

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment
Assembly (UNEA) NMUN Simulation*



**TOGETHER
TOWARDS
TOMORROW**

Conference A

* National Model United Nations (nmun.org) organizes simulations of the UN. The resolutions in this document were the work of dedicated college and university students attending our conference. They are not official UN documents and their contents are not the actual work of the UN entity simulated.

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

Director	Vincent Carrier
Assistant Director	Kenia Shevtsova
Chair	Crege La Ronde

Agenda

- I. Climate Change and Health
- II. Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production
- III. Mitigation of and Adaptation to Desertification and Drought

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEA/1/1	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/2	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/3	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/4	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/5	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/6	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/7	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation
UNEA/1/8	Climate Change and Health	Adopted by acclamation

Summary Report

The United Nations Environment Assembly held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Climate Change and Health
- II. Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production
- III. Mitigation of and Adaptation to Desertification and Drought

The session was attended by representatives of 77 Member States and 0 Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Climate Change and Health." By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of nine proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics such as adopting new practices to improve environmental quality and reduce risks of disease proliferation, in addition to establishing educational programs on links connecting climate change and its impacts on global health. The committee rapidly adopted a collaborative effort to combine innovative solutions in their proposals, working together toward a common direction. Despite barriers that could have represented the virtual format of the conference, delegates used ingenious methods to maintain an efficient and fluid workflow of the committee.

On Wednesday, eight draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, three of which had amendments. The committee adopted eight resolutions following voting procedure, of which all received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented solutions to a wide range of issues, including the improvement of warning systems to prevent the spread of natural vector-borne diseases affected by climate change and initiatives encouraging the education and participation of all citizens toward cleaner water, food, air, and environment. The committee has been very proactive throughout the week and the desire for a healthier world, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, could be felt throughout the committee during the entire week.



Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations (UN) established in 1945 and initially signed by 51 countries, which commits to uphold human rights and freedom for all people without distinction and promote international cooperation in order to solve a wide range of global issues, including environmental,

Deeply appreciating the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was adopted in 1992 at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit to address climate change and seeks to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere and strengthen international collaboration on climate policy,

Recalling the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development” in 2015, resulting in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and 13 (Climate action), which aims to ensure health equality and prosperity for all people and achieve to prevent and reduce climate change and its effects,

Taking into consideration the Paris Agreement (2015), which aims to alter the economic and social system in order to reduce their greenhouse emissions, the goal is achievable through public transport, active travel, organic food, and a cleaner energy system,

Fully aware that air pollution is responsible for the death of up to 7 million people annually according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and can also lead to lung cancer, and respiratory diseases,

Gravely concerned that vector-borne diseases like malaria cause more than 700,000 deaths per year, being 17% of infectious diseases according to the WHO’s 2020 Fact Sheet on Vector-Borne Diseases,

Acknowledging the establishment of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1972 by General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII), with the aim to coordinate environmental policy and protect the environment for the future generations,

*Highlighting UNEP report *Global Trends in Energy Investment 2020* and the International Energy Agency report *Renewables 2020* on the global demands of and the necessity to shift to renewable energy especially at the current recovering time of the COVID-19 pandemic,*

Recalling the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN), a platform for pooling knowledge and best practices from stakeholders and Member States on topics related to renewable energy,

Appreciating the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Lighthouse Initiative by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the IRENA-ADFD Project Facility’s funding on assisting in renewable energy development in SIDS from policy and marketing frameworks, technology options to capacity building, such as through the funding and construction of desalination and hydropower plants, solar photovoltaic parks, and holding webinars on planning, operating, and maintaining them,

Acknowledging the great contribution of the non-governmental media organization TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Conferences and the UNEP Youth and Education Alliance in bringing the knowledge about health-care equality, climate change, and sustainable development to the public all over the world,

Bearing in mind the statement of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) that children and youth should be made the center of climate change strategies and response for every country through the educational system and implementation of subjects related to environment and health,

Noting with concern that with a lack of action, the annual flow of plastic into the ocean will nearly triple by 2040, to 29 million metric tons per year as stated in the report by the Pew Charitable Trusts and Systemic, which will impact human health with ailments including but not limited to cancer(s) and cardiovascular disease,

Alarmed that 23 million people will lose their homes due to natural disasters caused by climate change according to the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction from 2015 to 2030*,

Expressing concern over the 785 million people who do not have access to safe drinking water, which can cause an increase in infectious diseases, a higher risk of malaria and other insect-borne diseases while resulting in a lack of drinking water access,

Noticing with deep concern that air pollution, which is directly influenced by climate change and peoples' activity, is a leading cause of 18% of pulmonary disease (COPD) deaths and affects the quality of life of 334 million people that suffer from asthma, according to the WHO,

Recognizing the work that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has done to combat Climate Change and their Action Plan on Joint Responses to Climate Change in which the ASEAN Member States have been empowered to make meaningful change throughout the region,

Reaffirming the executive summary from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations 2017, which states that water pollution is a global challenge that has increased over the years and that can affect in the future the physical and environmental health of billions of people around the world,

Recognizing that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached record levels in 2020, hitting 417 parts per million in May according to a report from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and thus encouraging both the public and industrial sector to pursue environmentally conscious decisions,

Aware of the role of early warning systems such as the WHO's Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) which was established in 2012, that collects data and provides resources to people experiencing disease outbreaks,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to raise awareness of environmental and health risk and health equality issues on human rights by collaboration with international, regional, national, and local government through education;
2. *Recommends* Member States that are interested, to attend educational conferences such as the Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases international conference by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health), that bring experts and leaders together to discuss vector-borne diseases and methods of controlling the spread of those diseases;
3. *Authorizes* UNEP to implement the educational activities such as courses, additional subjects, and programs for schools and universities, summer masterclasses, thematic camps both online and offline in the Eastern Europe, South Asian Region, Middle Eastern Block, East African Region, South American Region, and Caribbean States with the main focus on climate change and health for children and students by:

- a. Cooperating with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in assessing the current educational needs regarding the environment and health in the mentioned regions;
 - b. Developing in cooperation with the Youth and Education Alliance and experts from the TED Conferences educational action plan “Education for Environment and Health for Future Generation”, which should be presented at the inter-session meeting assisting by the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2022 for the Member States;
 - c. Providing the special assistants for establishing the environmental and health-related educational subjects in schools for the local communities, such as indigenous peoples, to contribute to equal rights and access to knowledge;
4. *Instructs* UNEP to implement bi-annual international Climate Adaptation Readiness Workshops, which educate and prepare Member States and their citizens on health issues related to climate change such as but not limited to:
 - a. Requesting that UNEP partner with NGOs such as Climate Adaptation Mitigation E-Learning (CAMEL), Climate Reality Project Presentations, or other similar organizations to help host these workshops;
 - b. Modeling these workshops after ASEAN’s Action Plan on Joint Responses to Climate Change:
 - i. Meeting once every other year, a Member State who is elected to it can host it;
 - ii. Allowing Member States an opportunity to meet and discuss the solutions that have worked for them individually;
5. *Establishes* a global program planning the increase of renewable energy use by promoting it based on the data pool of the GREIN and the successful projects of the IRENA-ADFD Project Facility in collaboration with the IRENA by:
 - a. Assisting organizations and states by carrying out further assessments on synergies with renewable energy and climate change;
 - b. Advocating for the increase of funding being allocated to renewable energy infrastructure building;
6. *Urges* further collaboration with WHO in expanding their EWARS in susceptible regions of the world in order to effectively control and prevent the emerging vector-borne diseases outbreaks related to climate changes by:
 - a. Assuring that the warning system would be implemented before emergencies, to regions close to vector-borne infected regions, to act as prevention from outbreaks;
 - b. Using the data collected by the surveillance system in the past to better and more quickly predict the rise of vector-borne cases, before it becomes difficult to control;
7. *Encourages* Member States to work in collaboration with the UNEP for implementation of emission suggestions for industry and for public usage regarding clean fuels, green-transport facilities, and other solutions in order to ensure better global health by:

