

3-7 April 2022

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



Conference A

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United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

Director
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Chair

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Agenda

- I. Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals
- II. Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastic

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
1/1	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	YES: 84 – NO: 13 – ABSTAIN: 22 84 votes in favor, 13 votes against, 22 abstentions
1/2	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	77 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 27 abstentions
1/3	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	64 votes in favor, 25 votes against, 30 abstentions
1/4	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	81 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 26 abstentions
1/5	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	79 votes in favor, 11 votes against, 29 abstentions
1/6	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	78 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 29 abstentions

1/7	Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals	72 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 32 abstentions
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Summary Report

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

- I. Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastic
- II. Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The session was attended by representatives of 106 Member States and 2 Observers;

On Sunday, the delegates adopted the agenda as II, I. The committee began with the topic II titled “Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals”. By Monday, the Dias received 13 proposals covering the following topics: waste management, research to promote clean energy, zero waste systems, indigenous rights, reformation and repurposing of infrastructure, and the creation of global economy conferences. The Member States were committed to building consensus and finding common-ground to address the topic in front of the committee, expressed for instance by combining several proposals.

On Wednesday, all 7 working papers were accepted as draft resolutions. All 7 draft resolutions were adopted via recorded vote and two included friendly amendments. The resolutions represented a range of topics and solutions, including forming knowledge hubs to share best practices and build Member State capacity; addressing supply-chain gaps that lead to further environmental degradation; and frameworks to improve solid, chemical, and electronic waste management.



Code: 1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Affirming the importance of the protection of Member State sovereignty, as established in General Assembly resolution 2131(XX), while working to implement circular economies,

Recalling the efforts and contributions of the 1992 and 1997 Conferences on Environment and Development, which led to the adoption of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (1992), that opened international discourse on sustainable development and led to the creation of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (1993), and the *United Nations Convention to Combat the Desertification in these Countries Experience Drought and Desertification, Particularly in Africa* (1995), important to the implementation of circular economies through the acknowledgement of climate change's effect on habitat and diversity as a consequence of linear economic activities,

Reaffirming the commitment to General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", and the impact of conventions, namely the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* (1989), *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (1998), *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001) and the *Paris Climate Agreement* (2015) and their relevance to the educational and policy forums, all of which state the importance of circularity as a basis for mitigating climate change and provide frameworks of circularity implementation,

Understanding that implementation of a circular economy holds particular promise for achieving multiple SDGs as mentioned in the General Assembly and ECOSOC Joint Meeting on the Circular Economy, including SDGs 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation", SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", SDG 14 "Life Below Water", and SDG 15 "Life on Land", and especially SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" and SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production",

Highlighting the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit, a web-based software tool that aids African Member States to report on their progress of the SDGs through a four-core module template that focuses on monitoring, evaluation, reporting and administration module that allows Member States to configure information to their needs,

Remaining mindful of the variety of challenges in circularizing consumption and production practices that many developing nations face without clear guidance or financial support in overcoming these challenges,

Expecting the international community to take action towards a sustainable resource usage aiming at drastically reducing the amount of new resources entering industry as well as our society and shifting the focus towards reusing instead of extracting material,

Reminding Member States of resolutions UNEP/EA.2/Res.8, UNEP/EA.4/Res.1, UNEP/EA.4/Res.2, and UNEP/EA.4/Res.4, regarding the positive impacts of the implementation of circular economies at a global level,

1. *Recommends* the establishment of the Expert Forum to Develop an Index of Circularity (EFDIC) to establish a tangible measurement known as the Index of Circular Economies (ICE) and Circular Economic Benchmarks (CEB):
 - a. The EFDIC will be implemented under the following guidance:
 - i. EFDIC will be composed of scientists, economists, and other experts representing related areas such as manufacturing sciences, agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, anthropology, development engineering, and developing economics;
 - ii. The Environmental Programme will oversee the establishment of EFDIC and selection of experts and staff members, similar to the initial oversight and establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1988;
 - iii. It will be tasked to develop an index to measure circularity, similar to the Human Development Index (HDI), of a policy or an economy by incorporating a variety of indicators such as energy production, waste disposal methods, and production materials;
 - iv. The research and data collected to develop an index should contribute to the development of CEB in order to provide clear steps in developing circular practices;
 - v. The formation of the ICE should expand on Politico's circular economic indicators in order to represent all Member States and incorporate more types of indicators, similar to the HDI, in order to judge policies and economies of all Member States;
 - vi. The formation of the CEBr should expand on the European Union's, private corporations', and other organizations' circularity benchmarks in order to be applicable to all Member States and incorporate all social, environmental, political, technological, and economic indicators of circularity;
 - vii. The data collected by the EFDIC will be submitted to the Environment Assembly bi-annually as a special report and will be given editorial autonomy;
 - viii. The Environment Programme will oversee the publishing and circulation of these special reports in databases and the submission of the Circulatory Special Reports (CSR) to the Environment Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
 - b. The ICE and CEB developed by EFDIC can be used in the following capacities, by:
 - i. Recommending the ICE and CEB are used as policy indicators to judge the following:
 1. Effectiveness of domestic, regional, and multilateral policies in promoting circular consumption and production;
 2. Criteria needed to receive UN-funding for research and development and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

3. Regional differences in circular practices by way of ranking nations on different measurements of circularity;
 - ii. The implementation of CEB and ICE as an indicator of policy-circularity that can be used to understand potential success of Environment Assembly resolutions and is recommended to be used in domestic policy analyses to fully understand environmental and economic impacts;
 - iii. If an Environment Assembly resolution is determined to have no measurable environmental or economic impact on Member States and/or ecosystems, a circular policy analysis using ICE and CEB is not required;
 - iv. It is recommended CEB will be used to guide Member States, corporations, regional institutions, and other economic and policy institutions in adapting their consumption and production practices from linear to circular;
2. *Encourages* Members States to implement the use of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit in their progress of achieving the SDGs through:
 - a. Training public workers on the four modules of the software tool specifically the admin module which will allow public workers to view the information of their specific nations;
 - b. Collaborating with NGOs and the public sector to review and analyze areas of concerns as demonstrated by the software data to readjust policies to further implementation of the SDG 12;
3. *Advises* the creation of the Committee on the Research of Innovative and Sustainable Plastics (CRISP) which:
 - a. Aims for the incorporation of scientific perspectives in policy initiatives emphasizing the expertise of scientific research and technological advancement by encouraging collaboration among research institutions and universities around the world with experts in the environmental, biological, and chemical fields on topics including:
 - i. Biodegradable materials, especially those that are biodegradable in marine environments;
 - ii. Alternatives to single-use plastics used commonly in industries such as textile, tourism, food and agriculture, and manufacturing;
 - iii. Methods for environmentally sustainable research, especially in the agricultural, biomedical, and manufacturing fields;
 - b. Will be held at least annually, but, at the discretion of the committee, may meet more often;
 - c. Will have its first meeting in Japan, based on the nation's interest in innovation and voluntary contribution as a host nation, and the location of each subsequent meeting will be decided at the end of each session;
 - d. Will be funded by the Environment Fund, at the committee level, and with encouraged collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, to fund regional projects, following inspiration from research;

- e. Will have its work presented as an annual report subject to yearly review by the Environment Assembly;
4. *Suggests* the establishment of a Financial Assistance for Circular Economies Board (FACE-Board) dedicated to oversee the implementation of the Circular Development Fund (CDF):
- a. The Board will be made up of 25 Member States on a rotation;
 - b. The CDF shall be used for giving out Circularity Grants (CGs), in order to finance and support projects supporting the established goals of circular economy;
 - c. Private and public entities from Member States can submit applications for CGs for projects;
 - d. Approval is subject to evaluation of the project by the Board to ensure appropriate allocation of funding, particularly within developing nations;
 - e. Projects are subject to ongoing audits for a period of 5 years after grant approval;
 - f. Encourage the collaboration with the World Bank to fund the CGs;
5. *Invites* the UN-Habitat to collaborate with the Environment Programme to achieve sustainable urbanization in developing countries by:
- a. Encouraging Member States to collaborate with UN-Habitat and Environment Programme (EP);
 - b. Building infrastructure in cities and urban areas dedicated to developing and sustaining a nation's circular economy action plan;
 - c. Expanding on previous UN-Habitat work done with individual countries to implement sustainable infrastructure in cities, especially in the developing nations around the world;
 - d. Working to establish a consistent and self-functioning system that will uphold with time, especially in developing nations;
 - e. Expecting participating Member States to report back bi-annually on infrastructural progress supported by the collaborations for further assessment in future initiatives by the Assembly, which would include:
 - i. An analysis from the EP on the yearly waste production from infrastructural development, including roads, bridges, railways, buildings;
 - ii. An update on the HDI following the collaboration between UN-Habitat, EP, and participating Member States.



Code: 2/1

Committee: United Nation Environment Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Overtly appreciates the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provides a global framework for national, regional, and international efforts towards a better future for all of humanity,

Reaffirming the effectiveness of the United Nations (UN) Global Environmental Data Strategy and the need for more geographically specialized data in developing areas on sustainable circular practices regarding water pollution, air quality, and other wastes,

Deeply alarmed that approximately 40 million tons of e-waste are discarded into landfills, burned, illegally traded, or mishandled rather than going to proper recycling facilities as stated by the UN PACE's report A New Circular Vision for Electronics, Time for a Global Reboot,

Taking into account regional, national and global initiatives promoting sustainability to achieve the goal of a circular economy, including such as the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, SWITCH Africa Green, SwitchMed and SWITCH-Asia programmes which are providing instruments for the private sector for fostering the sharing of knowledge, especially best practice models between Member States and key stakeholders, as well as supporting each Member State in implementing their own Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan as envisioned by the SDG 12,

Fully aware of the inherent unsustainability in mining practices across the world, as the United Nations Environment Programme states that extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food contribute to half of total global greenhouse gas emissions leading to widespread pollution of soil,

Having examined Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention, which requires participating parties to prepare a National Implementation Plan that defines how they are going to regulate the production of persistent organic pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste stockpiles,

Reconfirming the importance of prioritizing circular methods to tackle the disposal of single use plastics, which account for up to 50% of the over 380 million tons of plastic produced every year in Member States worldwide,

Recalling the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants regarding chemical waste elimination and training workers in identification of such hazardous materials,

Recognizing the significance of the 2018 Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy initiated by the World Economic Forum in connecting leaders in global business, government, and society to catalyze the global transition to a circular economy,

Emphasizing the large role industrial practices play in increasing water and air pollution, as they have contributed to about 78% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions increase from 1970 to 2011 according to global emissions data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency,

Drawing attention to the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Institute of Developing Economies, which emphasize research and insight on economic, political, and social issues in developing economies,

Reiterating General Assembly resolution 72/233 (2018) on the “Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty” to reduce poverty and development issues, while recognizing the immense potential of the circular economy,

Mindful towards the lack of the culturally, local, and regionally relevant programs accessible to underserved populations promoting the repurposing, recycling of waste, and sustainable agriculture as such as the NGO Major and the Kemit Ecological program,

Alarmed that according to the 2021 SDGs report the ‘Global Material Footprint,’ which refers to the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands, increased by 70% between 2000 and 2017,

Acknowledging that United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has stated that a circular economy entails markets that give incentives to reusing products, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources,

Guided by the mission of the Agenda 2030 and its seventeen SDGs, particularly SDG 12.1, 12.4, and, specifically, 12.5 which aims to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse,

Gravely concerned that an estimated 5 trillion plastic bags are thrown away each year due to lack of recycling, further contributing to the pollution in the ecosystem as published *The Sustainable Development Report 2021*,

Expressing its appreciation towards Member States for their continuous voluntary funding of the Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Environment Fund,

Acknowledging the Circular Transition Indicators of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, which were developed to help businesses and industries measure their circularity performance,

