



Code: UN-Habitat/1/1

Committee: United Nations Human Settlements Program

Topic: Mitigating Climate Change by Utilizing Alternative Energy Resources

1 *Highlighting* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which emphasizes the need to make cities and human
2 settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as well as Goal 13 that focuses on reducing the global
3 footprint,

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5 *Confident* in the *UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for 2014-2019*, which emphasizes the need for climate proofing, urban
6 planning with consideration for regional climate changes and alterations, supporting developing nations to meet the
7 Sustainable Development Goals,

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9 *Recognizing* the “common but differentiated responsibilities” of developed and developing States, as outlined in the
10 *Kyoto Protocol*, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions,

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12 *Acknowledging* that General Assembly resolution 65/151 encourages Member States to promote education and
13 awareness of climate change to reduce the 68% of the world’s energy consumed in urban areas,

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15 *Cognizant* of the challenges faced by underdeveloped countries in combating climate change, such as natural
16 disasters, due to highly populated slum areas with limited sustainable housing,

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18 *Guided* by the annual Re-Invest Conferences, where Member States create incentives for private companies that
19 make domestic investments in alternative energy,

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21 *Recognizing* the importance of sharing international collaboration, information sharing among Member States on the
22 creation and development of sustainable measures to further regional collaboration, and the necessity of
23 modernizing oil dependant economies to further global agenda, while respecting the interest of Member States,

24
25 *Applauding* Member States who have adopted national plans regarding the mitigation of climate change that
26 includes regional collaborations in the energy sector to effectively utilize available resources and technologies in
27 domestic environmental initiatives,

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29 *Recognizing* Member States who have previously developed and established the concept of Smart Cities, which
30 works with the nature, land and topography to develop sustainable and durable foundations of cities, and have
31 progressed in building a universal framework,

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33 *Highlighting* the progress of UN-Habitat’s Slum Upgrading Programme that seeks to improve the living conditions
34 of slum dwellers in Member States, and the efforts to implement sustainable urbanization initiatives through urban
35 planning, which addresses the issues of overcrowding and slum in urban centers,

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37 *Noting with satisfaction* that there is 8% reduction in the production cost of Passive Houses, an independent
38 “building standard” that seeks to maximize energy efficiency and to reduce CO² and other greenhouse gas
39 emissions,

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41 *The United Nations Human Settlements Program*,

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43 1. *Encourages* Member States to adopt a framework modeled after Passive Houses and to work towards the
44 goal of using at least 51% renewable energy and 72% CO²-free emissions through:
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46 a. collaborating with the European Union, African Union, European Investment Bank, the Africa, Asia,
47 Inter-American Development Banks, and private sectors;
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49 b. creating practical working models of sustainable towns and passive homes based on the four temperate
50 zones (equatorial, arid sub-tropical, temperate and polar) to provide Member States with

- 51 methodologies that are relevant to their respective climates with diverse technologies including but not
52 limited to:
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- 54 i. Equatorial Climates: use of steep roofs and high ceilings to promote natural ventilation and
55 cooling ventilation and cooling of interior spaces;
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 - 57 ii. Arid Sub-Tropical Climates: use of trombe walls in arid climates to cut down heat gain during the
58 day and release heat during the night; minimizing southern exposure on homes to decrease heat
59 gain during the day; orienting new towns and developments so that southern exposures are
60 minimized;
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 - 62 iii. Temperate Climates: use of insulation and thermal mass to reduce energy usage and improve
63 comfort in buildings;
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 - 65 iv. Polar Climates: use of thick, airtight walls to reduce energy usage and improve interior comfort of
66 buildings. Elongate southern exposure to take advantage of solar heat gain;
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- 68 c. considering applying the designs of passive houses in necessary areas;
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- 70 2. *Encourages*, in line with commitments to the *Sustainable Development Goals*, the creation of the Smart
71 City framework that serves as a toolkit of ecologically responsible best practices, which focuses on the
72 individual needs of urban spaces, level of infrastructure development, and financial resources available
73 through:
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- 75 a. integrating recycling and composting into waste management to convert waste energy to fuel and
76 ensure waste-water;
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 - 78 b. investing in smart power grid solutions that can dynamically respond to fluctuating energy supply and
79 demand through:
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 - 81 i. creating more reliable supply of electricity through state estimation technology, which will
82 allow for error detection and self-healing networks, and the creation of less centralized power
83 grids that are more withstanding against natural disasters and rolling blackouts;
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 - 85 ii. investing in transmission and distribution infrastructure that can transport energy
86 bidirectionally, which will allow the creation of distributed generation systems that could
87 further allow homes and businesses to produce and share electricity, instead of relying
88 entirely on centralized power generators;
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 - 90 iii. implementing smart energy meters, which quickly measures and shares energy use in homes,
91 businesses, and digitally coordinate energy use information with consumers, grid operators,
92 and power generators;
93 - 94 c. applying diverse and local green energy solutions to minimize transportation costs and, at the same
95 time, aim to meet energy demands during peak hours;
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 - 97 d. furthering implementing solar panels and wind turbines to provide power to individual homes and
98 businesses within a distributed generation energy system, in coordination with the smart power grid
99 systems;
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 - 101 e. encouraging investment in sustainable technology that supports individual power generation, which
102 helps serve communities and individuals currently outside of developed power grid systems;
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 - 104 f. promoting public electric charging stations to induce the usage of electrically charged vehicles, which
105 will reduce traffic congestion and transportation time, while improving public safety and reduce
106 pollution;

