medium-sized businesses;
 - b. Encouraging Member States' research to generate data and analysis on the achievements of business leaders to advise key public and private actors on the promotion of sustainable and green infrastructure;
 - c. Suggesting financial guidelines to Member States for investments by the private and public sector in order to promote long-term financing plans, noting that all investments must, either directly or indirectly, promote the creation of infrastructure services, capital markets, and facilities that support equitable growth, poverty reduction, and/or improved living conditions through access to clean and sustainable infrastructure;
6. *Supports* partnership with the ITU to improve access to the mobile broadband for developing Member States, thus ensuring the covering of more space and improving network connection to facilitate universal internet access by:
- a. Inviting further research and investment with the BCSD to ensure all underserved communities have access to broadband internet to provide equitable access to an essential need for sustainable infrastructure;
 - b. Calling for the implementation of satellite networks to further improve the accessibility of communicational means in developing parts of the world;
 - c. Advising Member States to initialize telecommunications infrastructure development projects through partnerships with large telecommunication companies to ensure greater data coverage in LDCs while inviting Member States to create an oversight framework that ensures these projects are run in a way that doesn't derail the integrity of the process;
 - d. Expressing hope that increased access to broadband networks will allow accessible knowledge and communication about the spread and treatment of COVID-19 in LDCs;

7. *Commends* HLPDC's research on digital cooperation and encourages subsidiary bodies and Member States to refer to its research in implementing DPI through:
 - a. Encouraging research collaboration with the UNPFII, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), and Commission on Population and Development (CPD) to ensure that diverse perspectives are taken into account when issuing guidelines for DPI as a tool for development;
 - b. Recommending a conference be convened by the end of the year by HLPDC to discuss results, set global priorities, and recommend next steps to Member States;
8. *Suggests* Member States democratize access to technical training videos and tutorials via a shared database that may accelerate developing countries' efforts to have greater digital skills among their population;
9. *Recommends* further collaboration with the United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN) to further increase responsible sharing of information that promotes innovation regarding technology and infrastructural improvement by:
 - a. Intensifying their efforts in fostering knowledge transfers, technology sharing, and comprehensive education programs, aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of resilient infrastructure that serves the needs of communities worldwide;
 - b. Facilitating the conduction of a voluntary internal reviews and release a public report detailing the way in which the knowledge shared between Member States is being utilized order to maintain appropriate level of transparency and digital security;
10. *Invites* CSTD to:
 - a. Issue a report on accessibility and best practices of implementing clean energy infrastructure in LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and SIDS;
 - b. Address the subject of infrastructure for digital inclusion through science and technological development in remote and rural areas on its agenda, at its twenty-seventh session;
 - c. Provide guidelines for an effective digitalization for rural and remote regions as well as indigenous communities, especially through education systems;
11. *Requests* UNICEF and UNESCO to report on the status of digitalization for education in indigenous and remote rural communities while addressing the disparities between the aforementioned communities in developed Member States and LDCs;
12. *Welcomes* UN funds and programs, including the UNDP, UNEP, United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN), and UNICEF, as well as other multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank Group, the IMF, and other international financial institutions to contribute to the development of safe and environmentally responsible sustainable infrastructure for all, primarily focusing on indigenous and remote rural communities, and to integrate this subject to their programs of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates;
13. *Welcomes* Member States to acknowledge the issues faced by indigenous and rural communities and adopt measures on:

- a. Building safe and environmentally responsible, risk-resilient public infrastructure to reach and aid rural and indigenous communities that are currently hard to access, with a particular focus on the safe, sustainable, and worker-conscious procurement of critical component materials used in large infrastructure projects such as rare earth elements, copper, concrete, clay, rubber, and other minerals;
 - b. Promoting telecommunications infrastructure in order to achieve digital inclusion for indigenous and rural communities primarily through the education system in compliance with SDG 4 by:
 - i. Encouraging and establishing the implementation of internet hotspots in remote rural regions, to further connect the unconnected;
 - ii. Building community learning centers where rural populations can access needed hardware, such as computers and phones, in order to promote digital literacy;
 - iii. Acknowledging a need for an emphasis of infrastructure for digital education on hygiene, and sanitation in schools in order to reduce disease in rural communities in an effort to meet SDG 9 in conjunction with SDG 4;
14. *Requests* UNPFII to address the subject of building resilient and sustainable infrastructure against natural hazards for remote rural and indigenous communities at its twenty-third session, and provide a report on the use of traditional knowledge and technologies for building back better;
15. *Requests* fellow Member States to incorporate sustainable means of plumbing either through public funding or working through NGOs such as Wateraid, and piping to facilitate clean water to all communities as well as eliminating problems like open defecation;
16. *Suggests* the implementation of a long-term evolution of infrastructure plan by the CPD in order to ensure a global evolution allowing the best possible functioning of the infrastructures in coordination to achieve SDG 9;
17. *Encourages* all economic commissions to bolster and create infrastructure in terms of IWTs by:
 - a. Advising IWTs to not be built in drier climates to avoid the 0.4-10% of CO² that is produced by dry inland waterways due to desiccation, instead, IWTs should be built in environmentally and geographically appropriate regions;
 - b. Opting for IWTs in place of road transport in order to spur the building of water-based sustainable infrastructure should be done by appropriate Member States with their corresponding economic commission to ensure their support;
 - c. Funding for IWTs requires a substantial overhaul to be used in its full potential as a water-based sustainable infrastructure tool, that could potentially be helped by the World Bank in conjunction with economic commissions and willing Member States;
18. *Calls upon* the World Bank Group and the IMF to participate in increased investment of R&D of innovative and sustainable and resilient infrastructure technologies, as well as the development of new business models and financing mechanisms that support the scaling up of sustainable infrastructures by:

- a. Promoting cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in the energy sector, including public and private entities, civil society organizations, and academia, to foster innovation and knowledge sharing via the following pathways and principles;
 - b. Fostering the development of decentralized and community-owned energy systems, which can improve energy security, reduce energy poverty, and foster local economic development;
 - c. Initializing programs to subsidize rooftop panels on individual households in urban areas;
 - d. Prioritizing the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in the planning, implementation, and management of sustainable infrastructures, to ensure equitable access to energy and promote gender equality and social inclusion;
 - e. Incorporating multilateral development banks into the process so they may provide grants to growing towns in LDCs to fund the green energy initiatives;
 - f. Creating research centers specialized in resilient infrastructure in the Member States most affected by natural disasters so that they can develop their own scientists and technologies in resilient architecture;
19. *Suggests* that UNEA collaborates with Member States to analyze the effects of infrastructure-based carbon offsetting to explore the goal of achieving carbon neutrality through urban infrastructure efforts such that every tree cut down in order to develop urban hotspots must have an equivalent seedling planted;
20. *Calls upon* CPD to research the 15 Minute City Project and give feedback on best practices to be adopted by cities within willing and able Member States while:
- a. Requesting that all Member States requiring funds work alongside UNFPA to secure all necessary funding;
 - b. Researching urban populations in order to understand the best systems for sustainable urban growth;
21. *Endorses* all Member States to develop sustainable infrastructure to support General Assembly resolution 71/256 on “Urban infrastructure” (2016) and UNEA-5.2 resolution 9 on “Sustainable and resilient infrastructure” (2022) by performing consistent maintenance on their current infrastructures by:
- a. Improving the insulation of the oldest and most energy-intensive buildings;
 - b. Adding sustainable heating and cooling in already existing infrastructure such as facilities, buildings, and houses;
 - c. Requesting that UNESCO help in updating older buildings that are part of heritage or near to world heritage site, in order to maintain heritage and ensuring saving of energy;
22. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement programs that promote the retrofitting of existing buildings and infrastructure to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide technical and financial support for such activities;