Deeply conscious that not every Member State has the necessary resources, including financial, technological and material resources, to successfully implement a circular economy in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the excruciating pollution effects a linear economy has on the world, especially the most vulnerable populations along for the improvement of SDG 4 that can better teach the consequences of linear economy,

Alarmed by the lack of international collaboration regarding the promotion of educational materials on establishing a circular economy by creating incentives and programs for recycling plastics; and creating partnerships with the private sector to fund these initiatives,

Noting that the United Nations Industrial Development Nations (UNIDO) estimates that by 2025, around \$1 trillion could be saved in materials under circular business models,

Expressing appreciation for the Act Now Campaign, a mobile app targeted at the consumer level and allows for the tracking of sustainable habits and provides educational tools to encourage action on climate change and sustainable development on an individual level,

Addressing the one fourth of global greenhouse gasses and 78% of ocean eutrophication that are caused by unsustainable methods of large-scale agriculture,

Aware of the usefulness of existing local and culturally knowledgeable environmental NGOs, such as the Green Africa Foundation (GAF), in implementing policies related to the establishment of circular economies in lesser served populations,

Noting that sustainable enterprises are a key element in achieving the SDGs and have the potential to increase productivity and profitability in the long term,

Recognizing that the immense economic and environmental benefits of circular economies,

Concerned with the lack of awareness regarding electronic waste and its ability to be reused in a productive manner,

1. *Asks* Member States to consolidate various ecosystemic and waste-management related data within the *National Implementation Plan* of the Stockholm Convention to create a comprehensive scientific observation database by:
 - a. Establishing the Database for Sustainable Industries (DSI) based on locally collected data across the country: Water Pollution (chemical pollutants), Air Quality, Greenhouse gasses, Mining Data, and Wastes (including solid, industrial, agricultural, and hazardous wastes);
 - b. Conducting data-based analyses using the data procured at the end of each annual data collection period that will be used as a status report;
 - c. Allowing data to be collected by environmental experts of each country, which has been outlined in the UN Experts on Chemicals and Waste Management Databank;
 - d. Incentivizing the private sector and industries to report their ecosystemic pollution and waste production by offering tax incentives and/or subsidies to participating firms;
 - e. Annually updating the DSI database every year for industries and every 2 years for the country by collecting the data by city (regional areas) and this process of data collection will be aided by partnering with UN data;
2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt circular economic initiatives proven to be efficient and successful such as the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment implemented by UNEP by:
 - a. Freely sharing technologies related to the creation of circular economic initiatives such as information on using plastic trash as fuel in factories currently;
 - b. Encouraging cooperation between established state circular economic initiatives and regional environmental efforts;
 - c. Working with UNIDO on creating a circular automotive industry;

3. *Suggests* the establishment of an internationally shared database by the UNEP on previous and ongoing research on Resource waste, Alternatives to harmful pollutants, and the Development of a circular economy (RAD) to close the knowledge gap between developing and developed Member States by:
 - a. Including past working and failing circular economic policies based on geographic and demographic factors in order to facilitate the implementation of RAD policies;
 - b. Introducing better, localized methods of waste management and agriculture to be used in developing nations and rural areas;
 - c. Aiding Member States to lowering their research cost on circular economy by providing a platform that gives them access to potential beneficial policies they can implement utilizing green and blue bonds for funding;
 - d. Sharing and promoting research on natural, environmentally friendly alternatives to prominent pollutants such as bioplastics created by specific bee species and other nature-based sources;
4. *Invites* Member States to create a plan expanding green infrastructure and waste management sector by the promotion of green jobs creating economic and environmental sustainability by:
 - a. Focusing on the environmental sustainability of current consumption and production patterns that lead to unsustainable use of natural resources;
 - b. Recycling plastics for the use in eco-friendly products allows for the creation of green jobs in the private business sector;
 - c. Following a framework similar for public and private businesses that focuses on the reusability of plastic waste into durable pavement tiles, and playgrounds in Sierra Leone allowing for decreased material leakage while creating green jobs in the private business sector;
 - d. Minimizing government investment in respect to the principle of state sovereignty and self-determination in minimizing the leakage of CO₂ waste by the decarbonization of industries and material efficiency creating jobs in the process towards a circular economy;
5. *Welcomes* Member States to incorporate and expand the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership to reform, repurpose, and expand recycling infrastructure so it may be designed, operated, and decommissioned in a manner that ensures financial, social, and environmental stability through:
 - a. Ensuring quality of waste management systems by establishing recycling facilities and expanding the support of existing recycling facilities to grow their operations in vulnerable communities;
 - b. Promoting the reuse of waste via secondary markets, including through the support of initiatives such as the Botswana Integrated Waste Management Policy, in order to implement recycled plastic, glass, cardboard, and steel within new and existing infrastructure projects;
 - c. Confirming that public and private sectors adequately monitor the international regulations in place for waste disposal so that illegal waste trafficking is reduced;
 - d. Implementing capacities that uphold commitments to occupational health, safety, and labor standards as well as standards and capacities for the protection of vulnerable groups regarding waste labeled hazardous;

6. *Suggests* the expansion on existing UN regional cooperation initiatives such as the Economic Cooperation for Circular Economy towards the promotion of circular economies through:
 - a. Integrating existing national environmental initiatives into regional projects between collections of willing states through:
 - i. Encouraging cooperation between said initiatives and UNEP Finance Initiative; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); European Green Deal;
 - ii. The establishment of region-specific development goals on attaining circular economies;
 - b. Expanding, as well as reinforcing existing multilateral environmental programmes such as the SWITCH Africa Green Programme, the SwitchMed Programme and the SWITCH-Asia Programme;
 - c. Establishing massive tree planting regional initiatives, in order to strengthen national economies, reduce the negative effects of climate change, and the promotion of non-gent organizations initiatives such as Team Trees;
7. *Urges* every Member State to implement a Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan regarding sustainable production and consumption templates, which as envisioned by Indicator 1 of SDG 12 by 2025 such as:
 - a. Fostering responsible consumption;
 - b. Promoting independence of environmental degradation from economic growth;
 - c. Establishing a circular management of resources, regarding both production and consumption;
 - d. Supporting developing countries in the process of setting up new green markets;
8. *Endorses* the collaboration with the OECD Inventory of Circular Economy Indicators to:
 - a. Develop or build a national standardized monitoring system—which will measure the economic impact of policy reforms—to enable the establishment of circular economies that reaches the goal to;
 - b. Act as an overseeing committee to ensure efficient monitoring operations;
 - c. In the event that Member States do not partner with OECD, such States are then invited to:
 - i. Engage with circular economy experts;
 - ii. Use data and analysis provided by OECD when determining policy decisions;
 - iii. Set about becoming partners with OECD in order to achieve key SDG 12 goals at a national, regional, and local level;
9. *Invites* Member States to create local and regional programs improve the repurposing and recycling of waste through:
 - a. Working with regionally specific partnerships with non-governmental organizations and environmental groups, such as GAF, to create repurposing mechanisms catered to local and regional needs and concerns;

- b. Creating sustainable methods of agriculture that are applicable on an individual level that will aid in reducing agricultural waste;
 - c. Promoting the public sector to create obtainable policies and creating plans on the implementation process on waste management and recycling that will aid in local economies;
10. *Recommends*, with regards to individual Member States' level of development, the implementation of a 2030 single use plastic reuse or reduction deadline on items such as cotton bud sticks, plastic cutlery, plates, stirrers, and straws with the goal of decreasing resulting waste from unsustainable practices, through:
- a. Targeting single use plastics often overlooked in recycling initiatives, such as:
 - i. Soft plastics, like plastic bags or bubble wrap;
 - ii. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) 1 and 2, like milk jugs;
 - b. Requesting NGOs selected by regional Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) commissions like the *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* to serve as subject matter experts on issues addressing economic and regulatory barriers to implementing circular economic activity, particularly within tackling single use plastic disposal methods, through:
 - i. Accurately reporting to public and private sectors on the types of single use plastics most common in their region, as percentage of single use plastic disposable varies by region;
 - ii. Providing clarity on the types of circular disposal method that will be the most useful in disposing of the region's single use plastic materials;
11. *Strongly suggests* the expansion of programs such as *WasteAid*, which assists communities and policy makers in lower and middle-income countries to implement waste management and recycling programs, and shares locally appropriate, evidence based, and inclusive waste management practices where support is needed most in order to create positive actions to implement the circular economy;
12. *Invites* public and private organizations and industries among Member States to create more specialized tracking guidelines and training programs adapted to be industry-specific:
- a. Creating a waste management system that utilizes waste management models, chemical tracking, and space data to consistently monitor industry output; providing industry workers with training manuals that demonstrate how to use and interpret data from reporting tools so that they may be responsible for the data analysis;
 - b. Following basic guidelines for the specialized tracking and training guidelines that have been provided by the Environmental Assembly;
13. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding workshops for businesses such as the NGO initiative, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, on sustainable development practices by:
- a. Providing a digital platform such as a forum of discussion for businesses to share their successful sustainable efforts and experiences in implementing these efforts allowing for more;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to incentivize companies to join the UN Global Compact, hence promoting a culture of sustainable processes in the private sector;

14. *Encourages* Member States to partner with UNEP to establish performance and advisory management services that would implement multi-sectoral circularity programs and set national standards which would be overseen by the Circular transition Indicators:
 - a. These programs would focus on ensuring sustainable consumption and production practices;
 - b. The Circular Transition Indicators should track how far Member States have been able to implement a circular economic approach;
15. *Recommends* that Member States engage and create programs similar to the E-TADWEER Program, which allows for everyday citizens to recycle personal electronic devices that have been used to the end of their life cycle at local recycling centers, these devices can include laptops, cellphones, cameras and more and provides financial incentive for the turning in of the personal devices, thereby increasing engagement with the circular economy;
16. *Encourages* the implementation of an annual report, written by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which is UN's global development network, that works to connect nations to knowledge and resources, to promote exchange of innovative and sustainable recycling techniques of electronic waste by:
 - a. Overseeing the exchange of knowledge specific to electronic waste from developed nations to developing ones;
 - b. Publicizing the first annual report during UN Environment Assembly 7 to give the UNDP time to collect the best data and techniques and to share it with the Member States;
 - c. Hiring electronic waste experts to facilitate knowledge transfer and best practice models to developing countries to further efforts in educating communities on how to implement a circular economy and sustainable recycling techniques;
17. *Recommends* the participation of Member States to Global Environment Facility (GEF) to which Member State can voluntarily contribute with the purpose of assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to adopting an efficient circular economy as well as supporting innovative projects that are premised on promoting sustainability and circularity through which:
 - a. Least developed countries and developing countries can seek monetary assistance by stipulating their needs to the GEF and presenting their projects such as:
 - i. Implementation of waste management systems;
 - ii. Research and innovations regarding the repurposing of waste;
 - iii. Technological advancement;
 - iv. Educational programs;
 - b. Member States can contribute not only financially, but also technologically and infrastructurally;
18. *Invites* Member States to consider reaching a 2.5% increase on the Indicative Scale of Contributions in the course of the next 5 years, seeing as a 2.5% increase is a realistic goal that can help compensate for the raising inflation;
19. *Encourages* Member States to invest in small businesses dedicated towards circular economic development by:

- a. Funding sustainable methods of production created by small businesses, for the purpose of contributing to the efforts of a circular economy similar to the investments of sustainable projects in the Blue Bonds initiative;
 - b. Giving priority of renewable resources to corporations that are using green methods of operation;
 - c. Inviting regional economic commissions to negotiate financial incentives with the private sector willing to develop transboundary water project;
20. *Emphasizes* the need for public awareness on proper management of waste and circular economy in order to ensure successful waste management systems:
- a. Further invites Member States to engage with and promote the NGOs in their public campaigns for education on waste management systems;
 - b. Recommends Member States to join multinational stakeholder organizations, such as the Global Plastic Action Partnership, to accelerate the response to reducing plastic pollution and waste;
21. *Encourages* all Member States, manufactures and retailers to enhance their collaboration to enable consumers to make informed choices, by providing reliable consumer information regarding the resource's sustainability depending on the materials and their possible recycling;
22. *Emphasizes* the importance of media and technology for education by creating innovative methods for the circular economy in Member States with inadequate resources to:
- a. Raise awareness on the importance of a circular economy amongst the population about the importance of following through with circular economy frameworks in order to effectively initiate the program;
 - b. Utilize public transport adverts, media outlets, and public art installments such as graffiti and high trafficked attractions and online communication sources;
23. *Encourages* the UNEP Circularity Platform to create an educational blueprint that includes formal curriculum, engaging activities, websites, and campaigns that Member States can choose to implement in primary and secondary schools to help teach students what a circular economy is;
24. *Invites* Member States to collaborate with organizations such as the NGO Development Workshop that aims to provide accessible extracurricular programs after school to educate the disadvantage communities about the benefits of a circular economy;
25. *Strongly recommends* Member States implement region specific environmental education in their territory's educational systems by:
- a. Establishing a system in which states lacking circular economies can send representatives to who have effectively established circular economies so that they might establish environmental educational programs upon their return home;
 - b. The representatives will regularly visit establishes circular economies in order to give up to date presentations on environmental research;
 - c. Expanding on work by UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UNEP to provide suggestions and counsel to potential action plans;
 - d. Overseeing the execution of action plans in such a way that will provide an effective transition to begin and later maintain a circular economy.