- a. Initiating public and media campaigns and creating public and industrial awareness to ensure proper maintenance of vehicles and mass transport that contribute to the reduction of emissions;
 - b. Developing and providing a quality efficient public transport system within the Member States areas that need it to encourage people to move from a private car use to a public transport system;
 - c. Suggesting the development of quality efficient industrial emissions that include the provision of access to clean household fuels, that control biomass burning and that promote sustainable mass transport and urban infrastructures;
 - d. Suggesting also identifying funding resources to develop environmental transportation technologies regarding all the measures mentioned above, they would be funded by and with the approbation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
8. *Recommends* Member States to develop and implement green infrastructures such as buffer-system park areas that would have a positive impact on air quality, particularly in large and polluted cities with high rates of asthma and pneumonia diseases with further:
- a. Increasing financial assistance of Member States, particularly highly affected by the air pollution, for the development and research, according to the technological and infrastructure peculiar needs through the collaboration with GEF Small Grants Programme;
 - b. Supporting transparent partnerships and assistance between developing and developed Member States in the sharing of technical information related to green infrastructures;
9. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with the Global Fund to establish the Drinking Water Facility branch fund, which will provide financial assistance in the implementation of the specific action plan regarding the effects of unsafe drinking waters on the health and well-being with further:
- a. Building regular media campaigns and seminars to raise awareness about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of water resources and its influence on the spread of infectious diseases;
 - b. Developing environmental policies that provide assistance to the policymakers and economic sector of the Member States;
 - c. Undertaking the data collection to understand the impact of climate change on the water demands in different regions, specifically in the developing countries;
10. *Recommends* Member States collaborate with and expand on programs such as the Associated Programme on Flood Management by the World Meteorological Organization which uses capacity building and advisory material to aid countries in developing risk management plans to combat natural disasters reducing the lives lost from climate change disasters;
11. *Emphasizes* the collaboration between UNEP and FAO to give Member States the tools, resources, and expertise for the construction of buffer strips, which are able to capture carbon surplus, moderate aquatic temperatures in water sources, control the quality of air and water, and increase the amount of drinking water and clean air, for communities near water sources;

12. *Encourages* the recognition of the increasing annual flow of plastic into bodies of water by implementing policy and governance in efforts of addressing such consequences, particularly by:
 - a. Prioritizing a switch from single to multi-use plastics, specifically in developing or low-income countries and communities. In addition to reducing single-use plastics that may harm infrastructures, recycling such multi-use plastics to reduce waste;
 - b. Encouraging states to implement circular economy tactics that seek to reduce or eliminate waste in the discussion of plastic consumption, similar to the efforts of the EU's established CEAP (Circular Economy Action Plan).



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reminding Member States of their duty to commit to their Nationally Determined Contributions in line with the *Paris Agreement* (2015) aimed at mitigating rising global temperatures and the increase of heat waves around the globe,

Noting with concern that since the signing of the *Paris Agreement*, in which 184 climate pledges were signed for 2030, almost 75 percent were insufficient as reported by the Universal Ecological Fund,

Recognizing the effort made by European Union (EU) to enshrine its political commitment to be climate neutral by 2050 in its European Climate Law,

Recognizing the effort made by African Union (AU) tackling the linkage between climate change and health as mentioned in the current *Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030* and its Agenda 2063,

Bearing in mind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are established in General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2015) and especially underlying principles of SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action),

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/283 “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030” adopted in 2015 establishing the *Sendai Framework* emphasizing the need for global resilience to climate-related health risks,

Recognizing that tackling the causes of climate change and anticipating its consequences is instrumental in ensuring the good health and well-being of Member States, and that poor health can lead to a variety of negative effects on society, including poverty, social unrest, and economic stagnation,

Encouraged by programs such as the Pure Water for the World (1994) which is geared towards safe water sanitation practices and the interest expressed by Member States in finding solutions to the need for action on the transmission of vector and waterborne diseases affecting populations by the warming environment,

Recognizing the success of the Global Vector Control (GVCR) program established by WHA resolution 70.16 (2017) which stresses the importance of vector-borne disease surveillance systems to counter the negative impact of climate change on vector-borne diseases,

Acknowledging the need, especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDC), for greater technical, financial, and knowledge capacities to strengthen their national response measures to vector-borne and water-borne disease outbreaks,

Reemphasizing the goal of unifying the policy and operational level stated in the *National Water Resources Strategies (2015-2026)*,

Calling attention to all Member States, especially those of developing nations, of the link between the rise of carbon emissions to the rise of pathogens and diseases,

Recognizing the importance of developed Member States' investments and private-public partnerships that contribute finances and technology to developing Member States, without shifting the burden of responsibility, who should use these resources to take effective climate actions without costing economic and social development,

Acknowledging the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and that Indigenous Peoples protect 80 percent of the planet's biodiversity as recorded by the International Labor Office in Geneva while being disproportionately impacted by climate-related diseases,

Welcoming the use of traditional ecological knowledge of Indigenous Peoples to serve as methods of sustainability in their respective Member States while recognizing their individuality and sovereignty under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People,

Noting that unsustainable agriculture and land use practices contribute to climate change, water pollution, soil degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, all of which adversely affect health and security, and that these externalities in return negatively affect vital agricultural processes and are projected to decrease agricultural yields through climatic instability, changes in precipitation, loss of pollinators, and soil degradation,

Recognizing that the lack of sustainable infrastructure in the development of agriculture impedes the overall health of the population as addressed by the Sustainable Infrastructure Program (SIP) through the UN Environmental Program (UNEP),

Emphasizing that urgent action is needed to ensure the long-term, sustainable use and management of agricultural land, as affirmed in SDG 15 (life on land) in order to be able to grow nutrient-rich foods, especially in rural areas,

Further believing that investing in developmental research and engaging farmers with climate adaptation policies will prevent further losses in agricultural production and quality and in turn, reduce the effect climate change has on human health,

Expressing concern on the lack of hygiene education in local communities when facing the issue of water pollution, and recognizing the importance of private and public partnerships to address it,

Noting that worsening air quality due to particulate matter in the air generated by the combustion of fossil fuels leads to negative effects including diminished lung function, increased hospital admissions and emergency department visits for asthma, and increases in premature deaths, and that the issue of air pollution is directly related to the broader issues of climate change and health,

Acknowledging the financial restraints which prevent LDCs from improving infrastructure and emphasizing the need for an expansion of partnerships with global nonprofit organizations,

Acknowledging the benefits of public transportation in underdeveloped countries in reducing carbon dioxide emissions as well as improving quality-of-life for citizens,

Stressing the importance of raising awareness of and countering worsening air pollution, rising temperatures and extreme weather events caused by climate change and subsequently carbon emissions,

Expressing appreciation for Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) AquaCrop program, generating satisfying yield of herbaceous crops under water-deficit conditions and thus contribution to a resource-efficient and water-minimizing approach in agriculture in maintaining a reliable food source to contribute to human health,

Recognizing the importance of regional partnerships through the FAO Regional Programme in management of shared aquifers in which the replenishment of aquifers through established programs in support of water treatment contributes to the maintenance of human health,

Noting with approval the need to forge ahead with desalination, especially in coastal regions, and that funding for more infrastructure should be a priority in order to mitigate water scarcity and create jobs for more of the population,

Expressing its concern that a decrease in agricultural activity due to water scarcity leads to malnutrition, affecting the most vulnerable populations as mentioned in the UN-Water *Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6, “water and sanitation for all”* published in 2021,

Recognizing the importance of working within pre-established frameworks and mechanisms such as the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund which supports achieving LDN targets through sustainable land management and sustainable land restoration projects,

Stressing the impact of continued financing from private enterprises and investors into Funds that deal with the restoration of degraded land, such as the LDN and GEF funds,

Bearing in mind that developing nations require a greater proportion of LDN and GEF funds in order to continue and expand initiatives aimed at reducing the harmful effects of land degradation on human nutrition caused by climate change,

Recognizing the existence of economic sanctions with the capacity to directly and indirectly impede the ability of some Member States to counter the negative effects of climate change on the environment and health as set forth in the *Paris Agreement (2015)*,

