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Documentation of the Work of the General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

Conference A

General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

I. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

II. Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Eradication

III. Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
GA2/1/1	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	94 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 6 abstentions
GA2/1/2	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	53 votes in favor, 45 votes against, 6 abstentions
GA2/1/3	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote
GA2/1/4	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	96 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 4 abstentions
GA2/1/5	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	77 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 12 abstentions
GA2/1/6	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	88 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 12 abstentions
GA2/1/7	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	75 votes in favor, 17 votes against, 12 abstentions
GA2/1/8	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	85 votes in favor, 11 votes against, 8 abstentions
GA2/1/9	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	81 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 8 abstentions

Summary Report

The General Assembly Second Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action
II. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development
III. Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Eradication

The session was attended by representatives of 110 Member States and 1 Observer.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, III, I, beginning discussion on the topic of "The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development."

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 13 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including sustainable agriculture, small business growth, information sharing of best practices, urban infrastructure and transportation, renewable energy, and environmental concerns in urban areas. Appreciating efficiency and the exchange of policy proposals through formal speeches, delegates frequently requested to reduce the speaker's time to allow for more voices to be heard during formal debate. The collaborative spirit of the delegates and the committee as a whole was evident throughout committee sessions, as delegates formed large working groups and merged papers repeatedly.

On Wednesday, nine draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, three of which had amendments. The committee adopted nine resolutions following voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including urban infrastructure, renewable energy, urban planning, and the eradication of slums. The collaborative spirit of the committee emanated throughout formal debate about the role of urbanization in sustainable development, as well as during the resolution-writing process. As the conference progressed, delegates sought out common ground while representing their respective foreign policies, to create frameworks that aimed to reduce the negative impacts of rapid urbanization and emphasize the benefits of a growing urban environment.

Code: GA2/1/1
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," in which it adopted the far-reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Reaffirming especially SDG 7, which is to "ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all," SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, SDG 6 on providing clean water, sanitation, and SDG 11, which is to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,"

Holding in high regard SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and acknowledging the high importance of public transport for this goal,

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 71/1 (2016) on "the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants," which addresses the question of large movements of refugees and migrants in conflict zones of Member and Observer States, and brings forth that urbanization is key to promote and respect human rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/256 (2016) on the "New Urban Agenda" that promotes policies and measures in relation to urbanization for sustainable development and the way human settlements are planned, developed, and managed, and further stresses the importance of SDG 11,

Reaffirming the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development titled *Our Common Future* of 1987, especially in terms of ecosystem conservation,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 69/213 (2014) on the "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development,"

Understanding the different challenges of both developing and developed Member States in terms of demographics, population growth, and economic competition,

Affirming that over the past 25 years, the global urban population has grown from 2.5 billion people in 1990 to just under 4 billion in 2015, which represents an increase from 43% to 54% of the global population,

Emphasizing the importance of proper waste and pollution management practices to preserve both terrestrial and maritime wildlife,

Deeply disturbed by the proximities of urban regions close to oceans affected by pollution, especially by the great garbage patches in all major oceans,

Emphasizing the importance of protecting urban areas from natural disasters that occur with increasing frequency due to climate change,

Fully aware that urbanization should be further investigated through the means of research to ensure future development,

Fully believing that a higher percentage of green spaces in urban areas is beneficial to the environment, the quality of life, and to the urban design,

Examining the progression of urbanization within developing Member States and its overwhelming trend of insufficient long-term and sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for internal economic stimulation in developing and agriculture-based regions,

Affirming the importance of promoting prosperity while protecting the planet through sustainable development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the extensive work already completed on the implementation of safe drinking water in Member States that lack access to the primordial necessity, recognizing this issue as a factor in delaying proper human development,

Acknowledging the special situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and concern for their particular vulnerabilities to climate change, especially rising sea levels and the effects of tropical storms,

Convinced that a human-centered approach is key to uphold social cohesion within urbanized areas, and c*onscious* of the need to improve the access to resources to self-develop and gain employment within formal sectors,

Acknowledging the work of the SDG Funds Private Sector Advisory Group and the key role played by Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in sustainable development, and the impact of the Global Compact Cities Programme in connecting private and public sectors,

Recalling the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015) and the proposals made by this framework, such as disaster resilient building codes and striving to build back better,

Expressing its appreciation of all previous efforts made by the United Nations (UN) Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR),

Acknowledging the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (GIDJY) and their goals, but limited achievements for the greater part of the population working under vulnerable conditions that is estimated, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), approximately to 1.4 billion people,

Taking note of the excellent results of the Green Cities Partnership in the coordination and sharing of best practices in the participating cities, that allowed the restoration and maintenance of urban parks and forests,

Strongly convinced of the inclusive effect of free public transport for vulnerable groups to create higher accessibility to inner cities, and the positive effects of public transport on carbon emissions,