Code: 1/3

Committee: The United Nations Environmental Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environmental Assembly,

Fully aware of the Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)'s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which addresses the climate crisis and emphasizes planet protection as the foremost way to move towards sustainability, specifically regarding Goal 12, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, and Goal 13, taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

Reconfirming the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal (1989) and its significance for protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous waste,

Recognizing the problem of illicit waste trade, which violates the incentives set in the Basel Convention and threatens the laws, regulations, and safety of importing countries,

Acknowledging with deep gratitude the pioneer work done by Basel Action Network regarding the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking of waste and illegal waste trade,

Underlining the provisions set within the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention), such as ensuring that all waste disposals are conducted in an environmentally sound manner, and the 1995 Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention), by obligating parties to control movement of hazardous wastes, and to define illegal waste trade under the Basel Convention,

Reaffirming the commitments made under the 2030 Addis Ababa Action Agenda and taking into consideration the foundational principles of environmental justice, such as acknowledging the disproportionate impact of climate change and the linear economy has on developing Member States,

Referring to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which provides guidance on the application and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the SDG 12 Hub which reviews and tracks the progress being made to achieve SDG 12,

Convinced of the importance of education as the basis of a circular economy to tackle global challenges such as climate change, water pollution, and environmental degradation,

Acknowledging the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) as a crucial actor in supporting African states in their pursuit of sustainable circular growth and prosperity, along with the ACEAs Five Big Bets for the Circular Economy in Africa of 2021, highlighting the tremendous potential of the agricultural, packaging, built environment, electronics, fashion and textiles sectors toward circular economic approaches,

Recalling the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report, indicating that 118 million more people are facing hunger in 2020 than in 2019, as well as calling attention to Action Against Hunger, which encourages the development of new projects to reduce the risk of malnutrition, altogether emphasizing the need for circular economic systems,

Noting the efforts of SWITCH Africa Green to support the transition of developing African nations to an inclusive green economy through four priority sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, integrated waste management, and tourism,

Recognizing the collaboration and work completed to regard waste as a resource through waste data and monitoring by the Waste Wise Cities (WWC) initiative put forth by UN-Habitat in addressing the global waste management crisis,

Expressing its appreciation to the work done by the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM), an international platform for information sharing concerning waste management,

Viewing with appreciation the efforts of the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) in convening the public and private sectors in order to facilitate their commitments to plastic waste management into concrete action,

Noting that low technical capacity, outdated and inadequate infrastructure for waste management, and a shortage of financing are affecting current waste management system as stated in the 2021 report of the World Bank, *Sustainable Solid Waste Management on Mountain Areas*,

Keeping in mind that the World Bank has identified in its 2018 report, *What a Waste 2.0*, that approximately two billion tons of waste are generated globally per year, and 33% is mismanaged in a way that damages the environment,

Recalling the World Bank Group's *What a Waste 2.0* report of 2018, categorizing 49% of African waste as food waste,

Underlining the importance of FAO's Training Manual for Organic Agriculture of 2015, especially for Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), containing valuable advice on circular agriculture and composting,

Acknowledging that the use of circular approaches and the introduction of by-products and the waste generated throughout marine resource supply chains can help to ensure materials are used more productively and contributes to efforts to achieve sustainable consumption and production within aquaculture farming, as indicated in the FAO's *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report of 2020*,

Recognizing International Labor Organization's report *World Employment Social Outlook of 2018*, and the *Decent Work Agenda*, setting guidelines for rights of workers regarding safety and fair treatment, and advocating for change towards sustainability in global mining practices,

Noting with deep concern the social exclusion as well as disastrous working and living conditions of waste pickers, especially in the Global South, as well as the importance of providing them with an effective healthcare system and safety equipment,

Concerned with the lack of legislation regarding the curtailment or proper disposal of electronic waste,

Expressing its satisfaction of the work completed by the UN Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) initiative by supporting strategic approaches toward sustainability for a circular economy and zero waste emissions,

Keeping in mind the improvements made to waste management may subsequently lead to a reduction in the mismanagement of limited resources and non-renewable resources,

Observing that the implementation of a circular economy must go beyond waste management alone, to contain trade policy, production and consumption policies, and educational programs,

Noting the collective responsibility of individuals, governments, the private sector, and all relevant stakeholders in addressing aforementioned environmental issues,

1. *Encourages* relevant agencies of the United Nations, including but not limited to the Environment Programme (UNEP), the Development Programme, and the United Nations E-Waste Coalition to work collaboratively in the pursuit of a holistic approach to imperative issues including but not limited to waste management, public knowledge of circular economic principles, and advancing sustainable agricultural practices;
2. *Encourages* Member States to implement extensive radio campaigns to increase awareness on sustainable resources and waste management, as radio-based education allows for effective and cost-efficient mass communication, even in remote areas;
3. *Endorses the call* to Member States to create large-scale educational curricula, which include both theoretical learning and practical application of knowledge on circularity and sustainable practices to empower next generations in a spatially inclusive and comprehensive way;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for international cooperation between Member States and businesses to leverage the collaboration of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in joint effort with the Environmental Assembly's One Planet Network under UNEP, which focuses on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production by:
 - a. Inviting international companies in the private sector to commit to goals that accelerate collective action towards the circular economy;
 - b. Hosting a series of major value chain partnership methodologies such as the Value Chain Approach that work with partners along global material value chains to advance science-based circular models specifically tailored to the sector, especially for the plastics, electronics, batteries, cars, and fashion/textiles industries, and are supported by the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee;
 - c. Raising decarbonization objectives for harder-to-abate material industries such as steel, cement, chemicals, and aluminum and support these manufacturing companies in obtaining a 1.5 degree pathway by mobilizing scalable circular economy solutions;
 - d. Emphasizing the importance of One Planet Network PPP projects such as the One Planet Network-Wide Plastics Initiative nationally and regionally that are supported by the Consumer Information Programme;

5. *Suggests* Member States to work on national as well as local plans to improve the working conditions of self-organized waste pickers by:
 - a. Offering privately organized waste pickers opportunities for official integration into the public or private sector, and thus providing them with a stable work environment;
 - b. Reducing stigmatization of the marginalized group of waste pickers by improving education about their indispensable contribution to circularity;
 - c. Providing access to health care, safety equipment, and safety training to ensure their long term health and wellbeing;
6. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to a newly created waste management fund, an expansion of the Environment Fund, within the GPWM platform through voluntary donations for:
 - a. Filling financial gaps, including those regarding the adoption of latest technologies and waste management infrastructure between Member States;
 - b. Ensuring that developing nations can better manage waste and are supported during the transition towards a global circular economy;
7. *Requests* UNEP to set up a LDC-centered and policy-advising best practice-report on financing and implementation of circular economic approaches in the mining industry, which shall be presented during the 6th Environmental Assembly session in 2024;
8. *Recommends* to address the enhancement of sustainability and circularity in resource-extracting industries by placing the topic of “Resource-exploitation and the Sustainable Development Goals: Jobs and Growth towards the Agenda 2030” on the agenda of the 6th Environmental Assembly session in 2024;
9. *Endorses* the UNEP to prepare the implementation of a pilot project entitled “Green Recovery through GROW-LDC, aiming at increased long-term food self-sufficiency in LDCs by:
 - a. Tailoring the pilot project to practically inform farmers and LDC government officials about the benefits of circular, affordable, and organic waste-to-soil-fertilizer made of food waste, while ensuring an enabling political framework to produce and distribute fertilizer;
 - b. Inviting UN agencies - most notably FAO and United Nations Environment Commission for Africa - to contribute their expertise to design and implement of the project, while reaching out to LDC government officials and respective smallholder farmers interested in the project;
 - c. Inviting the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to consider the pilot project;
 - d. Introducing the pilot project, if approved by the ECOSOC, during the 6th UNEA session in 2024;
10. *Invites* Member States to increase national regulatory stewardship authorities within fisheries and aquaculture farming industries to mitigate the potential environmental impacts caused by linear marine resource value chains, through:

- a. Increasing the repurposing of by-products and waste generated throughout marine resource supply chains to utilize the potential of waste streams as inputs within brackish water, fresh water, and salt water;
 - b. Developing national circular aquaculture management plans, including quantifiable circularity indicators such as indicators on the linearity of feed production and indicators on feeding efficiency to track the progress of relevant SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda;
11. *Recommends* to further the investigation and fight of global illicit waste trade through:
- a. Collaborating with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade (TF-CIT) as well as the International Criminal Police Organization to increase the global monitoring capacities within developing Member States;
 - b. Implementing real-time tracking of hazardous and non-hazardous waste through GPS equipment as well as expanding and supporting the work of non-governmental organizations such as the Basel Action Network;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to establish higher penalties for those who violate regulations on waste trade;
 - d. Empowering Member States to increase national data collection and tracing efforts on the international trade of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste within the North-South and South-South waste web;
12. *Encourages* Member States to limit all waste trade by setting systems in place that disincentive the moving of waste across borders, such as:
- a. Ensuring the implementation of the framework set by the Basel Convention as well as regional waste trade bans such as the Bamako Convention;
 - b. Introducing or increasing national taxation on waste trade;
 - c. Limiting the amount of imported waste and implementing fines on companies or states who exceed that specific amount;
13. *Asks* Member States to promote the application of waste disposal education by integrating information hubs into both primary, secondary, and post-secondary educational programs and making them accessible to the nation's whole population by:
- a. Reflecting the work completed by the WWC initiative;
 - b. Remaining as centralized, easily navigable systems providing educational and instructional materials about proper waste management and disposal;
 - c. Becoming introduced into youth education curricula and communities with low rates of technology and education;
14. *Endorses the call* to Member States who enact legislation in accordance with their individual abilities to create and implement organizations to collect and recycle electronic waste, in accordance with StEP, by providing necessary resources for the complete development of such

policies, as well as to collaborate with NGOs in order to educate private, public and community-based organizations;

15. *Invites* the creation of national plastic management programs by national governments in cooperation with the GPAP, focused on the management of plastic production and pollution through four strategic areas encompassing behavioral change, strategic planning and cross-sectoral collaboration, resource mobilization towards the implementation of a circular economy, and good governance;
16. *Encourages* Member States to enhance alignment between trade, finance, and environmental policies within their sustainable production and consumption National Action Plans which will be submitted to the SDG 12 Hub to effectively track the circular progress.