23. *Recommends* that Member States prioritize the reformation of existing infrastructures in the provision of basic services, such as healthcare, education, and water supply, and to develop programs that promote the adoption of sustainable energy sources in such infrastructures, especially in developing Member States and underserved communities;
24. *Encourages* Member States to adopt legislation to promote cleaner energy infrastructure that is accessible to low-income households while:
 - a. Realizing that the transition from non-sustainable energy infrastructure to reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure can be a costly switch for low-income households;
 - b. Recommending legislative policy be implemented to aid families in the switch to clean energy infrastructure by means of subsidies and tax breaks to increase affordability;
25. *Draws the attention* of UNIDO to make way for the birth of multilateral efforts to facilitate programs designed to create low-carbon emitting infrastructure, especially in efforts of cleaner transportation as well as:
 - a. Encouraging programs to model existing native programs that have been designed to foster green infrastructure capabilities;
 - b. Advising UNIDO to work with state NGOs, such as the International Association for Public Transport, that are dedicated to creating green infrastructure that reduce the emissions of Member State's respective transportation and logistics sectors;
 - c. Further advising that green multilateral efforts should not be confined to only green transportation, but should rather extend as far as possible for each participating country;
26. *Further encourages* the UN Development Account Project on Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics to explore the expansion of public transportation and businesses in rural areas, slums, and indigenous communities to promote their growth and access to resources, while considering UNECA's produce a study about the effectiveness of the SEED program and of the possibility of implementing such policies in other states;
27. *Strongly advises* a Transition to Sustainability Now campaign by:
 - a. Bringing awareness activities that demonstrate the benefits of sustainable infrastructure;
 - b. Creating plans to assist Member States in their transition toward building sustainable infrastructure;
 - c. Promoting educational programs in the benefits of sustainable and resilient infrastructure;
 - d. Assisting Member States Develop private and public partnerships;
28. *Calls upon* Member States and UNDP to promote and expand university-industry collaboration in the field of sustainable infrastructure, recognizing its potential to drive innovation, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange for sustainable development;

29. *Proposes* Member States to adopt sustainable framework focusing on water harvesting following UNEP's lead, through fog harvesting systems as well as rain catchers to encourage sustainable water treatment systems that are also able to reuse treated sewage water for agriculture;
30. *Invites* Member States to join the new GCom to increase access to clean energy, combat climate change and improve networking to support sustainable urban infrastructures;
31. *Suggests* continued collaboration at the international level to collect and share best practices, tools and experiences for improving the sustainability of infrastructure systems, in continuation of the efforts outlined in the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Programme of Action and the AAAA;
32. *Calls upon* Member States to address and communicate persistent challenges related to disaster relief and infrastructure rebuilding using a multilateral strategy to elaborate a cooperative plan in order to work in solidarity with Member States in vulnerable positions that often experience natural disasters by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to seek existing international funds from NGOs and private industry investors for effective and crucial support to rebuild infrastructure after a natural disaster;
 - b. Promoting the collaboration and support of the established United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in order to assess the effectiveness of the United Nations and National Governmental Organizations responses to natural disasters;
33. *Invites* the creation of an annual forum named Advancing Resilient Infrastructure, that would bring together experts on disaster resilient infrastructure while:
 - a. Creating regionally tailored risk assessments for disaster-prone Member States;
 - b. Providing policy recommendations by building on successful policies and implementing those in Member States in need;
 - c. Sourcing funding by the Moab Foundation;
34. *Invites* all Member States assisted by UNICEF, UNESCO, as well as various NGOs to:
 - a. Set up infrastructures to organize a global education plan on first aid to allow people present at the scene of natural disasters to help those injured and create effective evacuation plans;
 - b. Set up online or on-site infrastructures, such as facilities centers, to train people to react in case of early warning system alarms, thus they can arrange the infrastructures in order for its to resist natural disasters as well as possible, thus reducing the cost of repairs;
 - c. Create research centers specialized in resilient infrastructure in the Member States most affected by natural disasters so that they can develop their own scientists and technologies in resilient architecture;

35. *Encourages* Member States to align with CDRI in order to participate in a global partnership of United Nation agencies and programs, multilateral development banks, private sector, and academic institutions to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks to achieve sustainable development by:
- a. Suggesting Member States to establish comprehensive disaster risk management infrastructure;
 - b. Recognizing the benefits of resilient infrastructure by encouraging Member States and considering:
 - i. Pairing with similar initiatives, UN specialized agencies, NGOs, and subsidiaries of ECOSOC to gain insight on reliable infrastructure and damages;
 - ii. Providing a platform where knowledge can be generated and exchanged on a multinational dimension for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure;
 - iii. Enhancing global, regional, and national codes, standards, specifications and guidelines for the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure systems by researching technological innovations for resilient infrastructure.