Acknowledging the fair share contributions made by Member States to the United Nations Environment Fund,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to conduct educational programs to bring awareness to the public on different pathogens which can be spread through contaminated water by:
 - a. Establishing programs which are geared toward clean water initiatives;
 - b. Restoring watersheds, resulting in a considerable decrease in financing the purification of water;
2. *Urges* Member States at-risk to strengthen their vector-borne disease surveillance systems by:
 - a. Improving the identification processes of different local vectors in each region or specific area within a region;
 - b. Assessing the competence of different vectors to transmit vector-borne diseases;
 - c. Following a “One Health” approach;
3. *Suggests* the establishment of an international platform to share experiences and expertise from national Global Vector Control (GVC) programs concerning:
 - a. The engagement of rural communities and the urban poor;
 - b. The implementation and successful operation of vector surveillance systems;
 - c. The collaboration of the national and regional governments, the private sector, and local NGOs;

4. *Encourages* the establishment of institutional capacities to act regarding vector-borne diseases by unifying both the policy and operational level by assembling a team of qualified staff member working in independent governmental instances in creating a standardized plan for the management of vector-borne diseases;
5. *Encourages* Member States to implement traditional, ecological knowledge of indigenous people of sustainable farming and agriculture and enhancing relationships with Non-Government Organizations (NGO) associated with Indigenous peoples such as the African Biodiversity Network and Asian Farmers' Association, among others, to promote knowledge and resource sharing that reduce carbon emissions and lower instances of malnutrition through sustainable farming;
6. *Encourages* Member States to consciously shift away from environmentally harmful policies aimed at promoting agricultural production, such as unsustainable agricultural subsidies and ecologically reckless industrialization of food production;
7. *Suggests* a side panel at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 2023 to discuss the extension of the AquaCrop program to additional stress-tolerant plants, while encouraging the FAO to elaborate on the progress made in the expansion of the AquaCrop program in a report, which will be presented at UNEA 2025;
8. *Calls upon* every Member State to educate their inhabitants on sustainable ways of farming and food production to maintain a secure food supply by:
 - a. Integrating knowledge transfer between research, local agriculture, and government;
 - b. Developing an educational program called "WAVE - Water and Value Education", which will be made available online by the Member States' ministries of agriculture and simplifies raising awareness on sustainable and water-saving behaviors of farmers;
9. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate in the improvement of agricultural practices in developing countries by:
 - a. Creating projects of research and development for more sustainable farming techniques, such as urbanized farming, and trying to increase agricultural production with a limited expansion of agricultural land;
 - b. Developing rural areas and subsidizing sustainable agriculture such as crop rotation and crop diversity;
 - c. Agreeing on setting a carbon tax on the levels of emissions generated by agriculture that would serve to finance environmentally friendly agricultural practices;
 - d. Investing in more efficient irrigation systems and the reprocessing of water;
10. *Supports* the local and federal governments and approved NGOs to increase provision and distribution of food and water resources while working in tandem with climate change affected areas, emphasizing the distribution and provision of crops be through, and enacting further land management schemes and tactics for forested areas:
 - a. Through implementation of viable crop varieties in terrestrial subsistence methods to accommodate agricultural stresses in growing patterns and fecundity:

- i. By utilizing crop flora native to the Member State that are better adapted to unexpected climate disruptions and exploring the introduction of genetically modified organisms;
 - ii. With an emphasis on water-saving techniques such rainwater harvesting, sub-surface irrigation, rotational grazing, among others for the purpose of terrestrial subsistence;
 - iii. Along with the generation of income and healthy foods for farmers and their local communities;
 - b. While adapting to changes in water quality and quantity for the purposes of aquatic agriculture, human consumption, and animal consumption with:
 - i. The introduction and utilization of native brackish water species in aquatic farms in waters with high salinity attributed to the encroachment of salt water;
 - ii. The implementation and expansion of aquatic agricultural flora farms such as kelps, algae, and seagrasses to serve as new forms of subsistence in areas that experience prolonged seasonal flooding;
 - iii. Including the generation of income and healthy foods for farmers and their local communities;
 - c. By working on the implementation of solutions to mediate and mitigate terrestrial environmental concerns such as deforestation, soil degradation, and ecological integrity, among others, through using ecologically restorative measures such as crop rotation, crop diversification, reforestation projects, and expansions in irrigation;
11. *Calls upon* fellow Member States and relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) to formulate a program or policy incentive for developed nations to assist in the funding of developing nations in need of healthcare sector reform in light of the risks posed by the increase of carbon emissions:
- a. Collaborate with the World Bank to determine which member nations are fiscally able to provide assistance based on GDP per capita;
 - b. Formulate a specific plan of action based on each country's needs based on their GHG emission inventory;
12. *Calls on* Member States with access to technologies, resources, and information supporting sustainable agricultural production and land use to take leadership in funding the adoption of sustainable production practices in developing states through multilateral partnerships;
13. *Recommends* the creation of awareness campaigns for extreme weather events, such as heat waves, for vulnerable groups and the implementation of the necessary measures to counter subsequent health problems;
14. *Recommends* the implementation of emissions trading schemes to enhance the partnership between governments and the private sector to improve the reduction of emissions and move towards more sustainable production practices;
15. *Encourages* Member States to work in tandem with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA) to help implement sustainable technologies as a substitute for fossil fuels in developing nations, as well as work with groups such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)'s Supporting National Action Planning

Initiative (SNAP) to aid in assessment of prioritized, cost-effective climate mitigation options and address implementation challenges;

16. *Recommends* the implementation of restrictions on the construction and continued functioning of coal firing plants that are within a determined distance from schools, household districts and other zones judged to be containing populations vulnerable to the harmful effects of nitrous oxides, a byproduct of fossil fuel combustion, with the long-term goal of replacing coal firing plants with cleaner energy sources;
17. *Calls upon* Member States to work towards the reduction of air pollution in their urban areas to improve the population's health and as an effort of taking part into the global transition to sustainable energy sources notably by contributing to the development and growth of independent audit systems to oversee power generation, energy consumption, and changes in air quality through existing international organizations like the International Renewable Energy Agency and NGOs such as the World Energy Council and the Global Energy Monitor;
18. *Reaffirms* the need for the expansion of bicycle transportation with towable storage through NGOs such as Bikes Not Bombs and other regionally based bicycle programs:
 - a. For the purposes of personal travel, resource movement, information communication in isolated areas, direct aid to vulnerable populations such as women, children, elderly, among others;
 - b. Funded through local, regional, and federal governments, public-private partnerships, and NGOs;
 - c. Inviting the UN Development Programme to assist in the provisional oversight of bicycles and associated transportation to rural communities with the respective regional NGOs in regard to distribution, maintenance, construction, and all other necessary aspects related;
 - d. Utilizing local resources such as wood and recycled materials among other materials for the construction of the bikes and all associated storage and transportation attachments; such as attachable trailers with water tanks;
19. *Requests* UNEP, and UNU-INWEH leverage ties with existing NGOs to restructure the financial flow of humanitarian aid to favor more stable and long-term solutions by:
 - a. Funding community-based facilities for desalination;
 - b. Requesting public-private partnerships between governments and the private sector to support building desalination facilities;
 - c. Promoting cross border cooperation with other Member States who face similar struggles including water scarcity in order to further bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
20. *Recommends* that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) consider reforms to further expand the use of the LDN Fund by national and local governments by:
 - a. Adding projects that directly address the human health impacts of land degradation to the list of key investment areas of the LDN fund;
 - b. Increasing the targeted capital allocation toward developing countries from 80% to 90%;

- c. Incorporating governmental leaders in decision making regarding where LDN Fund loans are allocated at the sub-national level;
21. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility, created during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, to further expand its funding through UN Environment Fund earmarked funds in order to encourage and help countries achieve the health and environmental standards set by the UN such as the Sustainable Development Goals;
 22. *Further invites* private sector donors to contribute to the LDN Fund and the Global Environment Fund in order to support existing initiatives on a local, regional and national scale;
 23. *Encourages* Member States to prioritize economic multilateral efforts to ease the global transition towards sustainability and combat the consequences of climate change on health.