Code: 1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Affirming the definition of circularity as an economic model in which “products and materials are designed in such way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recalling the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production, SDG 14 on Life under Water, and SDG 9 on Industry and Innovation,

Believing in the necessity to educate the private sector across all Member States in order to further the success of the SDGs,

Recognizing the UNEP/EA.4/Res.1 (2019) on “Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production“, which acknowledged for the first time the value that lays in the implementation of circular economic models on the international level,

Viewing with appreciation the efforts and success of the coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean in February 2021 and the Circular Economy Action Plan in order to create the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency,

Emphasizing the importance of implementing circularity in local tourism industries to reduce pollution, in particular with regards to plastic pollution in the tourism industry in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS),

Understanding that the world economy was only 9.1% circular as of 2018, leading to a massive circularity gap,

Recalling UNEP/EA.4/Res.2 (2019), UNEP/EA.4/Res.3 (2019), and UNEP/EA.4/Res.4 (2019): addressing waste management regulatory frameworks, UNEP/EA.4/Res.5 (2019): highlighting “Sustainable Infrastructure“, and UNEP/EA.4/Res.9 (2019): “Addressing Single Use Plastic Products Pollution“,

Acknowledging the lack of shared technologies, data, and information in regards to waste management between Member States,

Highlighting the importance of the reduction of international consumption rates and overall waste and pollution including food, plastics, fast-fashion, and electronics,

Recognizing that developing Member States are often disproportionately affected by inadequate or ineffective waste management and developed Member States,

Stressing the significance of the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* (1989), whose purpose is to prevent an excessive movement of waste across international borders, and the newest amendments BC-14/12 and BC-14/13 (2019), which work to minimize plastic waste generation and the transboundary movement of waste,

Highlighting the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (1998) and the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent*

Organic Pollutants (2001) and their positive influence on international trade concerning waste and materials and regulation on the movement of pesticides and chemicals across borders,

Noting with concern the aggravating issues caused by accumulation of single-use products in the environment, especially the increase in plastic waste in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to great harm to marine animals, air pollution from burning plastic waste, and negative effects on human body by ingesting microplastics,

Fully aware of the environmental and economic impacts of chemical waste, specifically dangerous byproducts of mining of hazardous metals and the subsequent runoff that impacts agriculture and aquaculture,

Alarmed by the 2022 Environment Programme report *Global Waste Management Outlook* that poor waste management leads to a steady increase in carbon dioxide emissions and pollution, which in turn exacerbates climate change,

Concerned with the 200% increase in resource extraction and its detrimental effects on the environment leading to the violation of SDGs 13, “Climate Action”, and 15, “Life on Land”,

Reiterating the suggestions made in UNEP/EA.4/Res.8 “Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste” (2019), which stresses the importance of supporting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in transitioning to a circular economy,

Expressing satisfaction with the 12 key principles of United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme’s (UN-Habitat) waste management strategy – specifically 7: implementing innovative technological alternatives, 9: designing incentives for promoting a circular economy, and 10: encouraging “Rethinking on waste” through public education – in establishing a frame of reference for cities to become “Waste Wise”,

Highlighting the vitality of the tourism industry for the global economy, which accounted for 10.4% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, and as much as 75% of national GDP,

Stressing with concern the need for the tourism industry and all dependent industries to recognize the potential in sustainable tourism growth, as pointed out by the Rethinking Tourism Success for Sustainable Growth report published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, since the industry produces over 4.8 million tonnes of solid waste annually,

Deeply convinced the need for strengthening private sector corporate regulations and monitoring in order to achieve a circular economy with the potential assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO),

Acknowledging the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and Caribbean (2021) in providing LDCs with reliable sustainable statistics and technological information,

Highlighting the exploitative practice of global corporations outsourcing labor to developing nations resulting in resource depletion,

Underlining the importance of communication strategies in closing the educational gap between developed Member States and LDCs concerning the reduction of carbon emissions, society's dependence on fossil fuels, and the costs of producing energy,

Stressing the importance of education programmes such as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) “Back to School Plastics Challenge” (2019) geared towards public schools that encourage refusal of plastics and promote reuse,

Highlighting the work of the Garbage Music program in helping students from vulnerable backgrounds learn about plastic waste and motivates them to increase awareness about the challenges threatening the environment and the impact that has on their lives,

Recognizing the work of the UNEA Stakeholder Forum in educating Member States about relevant environment policy and sustainability statistics,

Acknowledging the important role consumers play in forming a circular economy and how in 2021, 80% of all consumer waste is either burned, placed in landfills, or mishandled,

Appreciating the financial resources for sustainability allocated through the World Bank's Sustainable Development Bonds and the World Bank's Green Bonds in 2020 on the topic of clean sustainable development,

Taking into consideration that the Key Elements of the World Bank Project Cycles is a six-step process in which the World Bank works closely with borrowers in developing countries to assist development projects,

1. *Encourages* Member States to recognize the threat posed by the multitude of ways that waste originates from the tourist industry in environmental discussions, and underscores the vitality of expansion of efficient waste management programs, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Coastal Zone Monitoring programs managing beach profiling, coral reef monitoring, mangrove assessments, water quality, grain size sampling, number of dives per year, and number of cruise ship passenger arrivals;
 - b. Material recycling facilities focusing on the disposal of solid waste;
 - c. Maritime Spatial Plans, which encourage the development of pre-coastal tourist activities;
2. *Strongly encourages* Member States to heavily reduce the amount of exported waste, especially to developing Member States;
3. *Suggests* the creation of the Waste Management And Reduction Program (WARP) under the Science Division of the UNEA, which will:
 - a. Coordinate the formation of collaborations between governmental institutions, universities, research institutes, private sector businesses and NGOs which focus on:
 - i. Waste water management and technologies connected to desalination plants;
 - ii. Small scale water purification technologies, such as wastewater treatment to reduce waste water discharge into drinking water resources;
 - iii. The repurposing, recycling, and substituting of metals;
 - b. Encourage funding by private and public organizations through granting access to connect with other businesses and research institutes via the UNEP Environment and Trade Hub;
 - c. Ensure that the businesses included in WARP work towards the implementation of a circular economy;
 - d. Expand the UNEP Environment and Trade Hub to include the sharing of innovations and research uncovered in the research projects;
 - e. Share, support, and educate upon cutting-edge technology, such as sea-cleaning robots and carbon capture technology;
 - f. Support sustainable practices that encourage the recycling, repurposing, and substitution of environmentally hazardous metals;

4. *Recommends* the expansion of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) to consider broader implementation of waste management that would not only underscore the threat of solid waste in the form of:
 - a. Data management of private pollutants' locations and the forms of waste by the:
 - i. Creation of a system where Member States share samples' collections of the waste from air, land, water, in order to map, analyze and tackle the current waste management systems;
 - ii. ISWA working with other relevant United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations World Tourism organization;
 - b. Cooperation with NGOs and private companies to expand the spectrum of action of the ISWA;
 - c. The Certificate Programme, which awards private operators who make an effort to decrease their waste creation to encourage:
 - i. The ISWA to provide indicators on which the awarding of the certificate will be decided;
 - ii. The ISWA to accompany the indicators with case-specific recommendations;
 - iii. The recommendation of Member States, based on the Certificate Programme, to award, including but not limited to tax cuts, taxes, and subsidies;
5. *Advises* Member States to promote circularity through material recycling in the forms of:
 - a. Recycling single-used materials, such as plastic waste, into building materials for sustainable house developments, fishing nets and ropes, and other useful products as seen from the work of sustainable companies like OTHALO and Nofir;
 - b. The participation and utilization of resources in organizations such as the Global Recycling Foundation;
 - c. Support for sustainable business and organizations with fiscal incentives such as locally administered subsidies;
6. *Encourages* all Member States to further invest in the development of more sustainable waste management, in order to improve air and water quality by:
 - a. Building and improving recycling plants with the aim of making more plastic reusable, so that less single-use plastic ends up in the environment especially in the oceans;
 - b. Establishing national environment and climate funds of different types, such as public and private loans and grants, or encouraging governments to provide tax credits to create recycling plants;
 - c. Developing and strengthening transnational connections between Member States to exchange knowledge and technologies, especially for Member States with the same environmental conditions, such as continental climate with dry and hot summers;
7. *Supports* the development of regenerative production systems in relation to food production and agriculture by:
 - a. Encourages organizations to practice composting through informational campaigns, which will lessen their environmental footprint;

- b. Instituting composting practices and infrastructure within urban and rural communities, which can further clean local ecosystems;
8. *Invites* UNEP and UN-Habitat to look into the creation of a joint program in order to help with waste management in emerging circular economies, through the implementation of innovative market technologies that improve the waste to energy pipeline and public advertising campaigns, in an effort to change attitudes towards waste;
9. *Encourages* Member States to implement private sector corporate regulations that promote circular economic practices through initiatives, including the:
 - a. Recommendation of subsidies for the production of biodegradable products, which take under two years to decompose, in collaboration with NGOs such as Earthjustice, which provides legal assistance in the development and strengthening of laws to enforce the protection of the planet;
 - b. Suggested labeling practice, regarding the recyclable status of the material, which would extend to products that are not recyclable, in collaboration with NGOs such as the Ellen Macarthur Foundation which works to minimize and regulate plastic products;
 - c. Advocacy of a ban on greenwashing campaigns or fines for corporations accused of promoting greenwashing misinformation, in collaboration with NGOs such as Earth Island Institute which provides support for initiatives and legal assistance to stop Greenwashing campaigns;
 - d. Creation of awareness by educating businesses that their foundation should not only be financial, but environmental and social, in collaboration with NGOs such as CERES to advance companies and capital market influencers to drive green solutions and practices;
10. *Strongly suggests* the implementation of a circular economy focusing on holding businesses accountable by requesting Member States to add a price on the amount of single-use raw material they produce, for the responsibility should be from the seller and not only the buyer;
11. *Encourages* Member States to establish transparent, mutually-beneficial partnerships with corporations focused on resource restoration, in order to:
 - a. Incentivize sustainable means of production and labor;
 - b. Regulate the growth of exploitive production practices based in developing nations;
 - c. Optimize public trust in governments and private businesses;
12. *Urges* the expansion of existing regional UNEA Circular Economy Coalitions, such as the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean, so they may include additional LDCs in order for them to better implement circular economic practices into their respective industries by:
 - a. Allowing LDCs to have access to UNEA databases on sustainability statistics and initiatives;
 - b. Seeking financial assistance for expansion purposes from outside resources, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as voluntary donations from willing Member States and the private sector;
 - c. Requesting collected data from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, willing Member States, and the private sector sustainability practices;

13. *Emphasizes* the stark contrast in amounts of waste creation between various Member States, and hence suggests taking into account this inequality in the creation of future measures and recommendations;
14. *Empowers* developing Member States to move forward in circularity through collaboration with more advanced Member States with regards to the circular economy, in particular to tackle the issue of transboundary movement of waste out of developed Member States into exploited Member States;
15. *Encourages* the UNEP Circularity Platform to create an educational blueprint that includes formal curriculum, engaging activities, websites, and campaigns that Member States can choose to implement in primary and secondary schools to help teach students about a circular economy by:
 - a. Making the UNEP “Back to School Plastics Challenge” an annual educational initiative that can expand over time to include solid waste in order for students to stay informed on the global waste management crisis;
 - b. Promoting the 5Rs of Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, in order for students to be more inclined to become waste activists and foster community clean-up activities outside of school in collaboration with NGOs and other organizations;
 - c. Building off of former programs that have been implemented and proved successful across Member States, such as the Garbage Music program which works with children from vulnerable backgrounds to create musical instruments from plastic waste;
16. *Calls for* the creation of an expert group forum based on the UNEP Circularity Program that will consist of relevant stakeholders to:
 - a. Create informational campaigns to help educate and motivate consumers that businesses, organizations, and Member States can implement to increase consumer’s desire to participate in sustainable practices;
 - b. Draft a blueprint for how consumers can establish and utilize circular practices within their dwellings and surroundings;
 - c. Establish a new UNEA Forum within the “UNEA Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future” with the purpose of private sector industries discussing specific sustainability guidelines within their industries, allowing observing stakeholders to implement discussed practices into their production-making;
 - d. Implement a circular review program that analyzes current sustainability actions of Member States to provide recommendations towards environmentally-conscious economies;
17. *Invites* Member States to continue the use of the SDG 12 Hub to track sustainable consumption and production progress within Members States to further promote regional and international cooperation;
18. *Encourages* Member States to provide technical assistance on circular projects initiated by LDCs, which would be based on the upcoming circular reports of the International Research Panel by:
 - a. Recommending Member States set up minimum funding quotas that serve as a basis to fund projects for implementing a circular economy;
 - b. Requiring project cycles to mirror the “Key Elements of the World Bank Project Cycles”, with the exception that all parts be operated by each respective region in order to ensure no cultural appropriation;