Code: ECOSOC/1/2

Committee: The Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9

The Economic and Social Council Plenary,

Recognizing the importance of the *Charter of the United Nations (1945)* as guiding the principles of the United Nations (UN) actions, as well as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)*, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), which focuses on building sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and understanding that infrastructure is defined as basic physical and digital structures and facilities needed for a society to efficiently function,

Further recognizing shortcomings within infrastructure in the world today, such as outdated building codes and inconsistencies with rural and urban digital access, which have left Member States vulnerable to natural disasters, economic downturns, as reflected by the findings of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) (2015)*,

Reaffirming the importance of Member State's sovereignty and cultural preservation, in regards to culturally significant structures, regardless of regional and international recommendations to ensure protection of vulnerable Member States from interference from other Member States,

Desirous to collaborate on creating inclusive goals and effectively track progress in tandem with the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in infrastructure improvement amongst Member States and the international community as a whole, expanding upon the SDG target 9.4 indicators,

Acknowledging the urgent need for international and regional knowledge sharing in regards to infrastructure systems that prioritize natural disaster preparedness and response,

Cognizant of existing UN initiatives regarding natural disasters, including People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) through the Sendai Framework, which help Member States access resources for citizen welfare such as digital infrastructure and health resources in times of crisis,

Recognizing the role that UN agencies, such as the United Nations Capital Investment Fund (UNCIF) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) have in financially supporting the development of technology pertinent to sustainable infrastructure, as well as the expansion of frameworks on commercialization and financing,

Appreciating non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI), that keep a specialized focus on economically and environmentally friendly efforts to develop sustainable infrastructure,

Emphasizing the need for newly built infrastructure, such as those following the European Framework of Sustainable Development and the African Union's *Agenda 2063* goals, to be developed in an environmentally conscious manner and with sustainable energy, as the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) state that 79% of future greenhouse gas emissions are projected to be caused by future infrastructure projects,

Emphasizing the importance of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2021/10 on “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all,” which reiterates that global connectivity and the propagation of digital infrastructure have the potential to significantly advance human growth and narrow the digital gap,

Acknowledging initiatives, such as the World Bank’s Digital Economy for Africa and the Digital Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean, that aim to ensure the expansion of extensive internet access by 2030,

Showing deep concern with the lack of financial support for recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic on building sustainable and resilient infrastructure which, according to the UN *World Economic Situation Prospects 2022* report, caused the global economy to lose an estimated US \$8.5 trillion, wiping out four years of progress and prosperity,

Addressing difficulties in funding, facilitation, and transparency that many Member States face in updating current infrastructure without significant external support, with the knowledge that by 2030, the global infrastructure investment gap is projected to reach US \$16 trillion, according to the Global Infrastructure Hub,

Acknowledging the work that the UN Economic Commission for Europe’s Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships has done in defining positive, high-quality outcomes for sustainable infrastructure using the PPP approach,

Calling attention to the fact that, according to the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), middle income countries may represent up to 70% of infrastructure needs,

Recognizing global efforts such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Blue Dot Program that focus on investment and the development of infrastructure in Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Asserting the importance of transparency and the creation of innovative and robust financial systems designed for LDCs to achieve sustainable infrastructure development without being indebted to investor Member States,

Recognizing the importance of international coordination among UN organizations, governments, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to mobilize resources, share best practices, and promote effective and sustainable financing for resilient infrastructure development worldwide, in line with the needs and priorities of different Member States and regions,

Noting with approval public-private collaboration initiatives between UN entities, developed and developing states, and private companies, including the Malawi Innovation Project and the French Fund For Innovation in Development, to promote innovation and ensure maximum positive impact of infrastructure investment in generating sustainable economic growth, streamlining environmental and social considerations into investments, natural disaster resiliency, and increasing economic efficiency,

Taking into consideration the collaboration achieved in the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) (2015) through its infrastructure financing framework and being committed to bridging the projected infrastructure investment gap,

Expressing appreciation of the commitment and work of the Global Infrastructure Forum (GIF) established by the AAAA, which utilizes multilateral investment banks to collaborate financing and investment support of the SDGs,

Profoundly concerned with the knowledge and capability gaps regarding co-financing as noted by the World Economic Forum, as addressing these gaps could provide valuable resources for Member States seeking to improve or expand infrastructure, as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that the level of expenditures contributed by LDCs would need to increase by 12.3% per year relative to the level observed in 2019 to achieve SDGs targets 1.3, 3.8, 4.1 and 15.1,