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- g. establishing and strengthening with diverse partners to seek and secure funding of these Smart Cities, through:
 - h. considering contracting with specialized technological companies that have experiences with partnering with governments in developing Smart Technology Smart Cities;
 - i. strengthening cooperation between developed and developing countries to guide nations with financial challenges in the funding of this initiative, which has previously been accomplished through sponsorships, such as with India and Sweden;
 - j. inviting international investors to invest in Member States national fund for Smart Cities;
3. *Emphasizes* the importance of participation of Member States in contributing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the purpose of funding investments for alternative energy development and to allow for loan interest deferments to avoid a system of dependency in developing Member States;
4. *Encourages* a partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN-Energy for the purpose of expanding the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training (GREET) program to strengthen partnerships and to facilitate the GREET program involvement specifically in areas of development and urbanization by:
- a. focusing regionally and locally on highly populated and urban areas to ensure that the proper allocation of resources are distributed appropriately within Member States;
 - b. providing culturally and politically sensitive assistance to promote the use of alternative energy sources;
 - c. organizing and offering training programs to be specified on different levels, including continuing training for professionals, educators, and technicians;
 - d. developing and implementing energy training curricula that emphasizes urbanized areas both in developing and developed Member States;
5. *Encourages* that all Member States make advantageous use of pre-existing partnerships, which can be applied for funding and increasing the utilization of alternative energy sources already in place, such as the following initiatives already supported by the United Nations:
- a. the Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, which acquires funding from private and public sectors, and allocates it specifically towards the use of sustainable energy for the purpose of:
 - i. mitigating climate change;
 - ii. fostering economic and social development;
 - iii. alleviating and eradicating poverty;
 - iv. increasing the stability of energy access;
 - v. furthering the progress of achieving self-sustaining capacity within energy sectors;
 - b. The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program (REEEP), which invests in clean energy markets through global network of Regional Secretariats and encourages:

- 162 i. the reduction of Carbon Dioxide emissions from Member States to combat climate
163 change through the generation of energy access for all;
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- 165 ii. increased economic opportunities through the development of alternative energy
166 initiatives;
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- 168 iii. the formation of sustainable markets in partnership with local and regional actors;
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- 170 6. *Stresses* the importance of implementing education initiatives within bilateral and trilateral agreements,
171 especially in areas highly dependent on fossil fuels, and focusing on raising awareness of the devastating
172 effects of greenhouse emissions through:
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- 174 a. supporting youth training initiatives, which mentors youth to become environmentally aware, to
175 provide further information of alternative energy sources, and provides youth with training workshops
176 to utilize these sources within their communities, such as The Youth Energy Summit (YES) and The
177 International Student Energy Summit (ISES);
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- 179 b. encouraging Member States to consider integrating education modules established by the Cities and
180 Climate Change Academy into the curricula of universities, emphasizing how climate change is a
181 pressing issue in urban areas;
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- 183 c. collaborating with The Kingdom of Norway and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to create and
184 fund an office within Cities and Climate Change Academy that focuses on educating adolescents on
185 environmental friendly lifestyle practices;
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- 187 7. *Supports* capable Member States to develop incentives domestically to spur investment to encourage
188 alternative energy implementation for community development, such as:
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- 190 a. establishing feed-in tariffs to bring in foreign investment;
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- 192 b. creating tax benefit programs for local and regional communities applying alternate energy solutions;
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- 194 c. instituting import and export trade programs to lock in interest rates and commodity values for
195 alternate energy resources;
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- 197 8. *Decides* to expand the role of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF)
198 to act as a “green-starter,” which would make funding available to States burdened by limited capacities to
199 establish and maintain sustainable development; and, at the same time, would incentivize Nations'
200 renewable energy investments with the intention of establishing long-term alternatives to non-renewable
201 energies, to further implement SDG;
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- 203 9. Further requests the establishment of an UNHHSF sub-committee charged with monitoring and providing
204 comprehensive reports through field studies of implementation and progress made towards Member States'
205 approved sustainable energy development goals through:
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- 207 a. promoting the implementation of alternative resources by granting continued participation in the
208 program and continuing allocation of funds to Member States that effectively utilize previously
209 granted funds;
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- 211 b. conducting scientific research on the impact of climate change as it pertains to Member States and their
212 unique vulnerabilities;
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- 214 c. taking initiatives such as, but not limited to: clean energy infrastructure construction, self-sustaining
215 green energy areas, and grassroots projects, to encourage youth participation in the promotion of
216 sustainable energy;
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- 218 d. organizing a panel of independent experts appointed by the committee for oversight of the above; and,
219 appointing workers, researchers, and managers, to work bilaterally with applicant States;
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- 221 10. *Emphasizes* priority on applications from Member States that are most susceptible to the effects of climate
222 change, but may not have the capacity to respond adequately, by:
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- 224 a. providing an analysis of the State’s current energy resource and urban pollution situations to be
225 reviewed by the UNHHSF sub committee to determine how to address each applicant's current
226 energy needs;
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- 228 b. encouraging Member States to present a ten-year national plan in the application of requested
229 energy assistance from the committee;
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- 231 11. *Endorses* the research of oil-derived polymers to engineer sustainable alternative uses for oil products
232 through:
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- 234 a. the participation with Foreign Direct Investments to assist the funding of research in developing
235 nations;
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- 237 b. taking initiatives to increase to use of oil-based polymers in the construction of new urban settlements
238 and burgeon economic enticement to transition oil-based economies;
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- 240 c. utilizing the Climate Change Technical Support Team to incorporate effective research into alternative
241 oil uses;
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- 243 d. conducting research of using anaerobic digestion in waste water treatment plants to harness energy
244 without the use of fossil fuels;
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- 246 12. *Promotes* the expansion of the Data Distribution Center of the Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change, an
247 international database highlighting global adoptive efforts in mitigating climate change, with
248 responsibilities of:
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- 250 a. conducting and providing statistics on the positive effects of sustainable technology and project, such
251 as the change in carbon dioxide emissions, fossil fuel consumption, budget, etc.;;
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- 253 b. collecting and analyzing data, along with promoting the use of mobile apps, sensors and facial
254 recognition software to make cities safer;
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- 256 13. *Requests* the Slum Upgrading Programme of the UN-Habitat to include reconstructing the infrastructure of
257 slum homes, inline with Sustainable Development Goal 11, to adhere the effects of environmental climate
258 change in Member States affected by high slum populations by:
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- 260 a. incorporating a more stable reconstruction floor plan to the design phase of the program;
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- 262 b. increasing joint collaboration with World Bank and civil society organizations, such as Slum Aid;
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- 264 c. encouraging Member States of greater social and economic progress to invest in the modernization of
265 domestic slums;
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- 267 14. *Suggests* that regional organizations and Member States utilize NGOs such as The Solar Electric Light
268 Fund (SELF) that specializes in the development of specific areas of alternative energy sources including
269 but not limited to:
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- 271 a. solar power;
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- 273 b. hydroelectric power;

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275 c. geothermal power;
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277 d. wind power;
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- 279 15. *Recommends* Member States to form a national expert team of Urban Planning, Construction, and Housing
280 to combat the issue of slums and overcrowding by creating sustainable housing while maintaining cultural
281 and ethnic ties through:
- 282 a. creating new housing units where they are constructed annually over a set period of time;
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284 b. emphasizing and promoting the involvement of local authorities to utilize simple yet effective methods
285 of construction that can be adapted to respective regions using the materials readily available;
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287 c. involving youth in the construction and planning to develop sustainable housing in each region, while
288 encouraging the cooperation with UNESCO’s sustainable urbanization education program to
289 simultaneously educate future generations in urban planning to best suit the continuous growth of each
290 city;
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292 d. respecting differences and preserving the cultural practices in each region by designing housing and
293 urban centers;
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295 e. applying to and using funding provided by the IMF and World Bank to make the initial investment of
296 capital into this project while educating the local community on how to properly manage the financial
297 sustainability of this project over time;
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299 f. collaborating between developed and developing Member States to share lessons learnt and methods in
300 effective budgeting and allocation to support each other to become more self sufficient in sustainable
301 housing initiatives;
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- 304 16. *Recommends* the development of a voluntary fund coordinated through the Youth Advisory Board of UN-
305 HABITAT for the purpose of:
- 306 a. the ideals expressed in the Youth Advisory Board forums can be implemented locally, regionally,
307 nationally, or internationally;
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309 b. encouraging Member States to contribute to this fund in order to allow students the opportunity for
310 direct participation in the alternative energy sector through research programs, community initiatives;
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- 313 17. *Inviting* Member States to provide financial support towards green energy projects and Smart City solutions
314 through means such as, but not limited to:
- 315 a. provide tax incentives to companies who wish to implement green energy in their homes;
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317 b. partnering with civil society organizations to compliment and fund Green Energy and Smart City
318 solutions;
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320 c. issue green bonds to finance renewable energy, which offer longer maturity periods, third-party credit
321 enhancement and more flexible covenants;
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323 d. promoting Social Impact Bonds (SIB) among private bond buyers, which is contingent on social
324 outcomes agreed upon by both the investor and the issuer;
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326 e. promoting energy efficiency loans for individuals who want to upgrade their homes with more energy
327 efficient heating and cooling systems, water recycling equipment, and insulation upgrades.
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