- c. Suggesting all Member States submit triennial reports to UNEP on all projects using Green Technology, which will be reviewed by the Greenpeace, in order to see the efficiency of green technology implementations, economic results of the technology, social effects of the projects, and areas needing further funds and research;
- 19. *Recommends* the Environment Fund to establish a thematic sub-programme dedicated to research and development on circularity which will:
 - a. Assist Member States' transitions to a circular economy and support them with targeted insight on how to implement more sustainable resource management practices;
 - b. Share the results of the research with all Member States, specifically with those that have developing economies;
 - c. Be supported by the United Nations Statistical Division and other existing databases operating on the national or regional level;
- 20. *Invites* Member States to become involved in a relationship of triangular cooperation, which could involve NGOs or companies, in order to provide LDCs with the monetary resources that they lack;
- 21. *Further recommends* the initiation of the Annual Circular Economy Research Summit (ACERS) for SIDS for experts and policymakers to:
 - a. Discuss and mainstream the link between circular economies and waste management, trade policies, and sustainability;
 - b. Promote international and regional cooperation, along with the sharing of best practices;
 - c. Encourage best practices in the tourism sector, specifically in SIDS, to progress towards circular economies;
- 22. *Encourages* the creation of an international handbook of best practices for multi-stakeholders including Member States, encompassing the various aspects of transitioning towards circular economic models due to the lack of an existing framework.



Code: 1/5

Committee: United Nations Environmental Assembly

Topic: Implementing A Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environmental Assembly,

Keeping in mind the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal (1992), which created a legally binding international standard on waste management, expanded by the following Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2004),

Reaffirming the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement (2015), which created universal agreement on lowering greenhouse gas emissions amongst all participating Member States,

Acknowledging the unique challenges that specific regions around the world face in the aim of effectively implementing elements of circularity,

Understanding the United Nations (UN)' "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Resolution" 73/284 (2021–2030), adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 1 March 2019,

Seeking to work alongside the Paris Agreement to implement actions and laws to promote the use of green, reusable, and renewable products and energy to combat global warming and climate change,

Taking into consideration Ministerial Declaration of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its fourth session Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019 on Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production,

Understanding that a "circular economy" is a model to use in the dynamic between people, trades and resources, and that the current use of production and consumption are unsustainable,

Bearing in mind the role of sustainability in waste management and reduction in circularity,

Expressing its appreciation of UNGA resolution 70/1: "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2030 Agenda) which laid out guiding principles for a transition to circular economy,

Affirming the importance of fulfilling the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda in order to encourage Member States to implement the changes needed to invest in the circular economy, highlighting SDG 8 about economic growth from a linear to circular economy, SDG 9 supporting industry innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 17 which calls for partnership for the goals,

Urging all Member States to preserve and seek cooperation across all involved stakeholders, including connecting the private sector and municipalities, in achieving the SDGs to implement a circular economy by 2030,

Recognizing the framework on international plans to reduce plastic waste created by UNEA-5 and hoping to further create a more substantive plan,

Understanding the UNEA circularity definition as "products and materials designed in such way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered",

Noting with regret the pronounced negative effect that climate change has on women and minority communities,

Deeply convinced that an abundance of misinformation and a lack of access to quality information inhibits efforts made to implement circularity throughout government and society,

Expressing its appreciation for the work done by the Ellen Macarthur Foundation in collaborating with business, academia, policymakers, and institutions to develop and promote the idea of the circular economy,

Concerned with the private sector's impact on environment, specifically through single-use plastic packaging, of which 91% is currently not being recycled properly according to National Geographic,

Emphasizing the important role of the private sector in contributing to circular economies, acknowledging the significant role they have in stimulating the flow of capital,

Bearing in mind the importance of reusing pre-existing materials and turning them into practical and creative products, therefore contributing to a circular economy and reducing pollution around the world,

Mindful of efficiency of programs that mitigate the wasting of essential resources like Resource Efficient Cleaner Production (RECP) demonstrated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as EU4Environment, and ones that aim to manufacture products that can be recycled into a second use such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) demonstrated by Member States such as Georgia,

Taking into consideration the 2020 Report on Financing Circularity: Demystifying Finance for the Circular Economy made by the Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) that underlines the role of financial institutes for redesigning the global economy and promoting technological changes,

Deeply conscious of the importance of addressing maritime pollution and the unique effect that it has on the shorelines and waterways, ecotourism, trade, and biodiversity, and recognizes that implementing a circular socioeconomic framework will reduce plastic pollution in the oceans,

Alarmed by the fact that every year, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 17% of food production is wasted and generates 4.4 gigatons of carbon emissions,

Emphasizing the need to advocate for the textile recycling options and popularize the technologies to recycle nylon, polyester, and other non-degradable materials,

Applauding the work of UNEP, the UN Climate Technology Center and Network (UNCTCN) for their valuable contributions to circularity,

Further acknowledging UNEP's Circularity Platform and its capability to foster exchange of best practices across borders,

Bearing in mind the challenges for individual Member States in implementing a national policy that is clear and effective in ensuring the implementation of a circular economy,

Welcoming also the recommendation by the World Circular Economy Forum for Member States to form partnerships with businesses, governments, and international organizations,

Expressing confidence that the establishment of a new independent body will effectively encourage member states to reduce pollution and encourage collaborative efforts between Member States,

1. *Advises* the implementation of broad educational initiatives as an expansion of the current curriculum on circularity from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation at the international and national levels for the purpose such as:
 - a. Recommending the introduction of environment preservation education through the UNEP and Ted-Ed Earth School program in middle and high school learning institutions that:
 - i. Address topics such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, the rise in pollution, and proper waste management;
 - ii. Ensuring that teachers are thoroughly equipped with the knowledge and resources to teach on the topic with necessary funding through the Environment Fund;
 - iii. Are introduced through the NGO's identified by the regional economic commissions as subject matter experts in Operative Clause 20;
 - b. Developing initiatives geared at the general public through local governments to:
 - i. Explain the necessity of the circular economy and addressing concerns that may arise such as economic feasibility, disruption of consumer convenience and other forms of hesitation;
 - ii. Host special conferences with specialists as a sort of public forum aimed at spreading quality information on circularity;
 - iii. Creating social media accounts under the name, Green Circle, on platforms to disseminate short informative videos on the topics of circularity and climate change such as YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram to target younger portions of the populations, managed by the local governments;
 - c. Including information on how different industries in the public and private sectors can address circularity that are:
 - i. Disseminated through digital platforms such as social media including YouTube, Twitter, Instagram as well websites of local and regional governments;
 - ii. Integrating environmentally friendly materials that can be reused and/or recycled such as the Ecovative that makes compostable packaging from agricultural byproducts and mycelium;
 - iii. Means by which voluntary cooperation is possible between the public and private sector to expedite and maximize the beneficial outcomes of a transition to circularity, such as partnering in research initiatives into the best circularity practices;
 - iv. Fostering secondary markets for reused and recycled materials guided by NGOs from Operative Clause 20;
 - v. Utilizing new technologies to implement more sustainable practices within their business operations and production such as incorporating radio frequency

- identification technology chips in manufacturing to facilitate more efficient recycling practices;
- vi. Designing recycling programs for unused working devices by cooperating with major technological manufacturing companies and sending the recycled devices to developing countries as means of educational access;
 - d. Fostering an appreciation for how climate change acutely affects different sectors of society and the international community, particularly developing nations, in devastating ways;
2. *Encourages* Member States to be guided by UNEP initiatives such as the Environmental Education and Training for Sustainable Development to promote urban composting services and infrastructure by:
 - a. Informing individuals on the benefits of sorting organic waste;
 - b. Urging municipalities to allocate compost bins to each household and reserve a designated area for all organic waste to be deposited;
 3. *Invites* Member States to foster industries with information and technologies to ensure a better national control system by:
 - a. Creating periodic meetings under the leadership of the UNEA executive board, with representatives of countries in which the shifting to a circular economy is a major issue to allow Member States to find new ways to implement a circular economy and re-evaluate the impact on a national level;
 - b. Recalling the need for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to acquire circular technologies, thus encouraging capable Enterprises to share tools on technologies;
 - c. Recommending cooperation between all Member States and SMEs to educate the industries on the benefit of making sustainable choices by selling products that are given a second life and shifting to renewable energy sources;
 4. *Recommends* Member States to create programs modeled after the UN Environment's Green Economy Initiative to be able to develop a program that provides advisory services to create economic actor, consumer guidelines and educational workshops by:
 - a. Supplying the economic actor by implementing sustainable extraction/exploitation and purchasing, eco-design (products and processes), industrial and territorial ecology and an economy of functionality;
 - b. Connecting consumer demand and behavior, indeed, consumption should be sustainable in terms of purchase and of use, the duration of use should be extended through reuse, repair and recycling;
 5. *Emphasizes* the need to phase out and ultimately eliminate single use products as soon as possible by:
 - a. Adopting legislative bans targeting various single use products;
 - b. Ensuring that legislative bans are readily enforced;
 - c. Developing national incentive structures that encourage the private sector to implement circularity within existing business practices;
 - d. Educating the public on the need to eliminate single use product consumption;

- e. Suggesting that Member States consider imposing penalties to companies within the private sector that do not comply with legislative bans;
6. *Encourages* Member States to add a price on the amount of single use raw material they produce, to encourage purchase of reusable materials;
7. *Invites* Member States to introduce incentives, according to their capacity, for the private sector to contribute to circular economies, following the suggestions laid down in the European Commission's *Independent Expert Report Incentives to Boost the Circular Economy* and encompassing the following dimensions of:
 - a. Financial instruments;
 - b. Policy instruments oriented towards:
 - i. Market approaches;
 - ii. Non-market approaches, such as normative and informative instruments;
 - iii. Removing normative obstacles;
 - c. Stimulating value chain collaborations and favoring R&D support for value chain integrated projects and investment in new circular activity;
 - d. Empowering consumers to select more circular products;
 - e. Favoring environmental labeling and certification, as well as mutual recognition procedures;
8. *Promotes* the recovery of currently existing materials into creative and sustainable solutions and the adoption of clean energy sources, such as:
 - a. Converting large amounts of plastic waste from landfills into affordable and sustainable housing and commercial developments, such as those created by the Norwegian UN Development Programme-endorsed company, OTHALO:
 - i. For greatest circularity, recycling facilities may be built in the same country of operation and distribution to create jobs, reduce local plastic pollution, stimulate local economies, and reduce transportation costs and emissions;
 - ii. Billions of tons of plastic waste may be recycled into manufactured living spaces and commercial buildings using mass-unit production and construction strategies;
 - iii. Funding for initial construction of recycling and manufacturing facilities may be sponsored by NGOs, as well as through the Environmental Fund and Earmarked Funds of the UNEA;
 - iv. To be managed by local organizations with the purpose of providing sustainable and affordable housing to individuals facing housing insecurity;