Annex

1. *Encourages* all Member States to further strengthen their response measures to outbreaks of vector-borne, water-borne, and air-borne diseases by:
 - a. Building the capacity of testing laboratories across all regions within their countries;
 - b. Increasing awareness of the benefits of vaccines especially in rural areas;
 - c. Conducting regional training of local health care workers on vector-borne, water-borne, and air-borne diseases in order to improve the capacity and effectiveness of response teams;
 - d. Ensuring a bottom-up approach including women, children, indigenous people, and other at-risk groups;
 - e. Building and installing infrastructure such as water sanitation plants to help combat the issue of unsanitary water which leads to the transmission of vector and waterborne diseases;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to work towards reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through approaches including:
 - a. Establishing five-year strategic plans on cutting fossil fuels consumption;
 - b. Avoiding future carbon emissions through evaluating the data, designing, and making decisions such as implementation of new policies around net zero carbon emission;
 - c. Shifting to and promoting the use of renewable and clean energy sources such as Hydrogen based fuel, On-shore and off-shore wind farming, and solar energy;
 - d. Establishing a platform for sharing of knowledge and expertise around advanced technology that can lead to reducing carbon footprint;
3. *Recommends* that the UN Environment Fund:
 - a. Expands its existing “Disaster and Conflict” sub-program to include human health as a core element;
 - b. Prioritizes financing environmental projects that will advance or protect human health, with particular emphasis on projects in least developed countries.



Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging that increases in temperatures globally affect Member States and their citizens' health through food and water insecurity, diseases carried by vectors, and sustained heatwaves,

Taking into account that the changing of the climate increases the transmission seasons for vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, Ebola, and SARS, and that under- and malnutrition are one of the greatest contributing factors to non-communicable disease (NCD) transmission,

Highlighting the foundation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which, amongst other things, aims to educate the international community on the effects of climate change,

Noting the lack of scientific cooperation on providing viable information regarding the short- and long-term consequences and health impacts on peoples from high ambient temperature countries,

Observing the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Advisory Opinion OC-23/17 of November 15, 2017. Series A No. 23 regarding The Environment and Human Rights State guarantee and prevention obligations in relation to the environment in the context of the protection and guarantee of the rights to life and personal integrity – interpretation and scope of Articles 4(1) and 5(1) of the *American Convention on Human Rights*,

Noting the global threat posed by climate change, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) along with the disproportionate responsibility upon industrialized Member States,

Acknowledging the impact climate change has on threatening food production and that access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health, as stated by the World Health Organization,

Aware of the dangers posed to human health by environmental degradation and climate change and the necessity to consider climate change in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and wellbeing), and Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* relating to the right to health,

Acknowledging SDG 15 (life on land), which states that terrestrial ecosystems require protection and restoration in order to mitigate adverse outcomes, such as desertification and drought,

Emphasizing that in order to achieve justice and peace for all, as is stated in SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), the international community must address climate change and human health as joint issues,

Recognizing the importance of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 13 (climate action) of the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which aims to strengthen the means of global partnership for sustainable development,

Observing that in order to share the scientific knowledge between the general public and Member States, countries should create initiatives and work in partnership with other UN organizations and NGOs,

Expressing its satisfaction about the milestone achievement of the scientific global cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic in finding not one but multiple vaccines within a year of the global outbreak,

Acknowledging that plants, especially trees, have an improving effect on the air quality by reducing carbon emissions and an improving effect on the quality and stability of the soil, proving landslides and serious flooding, allowing agriculture and safe shelter,

Recognizing the groundbreaking steps taken by regional organizations across the globe in recognizing the connection between climate change and adverse consequences on human health and outlining legislative and research frameworks to mitigate the impact of climate change on human health,

Endorsing the dedication Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM), as their actions support UN goals, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken to integrate scientific approaches in preventive policies that aim to reduce emission rates for the protection of human health,

Alarmed by the current situation of deforestation and underlining the emergency of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation through the REDD+ program,

Aware that El Nino Southern Oscillation is a naturally recurring cycle of altered wind patterns and oceanic upwelling which has regional climatic consequences,

Recognizing that 2.5 billion people lack access to improved water sanitation, leading to serious illnesses according to UN Water,

Building on General Assembly resolution 65/153 "Follow-up to the International Year of Sanitation, 2008" (2011) noting the potential of treated wastewater and appreciating the coordinating work and expertise of UN Water on all UN water and sanitation programs and the impact of these programs on the ground,

1. *Recommends* the creation of the sharing scientific knowledge programs with the general public, Member States, experts and policy makers in accordance with the United Nations Environmental Assembly mandate to disseminate scientific knowledge, by:
 - a. Establishing a communication program and exchange of scientific knowledge regarding climate change and its impact on health called *SHARK* (Sharing Holistic Academic Research and Knowledge) in conjunction with the Department of Global Communications of the United Nations, with the aim of creating succinct information, accessible, and understandable to the general public about the climate change findings documented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by:
 - i. Financing the initiative through the earmarked funds of UNEP for the financial period of 2021;
 - ii. Working alongside with communications department of State Members to make more accessible and understandable the complex scientific terms of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

- iii. Setting alliances between the private media sector, the public media sector and NGOs to preserve the independence of the parties involved with private social media, tv companies, streaming services and other stakeholders;
 - b. Inviting Member States to engage in sharing of effective solutions and responses to climate issues relevant with other Member State in the region through the creation of regional platforms or programs to establish this communication;
 - c. Suggests alliances that preserve the independence of the parties involved with NGOs and UN bodies to conduct research on climate and health issues, and recommend potential solutions to policy makers based on this research, by:
 - i. Collaborating with, but not limited to, the Arab Forum for Environment Development (AFED) and the Prince Albert the Second of Monaco Foundation (PA2F) with the intention to provide more extensive information on topics including impacts of high ambient temperatures and creating climate-based energy programs;
 - ii. Partnering with the World Meteorological Organization, World Health Organization, and UN Environment Programme to build upon the Healthy Environment, Healthy People report by holding an annual meeting and publishing an informational report focused on SDG 6 and 13 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and challenges relating to the environment and health, such as drought resiliency and water conservation, with the intention of providing information to policy makers;
- 2. *Invites* Member States to participate in education programs such as the *One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership* (UN CC:Learn) which is an initiative in which 36 multilateral organizations participate in as they work to build the knowledge and skills needed to take action on climate change and to increase climate literacy;
- 3. *Calls upon* Member States to support technology, innovation, and information sharing to improve the prevention of diseases caused by climate change, especially in regard to vector-borne diseases, such as but not limited to, dengue fever, zika virus, and malaria, with support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and WHO by:
 - a. Fostering open communication and the education on vector-borne diseases, through:
 - i. Recommending that climate change is included as part of health education in school curriculums to support healthy and sustainable living;
 - ii. Supporting the implementation of local and regional organizations in regard to providing environmental educational practices to improve resiliency;
 - b. Developing biomedical research through the following programs:
 - i. Prevention and reduction of vector-borne diseases through the development of bio-innovation use such as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) over chemical use which has significant success in reducing vector-borne diseases;
 - ii. Advancing research into biological technology resources for the treatment and prevention of vector-borne diseases and spreading education on these developments;

- iii. Developing innovative medical technologies and facilitating the transfer of technology among states and intergovernmental organizations for improvements in medical infrastructure in vulnerable countries through methods such as, but not limited to:
 - 1. Promoting public and private partnerships through institutions such as the National Institutes for Health (NIH);
 - 2. Utilizing Foreign Direct Investment in terms of direct training and the promotion of investment flows into developing nations;
 - 3. Promoting international cooperation and alliances;
 - 4. Developing and sharing the research and technology to improve healthcare quality throughout the world for human health and improvement;
 - iv. Spreading global awareness and finding global partners for the education of healthcare and vector-borne diseases;
 - c. Effectively protecting water supplies and limiting the spread of vector-borne diseases through:
 - i. The monitoring of specific populations which are either at risk of contracting or spreading vector-borne diseases, specifically;
 - ii. Providing malaria prophylaxis and health education specifically for rainforest native residents and travelers so everyone can be educated on how to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases, keeping indigenous peoples safe and stopping the spread of diseases in a timely manner;
 - iii. Monitoring the health of indigenous peoples and provide appropriate assistance in areas of mobility to stop the spread of the disease in a timely manner;
- 4. *Decides* to host a conference dedicated to improving Scientific Cooperation on Reducing Consequences from Heat (SCORCH) with, but not limited to, the following operationalization:
 - a. The conference shall be held before the end of 2023 seeing the urgency of the matter;
 - b. The main goal of this conference to be the stimulation of worldwide scientific cooperation on specifically heat-related health issues on both preventing and resolving these;
 - c. Notes the gesture made by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates to take responsibility for hosting the event;
 - d. Request the IPCC for computing the list of invited guest scientists seeing that this is the leading international scientific authority on climate change;
 - e. Open for all Member States of UNEA to participate in *SCORCH* seeing the possible benefits that can be retrieved from stimulating scientific cooperation;
- 5. *Encourages* Member States to work with funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in order to research the effect that climate change has on ENSO, and the

consequences on human health that may arise out of an altered ENSO cycle which include worsened disease outbreaks, famine and malnutrition, and heat-related impacts on health including respiratory problems;