1. *Encourages* Member States and international institutions to respect state sovereignty and cultures by, but not limited to:
 - a. Inviting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to continue their work in guaranteeing buildings retain their cultural value and importance while prioritizing sustainable safety codes of these structures;
 - b. Requesting international financial institutions reform financing programs by resisting the implementation of subjective conditions related to freedom and conflict indexes that unnecessarily hinder development and the advancement of economic equality;
2. *Recommends* both annual international and regional conventions arranged through the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to ensure continued collaboration and accountability between Member States as it pertains to achieving SDG 9, and further suggests UNSC to keep up-to-date data on the effectiveness of this body's recommendations by:
 - a. Working in collaboration with established regional commissions such as the Economic Commissions for Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia, the Pacific and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);
 - b. Further expanding the UN Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships' work to explore ways for the Working Party to contribute to more high-quality projects that contribute to the circular economy agenda through its People-first PPP approach for the SDGs, which is helping define outcomes for sustainable infrastructure;
 - c. Ensuring accountability in infrastructure measures by allowing for public access to international and regional conventions via the internet and informing citizens and groups on regional convention recommendations and decisions;
 - d. Including relevant NGOs and seeking their support and expertise in carrying out recommendations;
 - e. Being fully transparent in regard to funding and financial obligations of Member States;
 - f. Requesting Member States report annual findings on the progress towards SDG 9 to UNIDO and UNDP;
3. *Calls upon* the creation of adaptable and flexible international guidelines for infrastructure, such as building codes to increase the probability that buildings survive natural disasters, and disaster response plans that give recommendations to law enforcement, health services, and aid distributors to be utilized by Member States while:

- a. Encouraging Member States to improve access to digital public infrastructure in order to maintain access to essential services such as banking and health services in times of crisis;
 - b. Facilitating the sharing of new technological advancements relating to infrastructure through online databases by UNIDO, while respecting national sovereignty and intellectual property;
 - c. Asking UNIDO and UNDP to foster regional cooperation for the sharing of information and resources related to infrastructure to enhance disaster preparedness;
 - d. Advising Member States to update individual policies based on the results of UN agencies, including UNDRR and UNDAC, by supporting engagement between with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Member States in combating the negative effects of natural disasters and moving towards resilient infrastructure;
4. *Further recommends* the increased facilitation of government partnership with private industries within the scope of PPP-relevant projects to ensure consistent, effective, and efficient implementation of UN guidelines regarding infrastructure in order to maximize cooperation and efficiency between private and public sectors by:
 - a. Encouraging actors in the public and private sectors to invest in sustainable and resilient digital and physical infrastructure that functions best for a respective Member State's needs;
 - b. Suggesting Member States work with private sectors to identify challenges and advocate for equitable solutions to digital infrastructure, according to the World Economic Forum and the United Nations' advice, which calls for removing barriers standing in the way of development;
 - c. Requesting Member States embrace the World Bank's Digital Economy for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean initiatives and seek ways to expand these initiatives to other LDCs via partnership with private industries;
5. *Urges* all Member States to create an enabling environment for investment in resilient infrastructure, including through regulatory frameworks, policy incentives, and risk-sharing mechanisms, to attract private sector investment, foster innovation, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization;
6. *Further suggests* Member States implement co-financing by inviting Member States and multilateral banks to work together at the Global Infrastructure Forum, with the purpose of this collaboration to:
 - a. Provide training to multilateral development banks and Member States on co-financing with the intention of working cohesively;
 - b. Encourage Member States to set goals for infrastructure financing based on recommendations from the GIF that places emphasis on empathy for all;
 - c. Share best practices amongst Member States with the intention of ensuring inclusivity and maximizing ideas and expertise from other Member States;
7. *Implores* Member States to bridge the global infrastructure investment gap as found by the Global Infrastructure Hub and highlighted by UNCTAD through collaboration with multilateral

investment institutions to increase investment spending on infrastructure in LDCs regarding, but not limited to:

- a. Transportation and energy infrastructure and improving and expanding reliability and sustainability;
- b. Disaster-resilient building used to prevent the destruction of rural areas as well as lessen the amount of those displaced in the event of a natural disaster;
- c. Implement digital infrastructure to help individuals maintain access to communication systems and resource access, particularly in the form of early warning systems and emergency plans;
- d. Conduct research and innovation with the intention of furthering advancement to better information and communication technologies infrastructure in disaster prone areas;

8. *Calls upon* UNCIF and UNCDF to assist in:

- a. Creating practical and realistic approaches to developing sustainable energy infrastructure, especially taking into account the full consequences of energy transition;
- b. Adopting sustainable building framework by Member States in order to be conscious in the development of green building and sustainable infrastructure so as to greatly reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses in a similar light to the European Framework of Sustainable Buildings.