- b. Expanding the vehicle recycling program in The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, suggesting an increase in newly produced vehicle recyclability requirements from 85% to 95%;
 - c. Encouraging the reform of sectors of energy and manufacturing to clean energy solutions such as electricity, hydropower, solar, and wind energy, supported by NGOs and the Environmental Funds and Earmarked Funds of the UNEA;
- 9. *Suggests* Member States introduce framework for EPR and RECP practices and standards, and enforce them in firm regulations, including:
 - a. Strongly suggesting companies to have 30 percent of its imported resources be reusable for products and 20 percent to be biodegradable by 2035;
 - b. Reclaiming used products and materials to be made into secondary products;
 - c. Further suggesting firms use recycling and compost bins rather than just trash cans;
 - d. Reducing food and water waste by 20 percent by 2035;
 - e. Reducing energy use by 10 percent by 2035;
 - f. Respecting national sovereignty, each member state is encouraged to contribute to this endeavor according to their respective gross domestic product;
- 10. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion to achieve the goals stated in the *Europe Union Strategy* to 2030 for the textile industry by developing national educational workshops, guidelines and networks for designers and textile providers such as:
 - a. Giving designers the possibilities to educate themselves on resources such as organic cotton that can be used to create sustainable fashion;
 - b. Creating national textile industry- specific waste management plans;
 - c. Developing information campaigns such as digital conference, digital video diaries and training knits to make designers aware about the newly developed education and knowledge sharing possibilities;
 - d. Establishing networking possibilities for designers and textile producers;
 - e. Supporting by organizations such as Stockholm Environment Institute and financial support by the UN Environment Fund and NGOs such as the World Bank;
- 11. *Ask* Member States to create national programs for the promotion of clothes trading businesses focused on second-hand clothing to increase the lifetime of the apparel and not to let excessive amounts of clothing items accumulate in landfills but instead be reused and recycled according to the circular economy principles by:
 - a. Simplifying international transport regulations for second-hand clothes to pursue a more even distribution all over the world and thus avoid accumulation and as a consequence disposal;
 - b. Facilitating taxation of the imported clothes intended for use or realization of goods as second-hand clothes;

- c. Encouraging funding initiatives that will foster cooperation between Member States, private and public stakeholders to help emerging economies in the implementation of second-hand clothing business;
 - d. Encouraging public-private partnerships to provide upcycled clothing to the Least Developed Nations;
- 12. *Encourages* Member States to use the framework outlined in the *United Nations Institute for Training and Research Guidelines for National Waste Management Strategies* to create a National Waste Management Plan to control and limit plastic production and optimize the recycling and repurposing of plastic waste through:
 - a. Heightening the efforts for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the oceans and seas;
 - b. Creating incremental time-frame goals for reducing consumption and production of single use plastic;
 - c. Ending the usage of landfill for waste deposition by 2030;
- 13. *Invites* Member States to support technologies for the development of waste management and more sustainable circular processes to collect and track waste in industry sectors around the world by:
 - a. Implementing technologies such as sea- or river-cleaning robots, carbon capture technologies and biofuels;
 - b. Funding sample tracking and collection of waste around the world to best locate the waste; simultaneously boost the economies of each Member State;
- 14. *Calls upon* the establishment of an Expert Group Forum on Ocean Waste Management composed by NGOs and Member States in collaboration with UNEP which will:
 - a. Provide regular scientific assessments on ocean health and risk mitigation planning;
 - b. Issue a specific guide on tackling biodiversity loss and waste through a circular economic perspective with the support of relevant environmental organizations;
 - c. Meet biennially in order to review the progress made;
- 15. *Encourages* all Member States to adopt a new alternative initiative in order to reduce the use and production of plastic, so that the markets no longer use chemicals materials in order to recycle, by:
 - a. Inviting member state to create a classification of the different types of plastics that are recycled in the best way possible, making a difference between hard, soft, and micro plastics;
 - b. Encouraging the use of soft plastics and create raw materials for the clothing industry;
- 16. *Urges* UNEP to enhance their Circularity Platform by increasing collaboration with Member States that can provide additional experts and resources and assigning them the tasks to:
 - a. Monitor the application of circular economy in the economic systems of all Member States after their consent;

- b. Analyze the annual data collected by interacting within the circularity platform, which will provide an environment where experts research and data can be accumulated and evaluated;
 - c. Create an annual report of the economic situation worldwide in collaboration with the Circularity Gap Reporting Initiative;
 - d. Optimize the accessibility and proficiency of the platform's website by:
 - i. Crosslinking the Platform's website to UNEP's InforMEA platform and the World Environment Situation Room for all matters regarding circular economy, financed by the Environment Fund;
 - ii. Further specializing the Platform's approach to circular economy by including chemicals, construction materials, and bio-waste in the focal sectors of the website using the knowledge and technology shared voluntarily by Member States or NGOs;
 - iii. Launching pop-up information videos, provided by volunteers from environmental organizations, on the website of the platform every six months which serve to inform all stakeholders about different aspects of circular economy;
 - iv. Introducing a new category to be displayed on the website which will highlight Member States and their respective national achievements, also featuring alternating success stories from all around the world every three months;
17. *Calls upon* the UNEP's Circularity Platform to develop and lead the Project for Sustainable Procurement to Advance towards a Circular Economy (SPACE), which will have the goal to support Member States with the development and implementation of national circular economy strategies and:
- a. Recalls the efforts of the Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabeling Project and invites the Circularity Platform to transfer the used approach of UNEP to support Member States during the project to the setting of a circular economy;
 - b. Highlights the possibility for the Circularity Platform to financially support the SPACE project with the UN Environment Fund;
 - c. Encourages Member States to draw additional financial support for their development of national action plans from the Green Climate Fund or the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator;
 - d. Suggests Circularity Platform to closely collaborate with entities such as the UNEP, the Global Ecolabelling Network, the UNCTCN or working group 4b of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes;
 - e. Further tasks Circularity Platform to encourage Member States to publish biannual progress reports on their efforts and creation on national action plans;
 - f. Recommends SPACE to stress the importance of support for waste management strategies and circular economy labels to be included in the national action plans of Member States;
 - g. Notes that SPACE shall additionally create a review body, consisting of experts from Member States that have already established national action plans, to review and give feedback on strategies and progress reports;

18. *Recommends* that the UNEA partners with regional economic commissions such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to formulate means by which these regional economic commissions can:
 - a. Identify qualified NGOs to serve as subject matter experts in regional issues;
 - b. Equip these NGOs to address issues pertaining to economic feasibility, regulatory barriers, and sociocultural considerations;
 - c. Tailor plans in a way that keeps in mind the level of development for specific Member States within the region;
 - d. Implement an international framework through NGOs regarding the nomination of experts, in which each Member State gets a say in who is advising and educating on the circular economy;

19. *Encourages* the UNEP to increase the financial support of Member States, especially developing states, to perform an accelerated circular transition with the following executions of:
 - a. Using a portion of the Environment Fund, requesting the UNEP FI to discuss a possible incremental increase of the budget to enhance the financial support by the global finance sector and encourage further earmarked funding to provide monetary resources for implementation of a circular economy;
 - b. Encouraging Member States and the private sector to increase the financial support of the Environment Fund, UNEP FI, and the Earmarked Fund of the UNEA for this implementation;
 - c. Creating a Circularity Developing Working Group to establish the details under which conditions the funding is provided;
 - d. Providing resources in order to:
 - i. Improve global programmes to train companies in private and public sectors on how circular economy can be apply on the production chain additionally with the UNEP FI;
 - ii. Enable research in product development with the aim of manufacturing materials and finished goods with value retention cycles in mind, guaranteeing easier redevelopment of goods at the end of their intended lifespan;
 - iii. Implement technologies for Waste Management and Recycling Systems;
 - iv. Create training centers to teach the usage of the above technologies in developing countries;
 - e. Using the framework and review committee of the Environment Fund and the UNEP FI to control the process and the proper usage of the findings;

20. *Promote* investments and funds allocation from the Environment Fund to technological advancement and innovation in waste management, including but not limited to recycling, upcycling, and repurposing of materials by:

- a. Researching efficient and sustainable methods of waste management at different levels of infrastructure, capacity, and development;
 - b. Upcycling of uncommon corporate waste;
 - c. Sorting and categorizing waste to repurpose it with methods that best benefit the circular economy and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills;
21. *Further invites* Member States to increase cooperation with private actors in the implementation of a circular economy, by joining global platforms such as the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency and promoting them on a national level, as well as setting up or strengthening regional and national platforms.



Code: 1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA),

Encouraging all Member States to thoroughly review their current approaches towards the establishment of sustainable mechanisms,

Considering the varied economics, policies, and cultures of each Member State when establishing a foundation of practices and principles that are modeled after circularity,

Acknowledging the scope of General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG "Responsible Consumption and Production" and its work in developing more sustainable products, services, and energy sources,

Recalling further SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", and its emphasis on implementing sustainable practices in order to create sustainable growth that keeps us within our low-carbon circular economy,

Keeping in mind SDG 14 "Life Below Water", and SDG 15 "Life on Land", to preserve biodiversity, protect the earth's ecosystems, and preserve high quality life for all and reaffirming SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure",

Deeply conscious of the key role of education, recognized by SDG 4 "Quality Education", at all stages of life, and of the necessity to raise social awareness on the importance of circular economy in order to achieve sustainable patterns of living,

Affirming the importance of simultaneously integrating the implementation of sustainable infrastructure and quality education, and the efforts already made by initiatives such as Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership to achieve SDG 9, which talks about building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation,

Supporting fully the United Nations (UN) Environmental Assembly (UNEA) resolution 4/4, "Addressing Environmental Challenges Through Sustainable Business Practices", which highlights the importance of transitioning towards a global circular economy, and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) *E.A4/Res.1* stating that circular economy is a powerful tool for achieving sustainability,

Underlining the importance of implementing a regionally adaptable circular economy to address the failures of the linear economic model and the exploitation of raw materials,

Emphasizing the importance of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (1992), *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* (1989), *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (1998) and *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001) that provide a necessary legal bases to collectively commit to sustainable development,

Concerned that ecosystems throughout the world are currently being impacted by pollution and the overproduction of plastic at rapid rates,

Firmly believing that the recovery, repurposing, reusing, and valorization of waste products are as vital as their recycling,

Observing the lack of international standards for the implementation of circular economy practices,

Further recalling that there is an increasing number of Member States that have made steps towards a more sustainable environment such as banning single-use plastic,

Seeking to use the recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to transform national linear economic systems to a sustainable circular model,

Strongly supporting the three principles of circular economy, stated by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, that are eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature,

Bearing in mind that education and circular economy are both transversal themes, and that education can solve multiple issues through the use of technology approaches and digital infrastructures,

Reaffirming the work of the United Nations Environment Management Group (ENMG) in collecting expertise on environmental issues,

Aware of the need to collaborate with international financial organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to aid developing nations in achieving circularity,

Reiterating the need for a subsidiary body within the United Nations dedicated to this goal, as informed by the High Ambition Coalition,

Recognizing that indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, practices, and innovations have an important role in acquiring knowledge in local, subnational and national climate action, as well as developing solutions towards a sustainable circular economy,

Expressing its appreciation for the actions and efforts of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), the Forum Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Work with Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA) in incorporating Indigenous perspectives towards climate action, and the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC),

Expressing its appreciation that the Green School Program initiated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organization (CSO) plays a crucial role in promoting better waste management for children and youth by raising awareness,

Having devoted attention to the development of so-called forest cities, which entails cities built at net-zero with materials entirely made out of environmentally conscious materials,

Stressing “What a Waste 2.0” issued by the World Bank which shows 2.01 billion tonnes of solid waste has generated annually and at least 33 percent of that has not been managed in environmentally and sustainably,

Welcoming the UNEA Knowledge Hub and Plastic Pollution Map that gathers data on polluted areas globally,

Appreciating highly the UNEP report entitled *Global Waste Management Outlook (2015)*, which emphasizes that education and raising awareness play a critical role in promoting better waste management and recycling waste,