6. *Urges* Member States to engage in regional cooperation and the creation of hubs to foster the emergence of technology champions in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation for health-endangering issues such as heatwaves and droughts by:
 - a. Collecting climate data using thorough methods and focusing efforts on sharing findings in order to facilitate data-based technological innovation;
 - b. Using data platforms to create a global community dedicated to mitigating the damaging and harmful effects that climate change has on the planet and on human health;
7. *Calls upon* those especially industrialized Member States to recognize their disproportionately large contributions to climate change and health issues in developing countries and:
 - a. Take advantage of their larger economies and greater capital to lead the world towards decarbonization;
 - b. Assist Member States with lower technological and economic capacities in decarbonization and health issues;
8. *Recommends* Member States engage with programs focused on water safety and sanitation such as the Delivering Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation in Africa and Asia, which is a program run by the WHO and the main objective of this is to enhance climate-resilient water and safety and sanitation management to effectively respond to climate change impacts, and to develop surveillance for climate-sensitive diseases and early warning systems;
9. *Calls upon* UN-Water to research and write a Wastewater as Treatment for Enabling Re-fertilization (WATER) report, which will explore the feasibility of large scale implementation of using treated wastewater to re-fertilize desertified land, simultaneously minimizing the detrimental health effects on the health of re-fertilized land through forestation, agriculture and biodiversity, the report has the following targets:
 - a. The report is to be written by experts from UN-Water and government officials involved in the existing best practices;
 - b. This report would be finished by the year 2023 in order to do ample research about the long term health impacts of using treated water, especially in regions where using treated water is necessary in times of extreme heat;
10. *Establishes* the new *Program for Long-lasting Action for Nature Today* (PLANT) in collaboration with the United Nations which works to plant trees and special purifying plants that are known for absorbing harmful substances from water, soil, and air, balancing carbon emissions and air pollution, which:
 - a. Will take place in volunteering Member States;
 - b. Aims to plant at least 5 percent of the national areas additionally to consisting green areas, but encourages all Member States to go further;
 - c. Will be evaluated and adjusted to the conditions of climate and soil in every region to ensure effectiveness;

- d. Would be funded through earmarked contributions, conducted with the suggestion that Member States having high carbon emissions contribute a higher share, as this would motivate states to reduce their emissions in the long term;
- e. In addition, urges that Member States cooperate and work to the best of their ability on reforestation efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the REDD+ program, and by implementing the actions brought by the UNEP to prevent deforestation;

11. *Encourages* Member States to increase public health through agricultural practices by:

- a. Developing creative technological and methodological solutions to problems of food security, such as harnessing science with applied research and facilitating development and establishing a multiplying effect of local bodies for dissemination of best practices to lead to the development and economic growth of Member States;
- b. Establishing partnerships with organizations, such as the Center for International Agricultural Development Corporation (CINADCO), to facilitate knowledge transfer regarding sustainable agricultural practices;
- c. Engaging with NGOs similar to the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) which helps to guarantee proper nutrition by working on food fortification, maternal and infant nutrition through nutrition supplements, and developing more nutritious crops on community farms;
- d. Reviewing their own agendas and the agendas of bodies such as the World Food Programme regarding food security and agricultural practices in order to ensure robust and adaptable global food supplies in the face of climate change;

12. *Stresses the importance of* the continual cooperation of Member States within regional frameworks as an effective method of passing cohesive and comprehensive frameworks with the goal of slowing the impact that humans have on global climate change and mitigating the impact that global climate change has on human health.



Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that clean water is essential to the wellbeing of all nations and the life and health of all citizens in the world,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Paris Climate Accord as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015,

Recalling that SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being) each highlight the growing need to address health and sanitation for all within terms addressed by water usage,

Reiterating the importance of long-term initiatives and prioritization of projects to mitigate the effects of climate change and the effects that climate change has on health,

Emphasizing the World Health Organization (WHO) *Guidelines for drinking-water* to ensure a shared understanding of the standards for water and start as a basis in dealing with water contamination,

Reiterating the importance of long-term multilateral initiatives such as the World Water Council and Forum to mitigate the effects of climate change to ensure clean water for all,

Deeply disturbed by the presence of industrial and agricultural waste products within the water supply,

Fully alarmed by the increasing prevalence of microplastics, especially in the water supply,

Praising precedent setting regulation such as the *Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive* as it has proven successful in water regulation standards,

Noting with deep concern the lack of standards for water infrastructure that would ensure water quality,

Acknowledging that reducing excessive use of water in agricultural practices through implementation of water efficient irrigation systems, alternative soil tillage practices, and utilization of less water intensive crops, is important to conservation,

Concerned with threats of destruction and degradation to land resources that incomplete water standards impose,

Deeply aware that the connection between health and climate change is reciprocal and that health-conscious behavior not only promotes individual well-being but also the health of the entire planet,

Keeping in mind the potential environmental damages of a lack of information that many nations and citizens have in regard to climate change and health,

Fully believing the importance of education on the issue of climate change and health, especially for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly,

Acknowledging the effects of acid rain and precipitation on agricultural goods as lack of food supply chain does impacts the health and wellbeing of all Member States as the use of glass greenhouses rather than plastic will increase the yield of agricultural production,

1. *Strongly suggests* Member States incorporate multi-lateral cooperation to address water issues as climate change is placing increasing pressures and concern for water security on water resources globally, recognizing that clean water is essential to the wellbeing and health of all citizens and Members States;
2. *Further recommends* that Member State consider the development of sustainable water management policies that prioritizes sustainable water transfer development in areas impacted by unstable water access through:
 - a. The use of best practices of improving water transportation, storage and access, and:
 - i. The incorporation of the targets set by SDG 6 regarding transportation and storage of potable water and wastewater management, and;
 - ii. Facilitating the development of a framework for multi-lateral linkages between water transfer projects developed by Member States;
 - b. The utilization of multi-lateral technical and data transfer regarding the best practices for implementation of water transfer projects and calls upon states to utilize multilateral initiatives such as the World Water Council;
3. *Suggests* the development of a program through the United Nations Environment Programme utilizing citizen science for:
 - a. Community programs for frequent water data collection recording fluctuations in water levels and quality at the community level;
 - b. Increase data collection capacity of member states to monitor water quality and levels through community level data collection;
 - c. Participation of communities and raising awareness concerning impacts of water quality;
 - d. The Implementation citizen science programs through creating a community grant program which identifies and prioritizes program implementation;
 - e. Programs to educate citizens on the data collection methods, highlighting the correlation between climate change and health and the role community participation in mitigation of negative consequences, and;
 - f. A central database for citizen science data collection so to contribute to the expert monitoring watersheds and water conditions contributing to further research aimed at water level management;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to improve water infrastructure, aiming to upscale physical infrastructure and make policy-based improvements in:
 - a. Existing Water Distribution Systems through conducting exploratory research on established systems to identify needed improvements and producing standardized water distribution targets to ensure rehabilitation is acted upon and ensures equitable quality and access, and;
 - b. The structural regulations related to dams, levees, and freshwater storage sources to improve water quality and reduce contamination risk;