Expressing recognized circularity definition as “products and materials designed in such way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered”,

1. *Calls for* the expansion and reorganization of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics into the Forum for Sustainable Economic Development (FSED) with a specific interest in circularity to construct regional and state specific plans to meet SDG 12, “Responsible Consumption and Production”, with the expressed goals to:
 - a. Establish internationally recognized standards pertaining to the infrastructure of energy, transportation, waste and water management, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation that shall be given observer status to the Assembly in the future;
 - b. Report Member States to the FSED within the Environment Programme after receiving an assessment through the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform every five years in order to monitor the progress towards circularity;
 - c. To present Member States with a package comprised of recommended socio-economic programs:
 - i. These recommendations will be comprised of successful programs, as determined by the FSED and the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform;
 - ii. These programs can be implemented or revised based on financial needs, feasibility, sustainability and best practices that are determined by the FSED;
 - d. Recommends for the FSED to seek financial support from the UNEP, specifically the Finance and Economic Transformations sub programme, and collaborating with regional partners, Member States, NGOs, and international organizations, such as the World Bank and IMF to provide financial support to Member States with the interest of achieving their circularity action plans;
 - e. Developed no later than 2025, the FSED will create a new framework that recognizes the prevention, reduction, and management of plastic waste, with additional emphasis on the unequal effects of implementing circularity in Member States reliant on resource extraction;
2. *Asks* Member States to work together with local experts selected by the ENMG to cooperate in establishing a Regional Program for Effective and Sustainable Assistance for Recycling (REPENSAR) to:
 - a. Improve waste management centers and ensure the implementation of recycled resources into the market and support Member States in their individual efforts of combating the global waste problem;
 - b. Cooperate with local governments and NGOs to ensure a regional perspective and therefore solve the problem of waste management on a suitable level;

- c. Work out a step-by-step catalog on the restructuring of existing waste management systems that can be used for advising local and regional governments and organizations on the improvement of their socio-ecological recycling centers;
 - d. Inform Member States about improvement opportunities for their waste management and create of a repository of best practices on multilateral waste management systems based on circular economy principles;
 - e. Improve working conditions in the context of waste management and reduce the high rate of underpaid workers and workers from the informal sector;
 - f. Be financed through the Environment Fund;
3. *Recommends* willing Member States and the Finance and Economic Transformations sub programme to increase funding towards the Advisory System for Processing, Innovation & Resource Exchange (ASPIRE) Project, a regionally-adaptable program that would incorporate aspects of the SDGs to:
- a. Expand the ASPIRE online matching tool regionally which serves to connect regional producers, manufacturers, suppliers, and recyclers to exchange waste and extend the lifespan of raw materials through the incorporation of SDGs 9 and 12;
 - b. Introduce ASPIRE stakeholders in both the public and private sectors and across all industries to reduce the costs associated with waste disposal, increasing the profits of ASPIRE partners, while also reducing CO₂ emissions through reusing, repurposing, and remanufacturing;
 - c. Highlight the larger goal of adapting the project globally once regional success in the Indo-pacific has seen success in order to shift global trade patterns towards a circular model;
 - d. Ensure the inclusion of leadership positions in areas of college access, retention, and success in the regional level:
 - i. Willing Member States with existing partnerships are invited to incorporate the ASPIRE project within their region, for example, Australia will be leading the Indo-Pacific ASPIRE project with fellow Pacific Island Member States;
 - ii. Agencies supporting the UNEP, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund are invited to support regional ASPIRE projects;
4. *Recommends* the sharing and organizing of data on the distribution of plastic waste on land, near coasts, and in oceans by the FSED, which will collect and track data through the Knowledge Hub and Plastic Pollution Map using global mapping, field sampling, and mathematical modeling to:
- a. Reinforce the need to substitute single-use plastic with renewable products and resources, such as fast-growing plant material and other natural resources in order to minimize plastic pollution;
 - b. Invite willing Member States to provide funds towards the Pacific Ocean Litter Project, a regionally adaptable framework that reduces sources of single-use plastics by providing

financial support towards the research and innovation of waste management and plastic recycling technology;

5. *Invites* the Finance and Economic Transformations subprogram, to fund global research efforts on sustainable industrial products and materials that can serve as an alternative to plastic, these research efforts will focus on raw materials such as:
 - a. *Cannabis sativa* L., known as the industrial hemp plant, bamboo, and other bioplastics;
 - b. Wool, linen, and other biodegradable plastics, the research will be directed towards:
 - i. Understanding the versatility and impacts of alternative sustainable raw materials to substitute single-use plastic products and packaging;
 - ii. Analyzing the economic, social, and environmental costs to produce and manufacture each sustainable alternative commercial product;
 - iii. The advantages and disadvantages of producing sustainable alternative raw materials at a commercial rate;
 - iv. The current life-cycle and costs to manage disposed sustainable alternative commercial products;
 - v. Identifying and respecting current regulations, restrictions, and laws regarding sustainable material alternatives, such as the industrial hemp plant, within Member States;
6. *Encourages* resolutions on industrial symbiosis, such as inter-industrial processes, which are made to be interdependent to allow waste from one factory to be utilized for another factory to:
 - a. Establish a resource services center with a regional presence in each Member State through a national-level platform, with the staffing made available by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to provide a range of subsidized industrial consulting services on a variety of topics to raise awareness and understanding among factories on how to turn waste into a resource;
 - b. Plug Factories into a central network to engage in resource-conscious use and benefit from the ideas of individual factories and incorporate them into their own systems;
7. *Suggests* that international Indigenous organizations, such as participating members of the IIPFCC, are given permanent observer status in the Environment Assembly to increase the representation and role of indigenous knowledge in the implementation towards a circular economy, participating members would have the ability to:
 - a. Receive free access to all meeting and relevant documentation produced by the Environment Assembly;
 - b. Co-sponsor draft resolutions, reports, and decisions discussed during Assembly sessions, which will:

- i. Work in collaboration with the LCIPP to promote the exchange of Indigenous experiences and good practices, build capacity for engagement, and to implement Indigenous consultations on climate policies and actions;
 - ii. Support LCIPP and the UNFCCC to coordinate with indigenous organizations on receiving access to relevant documentation and transcripts;
 - iii. Work with GIDA to further organize the inclusion and participation of indigenous groups within the UN;
8. *Recommends* the instauration of an annual summit on the technological advancements in the field of renewability and reusability to:
 - a. Be organized by FSED;
 - b. Take place a day before UNEA meetings and attended by all member states and observing states, held in Nairobi;
 - c. Member States will be allowed to select a representative member from a scientific and technical background to network with other representatives and be updated on most recent technologies through the summit material;
 - d. Facilitate equal access to cutting edge technologies for less developed states. These technologies could be cheaper and more efficient and would hence benefit them and allow them to level on that scale with other states, hence reducing inequalities;
9. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with international and national programs, such as the initiative rePurpose Global, and expand current programs that focus on reusing and repurposing industrial waste to:
 - a. Increase the communication and cooperation between government agencies and private companies in order to establish concrete plans for the repurposing and sale of waste materials;
 - b. Create government-based incentives, including tax deductions and government subsidies, to motivate the private sector to repurpose their waste materials;
 - c. Increase the communication between large industrial companies and the prospective users of their repurposed waste;
 - d. Expand the application of waste repurposing techniques in order to minimize waste production and to incentivize environmentally friendly practices including the utilization of biodegradable materials and the implementation of incineration techniques to eliminate nonrenewable materials;
 - e. Ultimately reduce the total waste of private companies and to increase overall resource availability;
10. *Invites* Member States to incorporate educational programs about circular economy and sustainability to:

- a. Appoint pro-bono professionals and ask for the support of NGOs such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, to help with the implementation of this program by visiting the local schools and universities, comparable to the Green School Program;
 - b. Provide opportunities for children to learn better waste management skills from a very young age;
 - c. Shape higher education in a multidisciplinary perspective by preparing teachers and providing certificates to promote the application of a circular economy;
 - d. Provide adults with education about the topic with courses and campaigns, taking into consideration the different situations of Member States, for instance teaching the value of a circular economy and the way it relates to their geographical region and their community;
 - e. Promote a learning-by-doing framework in which the Environment Assembly can:
 - i. Organize exchange programs for volunteering, crossing boundaries between different universities and disciplines;
 - ii. Aid the citizens of Member States by sharing innovations and ideas as a way to implement involvement in setting up collection points;
 - iii. Ask for the collaboration of NGOs, CSOs and experts such as the ministries of environment and education to help with the implementation;
11. *Encourages* the formation of a Private Stakeholder Platform (PSP) that expands on the educational aspects of the UNEP Circulatory Approach and also promotes cooperation among Member States in the private sector, in accordance with SDG 17, in order to encourage small businesses to use sustainable resources around the world, the expansion of this platform will:
- a. Encourage the Environmental Fund to support the creation of PSP, allocating five percent of the Fund, increasing cooperation amongst regions, Member States, and local economies;
 - b. Reaffirm its belief in encouraging member states to ensure small and large businesses have improved education on circular economies in accordance with the existing UNEP Circulatory Approach, such as:
 - i. Improving the implementation of recycling resources back in to businesses;
 - ii. Increasing the reduction of single-use plastics and ethical consumption of non-renewable resources;
 - iii. Understanding the economic benefits of a circular system, with the goal of limiting waste in businesses and the economy;
 - c. Encourage businesses around the world will come together utilizing this Private Platform in order to discuss what other businesses are doing and create improvements on how to properly incorporate circular economic practices;
 - d. Reduce the spending of the Environmental Fund for this PSP by 2032;

12. *Urges* improving international relationships for a constructive sharing of Member States mutual conditions and positions on circular economy with the purpose of creating a global framework of cooperation to:
 - a. Promote biannual meetings and conferences both virtually and in person in rotating in order to discuss global issues and to ascertain Member States commitment to circularity in their systems;
 - b. Establish international sessions between Member States with the purpose of acquiring mutual knowledge of other national situations while pursuing the same circular economy goals;
 - c. Stimulate the use of existing international platforms, such as the One Planet Network, in order to share information necessary to develop coordinated strategies among Member States as well as NGOs;
 - d. Support the development of forest cities in places that have been abandoned or with new city growth;
 - e. Unify small and medium sized entrepreneurship in order to educate these businesses on ways to help incorporate a circular economy;
 - f. Further strengthen public and private sector collaboration to facilitate the sharing and the transfer of Member States expertise in the domains of green energy transition;

13. *Encourages* Member States to support their local production and industries with small regional incentives funded by national organizations determined by the discretion of the respective Member States to:
 - a. Promote a more sustainable lifestyle and economy within a population by encouraging new daily habits such as encouraging the use of glass jars, reusable mugs and waste management through different campaigns;
 - b. Expand the use and exposure of local foods and production by the same campaign that would be used to endorse a sustainable lifestyle;
 - c. Identify the local businesses, a survey created by UNEA would be distributed to the population asking what are their products and if they would want to be supported;
 - d. Motivate local governments in the creation of a weekly farmer's market, as a means to introduce the community to local procedure.



Code: 1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Implementing a Circular Economy for the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the Ellen McArthur Foundation's definition of a circular economy as a "system solution framework that tackles global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution",

Recognizing the Secretary General report on the *59th Commission for Social Development (2021)* on the importance of transitioning toward a global circular economy as 91.4% of the world economy is linear and continues to perpetuate unsustainable practices,

Reaffirming the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development which aims to generate sustainable development through education as well as accelerating the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030,

Recognizing the need of Member States to consider programs of the *10YFP* that provides information regarding resource efficiency as well as the products' sustainability,

Highlighting the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit a web-based software tool that aids Member States to report on their progress of the SDGs through a four-core module template that focuses on monitoring, evaluation, reporting and administration module that allows Member States to configure information to their needs,

Reaffirming its resolution named "Enhancing Circular Economy as contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production" (UNEP/EA5/L17/REV.1) adopted on March 2022 during the United Nations (UN) Environment Assembly (UNEA) fifth meeting, highlighting the importance of ensuring practical solutions regarding circularity of economy as one of the sustainable development pathways,

Recognizing that in the over 31 frameworks and 2,000 indices created by the UN regarding the transition into a circular economy there is none that measure policy implementation of a circular economy or how to accelerate the implementation,

Concerned over the 40 million tons of e-waste that are burned, discarded or illegally traded rather than going to proper waste treatment facilities, as stated in UN E-waste coalition and in the P.A.C.E 2019 report,

Concerned over the 1.03 billion tons of food that is wasted annually, and its relation to food insecurity globally,

Emphasizing that all effective circular economies begin with the proper disposal of waste,

Recognizing past and current initiatives spearheading efforts in reducing agricultural pollution and its relevance to implementing a circular economy, including the *Colombo Declaration (2019)* which seeks to cut nitrogen pollution in half by 2030,

Recalling the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)*, guiding the international community to protect human health and the environment by banning certain polluting products,

Recalling the results of UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 5th session, where Member States agreed to sign an international binding agreement on the elimination of plastic waste, specifically aiding the implementation of the circular economy,

Fully believing in the sovereignty of each Member State to pass environmental policies suited to their geographic need,

Acknowledging non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participation arrangements at the UN and other agencies of the UN System in order to promote multilateral solutions,

Emphasizing UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Policy Brief #105: Circular agriculture for sustainable rural development's focus on the significant costs of linear modern food production,

Taking into account the Environmental Fund's current lack of a specific sub-program for a circular economy,

Reminding Member States to be considerate of the economic harm that posing sanctions creates because sanction Member States will not be able to afford to implement a long term sustainable circular economy with their limited economic function,

Affirming the goals of SDG 13 to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030, and reach net-zero emissions by 2050 which can be achieved by the implementation of a circular economy, in accordance with SDG 12, sustainable production and consumption,

Keeping in mind the report *Green Industrial Policy: concept, policies and countries experiences* (2017) linking to strategic government policies to accelerate green industry development and growth to transition to a low carbon and circular economy,

1. *Encourages* the implementation of a singular global index and annual report that monitors and provides a quantifiable measurement on national efforts to implement a circular economy by:
 - a. Hosting a committee of experts in various fields relating to a circular economy that would develop a singular index;
 - b. Implementing in the framework of the index and the report through a data collection process that captures and quantifies circular economy policy implementation and what can be done to further accelerate implementation in Member States;
 - c. Making the index concise and accessible to the general public;
2. *Strongly recommends* Member States to partner with initiatives like Waste and Resources Action Programme, initiated by the World Economic Forum and focuses on research into circularity and the effects of plastic on the environment while also providing funding services like grants for individuals and businesses;
3. *Offers* to Member States the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre which supports the implementation of solid waste management systems, focuses on proper treatment of waste in developing Member States, and aims to optimize waste management by involving stakeholders at a local level;

4. *Recommends* Member States to work with the Sustainable Recycling Industries Project (SRI), funded by the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs, which supports national attempts at developing legal frameworks of e-waste recycling and implementing standards for sustainable e-waste recycling through their initiatives and the SRI Roundtable;
5. *Calls* for the expansion of UN Office for Sustainable Development's Knowledge Sharing Programme by:
 - a. Allowing all willing Member States to share their knowledge as a sustainable resource and contribute to the adoption of a circular economy;
 - b. Promoting the knowledge transfer of technology, finance, and education to guide Non-Member States to form their own circular economy;
 - c. Funding more educational programs which provide instruction on best sustainable practices for topics such as tourism, carbon emissions, and agricultural practices;
 - d. Creating a recommendation guide gathering all teaching methods concerning circular economy and waste reduction;
6. *Encourages* multilateral and cooperative actions between Member States and agencies to pledge reducing carbon emissions as well as highlighting the importance for environmental public policy such as the *Colombo Declaration*;
7. *Urges* Member States to implement the use of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit created by the UN Economic Commission of Africa and of Satellite System Technology in their progress of achieving the SDGs Goals through:
 - a. Creating a satellite system to secure monitoring of process for waste management and classifying NGOs that could collaborate to create, monitor and implement the satellite system;
 - b. Training public workers on the four modules of the software tool specifically the admin module which will allow public workers to view the information of their specific Member States and analyze the need;
 - c. Collaborating with NGOs and the public sector to review and analyze areas of concerns as demonstrated by the software data to readjust policies to further implementation of the SDG 12;
8. *Recognizing* the United Nations Satellite Center that uses imagery analysis that monitors large areas to provide information in real time, which can be used to track maritime litter and be used as an indicator of the implementation of SDG 12;
9. *Recommends* the utilization of technological tools to track and monitor initiatives for waste reduction and the reuse of materials that:
 - a. Implement AI technology and convolutional neural network modeling for sorting waste classification and monitoring waste reduction;

- b. Encourage the use of technological tools for research on waste material management;
10. *Invites* the Office of the Secretary-General to consider language promoting a circular economy and verify that all businesses providing procurement follow a circular economy baseline;
11. *Calls upon* the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre to manage:
- a. The allocation of funds to create waste management systems in underdeveloped Member States;
 - b. The reduction of supply losses and overall production of food, plastic and other waste products;
 - c. The creation of trash pickup initiatives alongside rivers, ocean, lakes and other bodies of water as well as understanding the benefits of fines on littering near these initiated programs;
 - d. The creation of voluntary group initiatives, composed of NGOs, with the guidance of the Global Recycling Foundation to recycle and reuse materials for various projects such as:
 - i. Construction Material Coibax made from 100% plastic recycled materials that is then placed in concrete in order to achieve the maximum load bearing ability at the lowest weight, which can lead to more sustainable and affordable housing;
 - ii. Creative upcycling initiatives that turn recyclables into cultural art projects;
12. *Invites* Member States to implement national laws concerning waste management of companies and focus those laws on:
- a. Chemical substances that end up in oceans and lands, contribute to pollution, and are not covered in the Stockholm Convention, in addition to the ones already covered in it;
 - b. Fund research about projects that find new ways of recycling considering the complete life cycle of plastic;
 - c. The empowerment of local populations in the waste management by creating partnership between companies and local authorities;
13. *Encourages* Member States to reanalyze available land zones and to divide it between agricultural and renewable energy infrastructure, in addition to implementing agricultural practices which include:
- a. Implementing integrated aqua-vegeculture systems (IAVS) in order to allow for sustainable agriculture management in harsh environments. This method improves the growth quality of crops, which will reduce the need for pesticides and help push organic farming initiatives; IAVS also uses sand beds for filtration and solves the nutrient deficiencies and high energy costs that come with aquaponics;
 - b. Researching for newly implemented green solutions, such as drones and unmanned aerial vehicles which help with the spread of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as

environmental friendly alternatives to harmful pollutants such as bioplastics derived from bees and other nature-based sources;

- c. Highly encouraging Member States to continually support the regulations of pesticides and fertilizers as evident in the SDGs;
 - d. Acknowledging the role of frontier technology and that it can be used in order to avoid repeating data that has already been recorded by smallholder farmers previously throughout the agricultural cycle that can be reiterated through network sensors and used for the information to be communicated clearly;
14. *Supports* Member States to combat food insecurity by modeling the West Africa Agricultural Productivity program which specifically deals with food waste and educating civil society on overconsumption of food and properly managing food waste within the home; the program also focuses on the implementation of advanced technologies such as the closure of nutrient and waste loops to turn waste into useful resources while cutting down on food loss and waste as a means to provide promising contribution towards lowering greenhouse gasses;
 15. *Ask* Member States to ratify the *Colombo Declaration*, which involves a pledge to reduce nitrogen waste by half by 2030 in order to improve management of agricultural waste, resources, and maritime/water pollution;
 16. *Encourages* all Member States to offer financial incentives for business who have implemented proper waste management techniques into their business plans;
 17. *Requests* Member States model programs after the Switch Africa Green Program, initiated by the UNEP, in partnership with the European Union, which funds businesses and NGOs to further develop sustainable production and consumption through training and workshops in local businesses and organizations;
 18. *Encourages* the expansion of Enterprise Financing Scheme Green, first initiated in the Indo-Pacific, to other ocean regions such as the Caribbean in order to increase the amount of risk-shared loans they can provide for the implementation of a circular economy;
 19. *Advises* for continued open discussions on the establishment of an auxiliary program by the UN Environment Fund which would set aside funds specifically for supporting a circular economyby:
 - a. Evaluating the implementation of a circular economy in the economies of Member States with a specific fund for developing Member States in the form of a sub-program in the UN Environment Fund;
 - b. Bringing attention to the need of discussing current global efforts towards implementations of circular economies through:
 - i. Encouraging an annual sub-conference;
 - ii. Inviting UN entities, NGO's, CBO's, economic experts, and other relevant stakeholders;
 - iii. Summarizing items discussed within the sub-conference in annual reports;

- c. Inviting all relevant UN Member States, the Global Environment Facility, UNEP circularity platform, UN entities, and relevant stakeholders;
 - d. The discussion being chaired and organized by UNEP held at a future UNEA meeting;
20. *Recommends* the establishment of good practices for sustainability management in tourism and benchmarks for excellence in relation to efficient waste management in the tourism sphere for:
- a. The establishment of eco-friendly transport routes to access tourist destinations that encompasses low carbon emissions, proper management of waste, and activities that do not involve activities that are potentially environmentally dangerous;
 - b. Waste measurement success in hotels measured by waste per capita;
 - c. The formation of sustainable national park that protects ecosystems, wildlife habitat, human-made or natural structures, and riparian zones that would help implement a circular economy through educational eco-tourism;
 - d. Expansion of the Maritime Spatial Programs for both monitoring the ecological situation at the coastal zones of the Member States and development of the pre-coastal tourist attractions and activities;
21. *Invites* Member States to expand the use of renewable energy by:
- a. Researching further for green solutions, including installing smart sensors to generate and conserve energy;
 - b. Ensuring energy security with renewable energy that is promoted into industrial businesses;
 - c. Investing in concentrating solar-thermal power (Solar CSP) technology to utilize solar power more efficiently with pragmatic storage;
 - d. Using green solutions through the use of solar energy in automatic water systems where heat and wastewater can be regenerated in order to integrate smart irrigation into agricultural systems;
 - e. Increasing production of biomass-based cellulosic ethanol as an alternative biofuel to increase air quality and sustainable transportation;
 - f. Creating a smart grid system for electricity and its application as a communicative technology in monitoring usage changes, phasor measurement units for gridstability assessments, and feed switches to reroute power where needed to reduce electric expenditure;
22. *Requests* the creation of regional action plans that would assist Member States to work step-by-step to reduce carbon emissions by:

- a. Implementing nonrenewable energy alternatives such as solar energy, hydroelectric power, and biomass to reduce the emission of carbon that is produced annually;
 - b. Exploring methods of carbon control such as carbon sequestering forests and soils maintained by restrictions on natural land use and agricultural practices;
23. *Recommend* the implementation of *International Development Talks*, which are annual multilateral conferences in regions of the world where stakeholders from both the public and private sectors highlight specific energy infrastructure gaps in regions of the world, identify externalities on green growth in these regions, and formulate strategies for transnational and green energy infrastructure development through sustainable energy technologies in national policy by:
- a. Promoting subsidizing installation costs, on a voluntary basis, for companies wishing to become more sustainable, and continuing to encourage Member States to increase their investments in their respective clean, sustainable and renewable energy resources;
 - b. Encouraging networking between specialized NGOs and local governments to develop a greater understanding of how the policy of implementing sustainable technologies can have a positive impact on the social and economic situation of a community to apply latter on;
 - c. Publicizing the environmental impacts of locally applied sustainable energy technologies, using local businesses and workers through UN social media platforms, and UN online forums.