5. *Recommends* Member States to consider the protection, restoration, and monitoring of natural watersheds to ensure continued access to clean water into the future and maintaining future water security:
 - a. For protection and restoration of floodplains and wildlife habitat;
 - b. Preventing the negative effects of waterborne illness by strict preventive regimens, and;
 - c. The prioritization of water security efforts;
6. *Encourages* Member States to reaffirm their commitment towards the mitigation of the impacts of climate change on health especially for LDCs in the upcoming conferences;
7. *Recommends* that Member States work together to implement programs that reduce the production of industrial chemical products that could damage both the water supply as well as agriculture;
8. *Suggests* that Member States implement policies within their borders to discourage overconsumption and misuse of water;
9. *Invites* Member States to consider the implementation of positive reinforcement policies that promote the sustainable and healthy uses of water;
10. *Supports* Member States that use societal reinforcement to encourage the sustainable and healthy use of water;
11. *Further invites* the implementation of safe and environmentally friendly disposal methods of industrial products and plastics to ensure that these substances cannot poison the water supply or soil by:
 - a. Discouraging the use of plastic bags;
 - b. Following the example for the new European Union directive to ban the single-use of plastic as this is a ban on wasteful single-use products, and;
 - c. Implementing policy that will enhance waste-collection initiatives in the efforts of decreasing the rate of plastic waste that statistically ends up in oceans and other bodies of water;
12. *Expresses its hope* that the production and consumption of fossil fuels are seriously curbed as fossil fuels are known to harm both air quality and water safety which directly damages the health of citizens by putting ambient air quality at risk from polluted air;
13. *Calls upon* nations to curb the production of plastics, especially easily breakable plastics as those plastics often end up in the soil and water supply and negatively impact human health;
14. *Suggests* Member States to establish optional yet individualized and sustainable price control in favor of health-promoting behavior, thereby strengthening environmental protection at the same time, by:
 - a. Prioritizing the monetary value of key environmental and health protection resources such as clean air, forests, or waste-free landscapes in order to concretely secure them in the profit-oriented value chain which is neglecting these goods;
 - b. Promoting regional and sustainable nutrition relying on the planetary health diet which is recommended both by medical and environmental experts;

15. *Endorses* international and local public awareness campaigns to teach citizens the effects of climate change on health and the best practices to reduce the effects of climate change on health and:
 - a. The development of national and regional programs such as South Africa's "Centers of Excellence" which train and educate students in environmentally friendly practices and the risk with climate change;
 - b. The creation of public-private partnerships like South Africa's National Eco-label Initiative (NELI) between local governments and local businesses to promote practices that promote climate action and health;
16. *Further invites* the development of education programs in schools that focus on the intersection of climate change and health and emphasize the importance of enacting practices that reduce the effects of climate change on health through:
 - a. Education programs through the United Nations education plan;
 - b. Educating on the risk that microplastics have on human health and how to reduce the risk from microplastics;
 - c. Cooperation with both local and international organizations in order to provide education programs that promote economic development, environmental action, and improve healthcare;
 - d. Participation in education programs which discuss the impact of climate change on agricultural practices as temperature and precipitation have an effect on water supplies;
17. *Recognizes* the use of glass greenhouses will significantly reduce the impacts of acid rain on crops and vegetations as it:
 - a. Recognizes the use of ecofriendly green-houses as a tool to protect crops from whilst ensuring the use of glass based green-house rather than plastic greenhouse;
 - b. Acknowledges the fact that glass Greenhouses are more durable and absorb better sunlight which likely to increase the rate of production of food.



Code: UNEA/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging the importance and success of programs such as United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP), Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health in properly preparing Member States to address the effects of climate change and health, as well as affirming the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR) in regard to their work in providing tools to develop clean water sources for Member States,

Appreciating the success of partnerships, such as in the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, in ensuring each participating Member State has guidance and assistance in completing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (Agenda 2030),

Noting the concerns of water access during the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacts the sanitation and health of the billions of people without water access, increasing vulnerability of migrants, refugees, and people displaced around the world, as well as expanding on guidelines presented in the UN WWDR,

Recognizing the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/14 (2014), and the importance of technology sharing and information sharing to ensure there is equal access to the latest and most successful technology, with extra care for underprivileged regions as addressed in the 2017 *Climate Change and Social Inequality Report*,

Reaffirming the significance of SDG 3, which focuses on the health and well-being of all, especially those affected by climate change,

Considering the lack of available finances for underprivileged regions to fight the climate crises and access clean water and healthcare, as addressed in the 2017 *Climate Change and Social Inequality Report*,

Recognizing that climate change does not only have adverse effects on human health, but also healthcare systems cause damage to the environment inversely through the production of health care products and the disposal of single-use products,

1. *Authorizes* the creation a new forum called Water International Network (WIN), modeling the aforementioned program to achieve the following goals detailed in the rest of the resolution:
 - a. The WIN Forum will be hosted in the years 2022, 2027, and 2032 to allow for a 10-year timeframe to pass, open to all Member States who would like to participate;
 - i. Resulting in a published report to create a unified approach to future pandemics and water issues;
 - ii. Allowing an open dialogue for all joining Member States;
 - b. Along with the goals, topics that would be addressed at the WIN Forum, are listed but not limited to: (improving and innovating ways to test water sources for disease and technology/biotechnology to improve water quality/safety:
 - i. Focusing on water conservation efforts;

- ii. Concentrating on the lack of water and the effects it has on agri-environment;
 - iii. Fostering innovative and sustainable ways to maintain water resources;
 - iv. Discussing migration patterns due to drinking water access;
- 2. *Supports* the facilitation of North-South Partnerships and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with Member States to:
 - a. Aid in rebuilding efforts after flooding to better prepare for the mitigation of drastic effects in the future due to the financially strenuous aftermath of natural disasters and extra burden that is placed on underdeveloped and developing Member States;
 - b. Allow developed Member States to support developing and under-developed Member States to provide guidance and mentorship in implementing actions discussed at the WIN forum:
 - i. Developing mentorship guidelines to ensure the best possible multilateral cooperation (partnership, trust);
 - ii. Aiding in the development of sustainable and nurturing relationship;
 - iii. Creating programs that outline the importance and effects goals of the SDGs have on local communities;
 - c. Enable Member States to engage in technology sharing to ensure they have access to the best equipment to solve and prepare for the climate change and health related issues;
- 3. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with UNEP to promote health systems recovery after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and increase access to safe drinking-water:
 - a. To produce an annual report by Member States in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP to share at the WIN forum which is focused on:
 - i. Basic sanitation levels and accessibility;
 - ii. Trace levels of COVID-19 with other water-borne diseases in waterways and drinking water;
 - b. Sharing the recovery efforts after the pandemic at the WIN forum about the most successful practices and help being prepared with the health systems for future;
- 4. *Calls upon* Member States to establish partnerships to enhance and further support technology, innovation, and information sharing to improve health conditions caused by climate change with support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and WHO by:
 - a. Improving pre-existing initiative such as the Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems (CREWS) and taking the following into consideration:
 - i. Prevention of vector-borne diseases such as Chikungunya, Dengue Fever, Lymphatic Filariasis, Zika, Malaria, and West Nile Fever;
 - ii. Flood prevention through potential solutions such as raised bed gardens, water gates, and water inflated protection;

5. *Encourages* all health care workers, governments, and health institutions as well as the WHO Training course for public health professionals on protecting our health from climate change to take action to reduce waste originating from health care systems, health care products, and their production as far as possible:
 - a. Proactively supporting the SDGs in order to create and develop eco-friendly technologies, such as:
 - i. Waste-management systems; and creating irrigation system;
 - ii. Distribution of soap, personal protective equipment, and sanitizers.



Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the multilateral implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 13 (climate action) within the international framework as well as in national policies and strategies to ensure that all Member States are striving towards sustainability,

Deeply concerned with the rising health crisis due to the increasing negative impacts of climate change, more specifically the health effects of land misuse and poor agriculture practices due to inaccessibility of training and information for farmers,

Highlighting the importance of accountability and transparency as well as the reinforcement of local partnerships to ensure that Member States can self-sustain long-term actions, policies, and goals while addressing issues related to climate change and health,

Recognizing that renewable energy is a necessity in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing air quality degradation, in accordance with agreements and research completed by the international community,

Bearing in mind SDG 7 (clean and affordable energy) and SDG 13 (climate action) by taking urgent action to combat climate change, especially air pollution, by transitioning to renewable, sustainable, and affordable energy practices, such as the implementation of solar generators,

Convinced by recent studies that the transition to solar energy is the most effective and efficient way for the national and individual levels to acquire renewable energy while also creating clean air and reducing water pollution, drastically decreasing health issues including, but not limited to, heat-aggravated illnesses and respiratory illnesses,

1. *Strongly encourages* Member States to recognize and include references to relevant SDGs and targets in national policies, strategies, and plans, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;
2. *Recommends* Member States to implement solar generator technologies in government establishments with the following goals:
 - a. Member States will utilize solar technology throughout a wide range of government buildings and establishments of their choice;
 - b. Once government facilities transition to solar generators, citizens will see the positive effects of going solar;
 - c. Citizens will be able to use the solar generator implementation in government facilities as a guide and start the transition in homes and private businesses;
 - d. Success of the implementation of solar technologies can be met through the expansion of sustainable infrastructure, furthering the goals of SDG 7;
3. *Encourages* Member States to partner with NGOs and organizations at the local level to establish sustainable energy consumption practices to foster long-term commitment and self-reliance at all levels of the international framework;

4. *Calls for* Member States to work together alongside UNDP and the World Bank to provide resources and equipment for local farmers to apply sustainable practices, especially in resource-scarce regions;
5. *Recommends* the promotion of transparency and accountability in Member States regarding their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to achieve SDG 13 through continued annual reports to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1, focusing on:
 - a. Recording levels of GHG emissions annually for each participating Member State;
 - b. Tracking and reporting changes in GHG emission levels across time to analyze the effectiveness of climate actions in each Member State;
 - c. Reporting of new methodologies of GHG absorption so that these advancements can be available to all Member States;
6. *Supports* Member States at the regional and local levels in sharing effective solutions, responses, and education initiatives regarding the established relationship between climate change and health through:
 - a. Publishing annual regional reports on the specific associated risks of climate change on human health as well as achievements in these fields;
 - b. Establishing regional biannual conferences to discuss with regional and local leaders, NGOs, scientists, and officials to discuss the intersectionality of climate change and health to:
 - i. Promote transparency and accountability on these issues;
 - ii. Provide any relevant training that would alleviate the impacts of climate change on health;
 - iii. Share solutions with the neighboring Member States to encourage multilateral cooperation.



Code: UNEA/1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Deeply appreciative of the fundamental documents adopted by the international community that emphasize the interlinkage between climate change and health, such as the *1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2015), and the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on dealing with climate change related issues on an international level,

Acknowledging the increased risk of certain issues as a result of climate change as well as its effect on human health and highlights the strong interlinkages between environment and health, including health inequalities as a result of disease and natural disaster, and the importance of addressing them,

Deeply alarmed about the World Health Organization (WHO)’s COP24 *Special Report on Health and Climate Change of 2018*, stressing that climate change is likely to worsen human health worldwide, by, among others, increasing heat waves, extreme weather events, natural disasters, malnutrition and disease spread,

Keeping in mind that between 1998 and 2017, heat waves caused 166,000 deaths, according to the WHO, and that heat waves pose numerous risks to human health, especially for at risk groups that are more likely to be adversely affected, such as the elderly, children, and those in poverty,

Fully aware about the Human Rights Council (HRC) report 32/23 of 2016 *Analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health* emphasizing that climate change is likely to expand the spread of disease vectors, such as *Aedes aegypti*, which contributes to the spread of diseases such as Malaria, Yellow fever, and Dengue fever,

Deeply concerned that vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases, according to WHO, and that lead to more than 700,000 death annually,

Alarmed that the number of deaths occurring globally as a result of air pollution exceeds seven million annually according to estimates by WHO,

Highlighting the importance of a system of early warning signs as defined by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction as “An integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activities systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events” to effectively address such issues as they arise,

Noting with approval the commitments made by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to support Member States in incorporating multi hazard early warning systems by providing a Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems Checklist as an element of disaster risk reduction to prevent the loss of lives and economic impacts of hazardous events including, but not limited to, natural disasters, extreme weather events and heat waves,

Bearing in mind the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which emphasizes the importance to develop Early Warning Systems (EWS) on international level in order to protect individual health, while easing access to these systems from people by 2030,

Acknowledging further that early warning systems often fail due to lack of legal and institutional arrangements; insufficient human resources and expertise; inadequate technology, infrastructure and forecasting capabilities, and community outreach and awareness,

Keeping in mind the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Climwarn project, which has helped African nations to replace rudimentary meteorological methods with technologically advanced alert systems in rural regions, including through SMS and email,

Highlighting the UNDP's "Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and adaptation to climate change," which integrates risk knowledge, monitoring and predicting, dissemination of information and response to warnings,

Endorsing also the WMO's Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems, which seeks to reduce the disaster mortality rate by 2030 in reference to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,

Highlighting the continued support its funding partners, including the Green Climate Fund, in providing contributions towards several systems set up towards recognizing early warning systems,

Reiterating the agreement in 201 with WHO on their collaboration on environmental health risks, on developing a joint work program, global and regional partnerships, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),

Noting further the commitments made in the BreatheLife campaign to reduce air pollution in cities globally to achieve the WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030 and minimize the health impacts attributed to air pollution, such as, but not limited to, respiratory diseases,

Highlighting also the UN-Habitat's Capacity Building Strategy program, which provides cutting-edge services and knowledge products that effectively strengthens capacities of national and local governments,

Acknowledging also the need for transparency in data sharing as it pertains to disease vectors, temperatures, and other extreme weather events, as well as existing structures that facilitate such data sharing, like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s online portal,

Taking into consideration the existing resources of both developed and developing Member States in implementing and utilizing technological systems in regard to preventing health risks on a global scale,

1. *Recommends* all Member States to engage in partnership with the WMO to establish monitoring and air pollution stations:
 - a. Facilitating effective preparedness and response strategies for weather and climate risks;
 - b. Enabling Member States with the collection of reliable data on adverse weather events and air pollution that allow Member States to conduct effective risk planning to protect their vulnerable population against climate related health issues, including, but not limited to, respiratory diseases and heat related medical conditions;
 - c. Modeling an action plan similar to the BreatheLife campaign with air monitoring stations in urban areas that inform the population in response to air pollution threatening human health;
2. *Encourages* all Member States of the United Nations to collaborate with WHO to strengthen their government's ability to identify vulnerable populations and develop plans to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to heatwaves by investing in health facilities and primary cares and

cooling facilities for schools, homes, and working environments such as, but not limited to, developing proactive development of urban planning and building design which is climate resilient infrastructure which aims to reduce city temperatures and release the trapping of urban heat;

3. *Notes* the implementation of climate change policies and to manage the transmission of vector-borne diseases by establishing an evaluation system in such ways but not limited to:
 - a. Cooperation with the UNDP for the sake of reinforcing the existing early warning system;
 - b. Encouraging the development and creation of voluntary data sharing platforms and technical transfers which increase the evaluatory capacity of member states systems and policies aimed at monitoring and controlling the transmission of vector-borne diseases;
4. *Encourages* deeper partnerships and collaboration between its funding partners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their effort to spread information and educate on disaster preparedness, specifically as it relates to:
 - a. Making towards systems set up towards recognizing early warning systems;
 - b. Providing Reliable, real-time information on climate observation that aims to develop information services and climate science essential for environmental management and disaster risk reduction as well as health services;
5. *Calls for* a High-Level Meeting with WHO to discuss about developing an EWS in order to monitor the spread of the *Aedes aegypti*-mosquito—the main vector of Dengue fever and Yellow fever and contributing to Malaria—which is strongly benefiting from climate change up to no later than 2025, contributing to safeguard human lives in the future, by:
 - a. Assessing risks for vulnerable regions threatened by *Aedes aegypti* depending on parameters monitored by WHO experts on vector-borne diseases;
 - b. Systematically collecting data of Member States grounded on previous evidence-based risk assessment;
 - c. Ensuring online access for all Member States and stakeholders to the data monitored, while encouraging them to carry the information in case of emergency forward to all groups of society;
 - d. Providing Member States affected a timely advantage, enabling them to take on appropriate and pre-prepared strategies to combat the spread of *Aedes aegypti* in consultations with WHO experts;
6. *Encourages* all Member States to form transborder partnerships in order to enhance knowledge exchange, expertise, and experience on the technology, regulation and implementation of EWS to improve the resolution of similar or identical health issues posed by extreme weather events, by:
 - a. Enforcing profound international research on climate change and its impact on specific regions, with special attention to compensation options and coping strategies supported by the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the WMO;

- b. Inviting developed Member States to recognize their responsibility in the development of the current environmental crisis by embracing their prominent role within global knowledge exchange and the establishment of a common knowledge, not only in their region but also in developing countries;
7. *Establishes* a program in partnership with the World Bank, which funds climate-related programs, to aid Member States in addressing the problems that often weaken early warning systems, specifically:
 - a. Providing Member States with resources outlining best practices for legal and institutional arrangements that allow early warning systems to function efficiently and effectively;
 - b. Identifying nonprofits and other organizations that can partner with Member States to provide necessary technology, infrastructure and forecasting capabilities;
 - c. Creating training materials for Member States to use in improving human expertise within their borders as well as general community outreach resources that Member States can adapt to their own early warning systems;
8. *Encourages* developed and developing Member States to engage in partnership with the UN-Habitat's *Capacity Building Strategy* program for capacity building in areas that lack the infrastructure or technical capacity to successfully implement early warning systems;
9. *Calls on* Member States to partner with existing programs—such as Climwarn and the UNDP's Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and adaptation to climate change—relating to early warning systems by:
 - a. Including the concerns and needs of people and communities at risk to offer profound and targeted support concerning climate related health issues;
 - b. Helping developing Member States and rural areas within developed Member States to increase their moderating capabilities and alert systems using modern technology like SMS, email, other digital information sharing systems;
 - c. Emphasizing the need for analog information sharing to reach also rural communities which have no access to digital information sharing by providing local authorities, like religious organizations and farmer associations with informational material, like flyers;
 - d. Integrating the components of risk knowledge, monitoring, and predicting, dissemination of information and response to warnings;
 - e. Ensuring transparency as Member States share data at international, national, and regional levels;
10. *Welcomes* all financial and non-financial assistance, including Multilateral Development Banks or individual developed country parties, for developing countries to encourage further progress in the development of early warning systems, cross-national data exchange and empowerment of digital communication systems to alert the affected people as soon as possible.



Code: UNEA/1/8

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Praising the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for their efforts in combating Climate Change with programs like the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (REDD+) that has proven effective in preserving vulnerable ecosystems,

Underscoring the importance of REDD+ for developing countries as it invests in low-carbon paths towards sustainable development and rewards the reduction of emissions from forested lands through results-based payments,

Paying tribute to the positive results of the REDD+ program in rural areas of numerous Member States across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean,

Affirming the success of the REDD+ countries that have implemented Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) to track the objectives of the program,

Mindful of the complexity of SIS implementation due to the unique requirements for each REDD+ Member States,

Noting the absence of a mechanism incentivizing REDD+ projects in close proximity to cities where increasing urbanization puts forests under particular distress as well as missing the monitoring of health-related factors such as air pollution,

Taking into account that the health and well-being of 60 million indigenous people who live in forest areas are especially dependent on these ecosystems and sustained biodiversity, providing them with such essentials as nutrition and shelter,

Recognizing the efforts made by Member States in the implementation of voluntary contributions to the 2015 *Paris Agreement*, while noting with concern that not all Member States have made their agreed upon contribution to the Green Climate Fund,

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining carbon sinks such as forests and decreasing deforestation on a yearly basis as these measures provide crucial ecosystem benefits such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing biodiversity, and improving air and water quality,

Alarmed that ambient air pollution accounts for 4.2 million deaths per year according to data from the World Health Organization (WHO),

Highlighting the connection between the need for resource conservation and its impacts on the health of both metropolitan and rural populations,

Stressing the impact deforestation has on loss of biodiversity resulting in higher frequency as well as severity of zoonotic diseases,

Expanding on the 2016 UNEA report *Healthy Environment, Healthy People* which illustrates how degradation of the environment compromises access to safe drinking water and overall health,

Further considering the work of GEMS/Water, under the auspices of the UN Environment Program, and which collects data on the water quality of countries around the world in order to improve global access to safe drinking water,

Acknowledging environmental technology like Supertrees and Hydroponic Farming aim to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

Stating the important impact that the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program, established by WHO and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), has on climate related health issues of populations in developing countries occurring from a lack of access to clean water supplies,

1. *Recommends* UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties to create a mechanism called the Climate and Health in Cities (CHIC) mechanism within the REDD+ framework that increases the attractiveness of REDD+ projects within and in close proximity to cities through the use of increased results-based payments, specifically by:
 - a. Supporting Member States in creating a zoning system around cities in which the allocation of results-based payments for REDD+ projects is calculated according to zones, which:
 - i. Are defined according to the definition from the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, and should be defined 10km, 20km, and 50km around cities in which the current results-based payments are increased by 50%, 25%, and 10% in addition to the regular results-based payments, and;
 - ii. Include focus areas whose impact on biodiversity, potential for health benefits for local communities and reduction of environmental pollution are exceptionally promising by additionally increasing payments by 5%;
 - b. And further encompassing efforts to preserve green corridors and forests as cities grow in size, preventing deforestation for the purpose of expanding urban areas;
 - c. By establishing short- and long-term national panels consisting of representatives from all relevant stakeholders such as local authorities, investors, and UNFCCC observers to monitor projects under the REDD+ program, especially the CHIC-mechanism and its impact on health-related outcomes, which includes:
 - i. Monitoring the implementation of zoning systems around cities in connection with REDD+ projects;
 - ii. Collaborating with the WHO to isolate the impact of the projects resulting from the CHIC-mechanism on ambient air pollution-related health outcomes, specifically targeting a reduction in emergency room visits caused by pollution-induced illness, calling for specific goals to be established by the WHO as more preliminary data is gathered on the effects of pollution on these health concerns;
2. *Urges* all Member States to strengthen and expand existing REDD/REDD+ program by:
 - a. Providing respectively agreed upon contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and to increase their financial shares, whenever possible;
 - b. Improving access to the REDD+ programs for all relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples living in forest regions;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to improve their existing national Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) or to implement SIS exchanging experience through international workshops and forums;

3. *Advises* Member States to incorporate the range of initiatives proposed by the 2016 report “Healthy Environment Healthy People” as sound policy ideas for Member States to consider implementing such as:
 - a. Improving domestic conservation efforts of “carbon sink” regions in order to limit the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere which have been shown to decrease overall health;
 - b. Supporting awareness that vector-borne diseases travel faster in degraded areas as the natural environment supports health, and;
 - c. Funding volunteer initiatives that support sustainable production practices which would reduce the environmental impact that the current economy presents;
4. *Urges* Member States to continue working towards the voluntary commitments under the 2015 *Paris Agreement* as it is one of few initiatives with complete UN membership, and thus constitutes important collaboration on the topic of emissions reductions by:
 - a. Re-evaluating existing voluntary targets, giving Member States the ability to analyze progress until now and decide whether their goals are in accordance with the goals of the Paris Agreement;
 - b. Reviewing updated data on emissions targets under the *Agreement*, Member States will have more information to sufficiently collaborate on solutions that would further reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
5. *Further recommends* the implementation of modernizing the agricultural sector in order to increase sustainable infrastructure to support the overall health of the planet and the people by partnering with the International Fund Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the establishment of:
 - a. Supertree projects around the world that provide environmental conservation in the following ways:
 - i. By generating renewable electricity to reduce the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions;
 - ii. Providing green space for animals in efforts to increase conservation of resources;
 - iii. And which act as air filtration by taking in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;
 - b. Hydroponic farming projects for the purpose of:
 - i. Resource and water conservation as well as a reduction of soil borne diseases;
 - ii. Improvement of current agricultural practices;
 - iii. Supporting plant growth and health;
6. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to the data-sharing network under GEMS/Water through UNEA Resolution 1/9 in order to improve the mandate of the program and receive such benefits as continued bilateral cooperation and support of other UN programs;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to commit to the objectives presented by the WASH program to further promote its execution and expansion through:
 - a. Promoting the distribution and financing of innovative and inclusive solutions to climate-change related loss of access to safe drinking water;
 - b. Expanding the program to other Member States facing similar challenges.