1. *Suggests* the creation of the Global Council Initiative to Counteract Urban Unemployment (GCICUU) through regional offices, which will be composed by specialized members of a national committee formed of UN regional members of each office, and will be overseen by:

    a. The mission of promoting, integrating, and developing the skill-set of each participant, aiming to cut unemployment rates by 20% within the next 10 years through the efficient development of human skills and resources of every participant of this program;

    b. The mandate to global research that seeks to cooperate with analysts of human resources, psychologists, economists, lawyers, and ethnologists in order to determine the most suitable strategies for each region and office without any type of discrimination, the management, for each region, of their own database in order to make further analysis on the efficiency concerning, but not limited to, the ability for the population concerned to have access to the program, the rapidity and quality of their integration into urban cities, and the repercussions on the economy within the sector touched; and the division of the offered program into different categories: administration, construction, social sciences and maintenance, this program will offer specialized formation in order to exploit the abilities and knowledge of the participant selected by the committee to efficiently use their man force;

c. The coordination of offices based in the main regions, such as North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Oceania, and Africa, these offices will be situated according to regional consensus depending on the needs and density of their population;

d. The support of the SDG Fund, as it is an initiative with horizontal cooperation acting like a vehicle to share knowledge, facilitate policies and actions on regional base offices, and through PPPs, companies and governments must make a vital contribution to encourage the promotion and integration of individual skills;

2. *Endorses* the protection of agriculture and rural areas in agriculture-dependent Member States by:

a. Calling upon local governments and municipalities to utilize agricultural zoning policies and to establish regulations for safeguarding the existence and prosperity of such areas;

b. Encouraging the creation and maintenance of job opportunities in agricultural and rural areas to avoid the forceful infringement of populations and the creation of slums in or near-urban areas;

3. *Recommends* a sustainable and long-term commitment to urban development in order to make a lasting and beneficial impact on citizens by:

a. Reducing the economic disparity between the rural and urbanized citizens of Member States through strengthened collaboration between different sectors to the best capacity of Member States;

b. Suggesting policies and programs that strengthen opportunities for both citizens and their respective governments;

4. *Further recommends* Member States to promote a collaborative environment between the national governments, local authorities, and communities to safeguard the interests and needs of both the urban poor and unemployed by:

a. Establishing fair and free elections for community-based leaders to serve as coordinators and spokespeople between the urbanized areas and the rural sectors;

b. Recognizing the legitimacy of the jobs found within the informal sector of the economy performed by the urban poor;

5. *Expresses its hope* that affordable and clean energy sources will help pave the way towards sustainable self-sufficient cities of the future, through:

a. Requesting cooperation amongst Member States to share technological advancements that make clean energy more accessible for all;

b. Encouraging multilateral work programs for engineers to gain invaluable experience in different circumstances;

c. Supporting the use of sustainable and clean energy as a means of economic and job growth;

6. *Encourages* the utilization and implementation of renewable energy sources in developed and developing Member States and achieving more sustainable cities by using local sources of renewable energy such as sources of wind, solar, and hydro energy, through:

a. Sharing of common practices to manage the sustainable practices such as public concerns, noise impacts, aesthetic impacts, and technical support about wind generation;

b. The encouragement for more research to improve accessibility of resources and gather critical information under the case of case studies to evaluate potential impacts of wind turbines;

c. Member States utilizing funding directly toward the renewable energy their environment is best suited for;

d. Granting directed to environmentally sustainable urban development to be allocated from the International Development Association (IDA) through the World Bank and regional Development Banks for specific projects proposed by Member States for sustainable cities by:

i. Recommending individual Member States to apply for aid from the IDA for their localized renewable energy source their environment requires;
ii. Requesting the IDA set aside 5% of their allocations already pledged for renewable energy go directly to the implementation and education for windmills;

e. An increase of funding for sustainable urban development programs in developing Member States by extending the progress already achieved by the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to build public transportation systems, highly focused on electrification of traffic, to promote environmental sustainability and create equitable transportation systems within Member States, by:

a. The encouragement for Member States to promote citizen participation in order to increase ownership and awareness of sustainable practices and sustainable initiatives through means such as, but not limited to public information campaigns and public consultation;

b. The development of lanes strictly reserved for bikes, buses, or carpooling separately, to further alleviate high-traffic zones;

c. Increased emphasis on implementation of electrical infrastructure for eco-friendly vehicles by:

i. Intensifying knowledge exchange between cities in developing and developed Member States utilizing the Panel of the Green Cities Partnership for the cooperation of mainstream environmental perspectives into urban policy-making, and incorporate urban perspectives into environmental policy-making;
ii. The provision of subsidies and incentives for the use of electric vehicles, including free access to recharging points in public car parks;

d. The promotion of age- and gender-responsive investment for sustainable public transport systems, which would make means of transportation equitable and affordable for everyone, especially to vulnerable groups including refugees, migrants, the disabled, youth, the elderly, and the poor;

e. The consideration of financial cooperation between the public and the private sector in the form of PPPs;

8. *Encourages* all Member States to scale up funding and promote suited cities to become part of the Green Cities Partnership and the Global Compact Cities Programme, in order to collaborate and share best examples for improving the ratio of green spaces among diverse cities, share approaches to policies devoted to environmental sustainability in urban areas, provide a platform for knowledge exchange for best practices in the fields of sustainable urban governance, promote the maintenance and advancement of green, natural spaces in urban areas in general, enhance the amount of carbon sequestration and storm water retention, increase the cooperation between the private and the public sector utilizing the expertise and the forum of the Global Compact Cities Programme;

9. *Draws attention* on the need to ensure transparency within each individual and collaborative measures of participating Member States, through:

a. The creation of a dialogue between Member States such as, but not limited to conferences, seminars, or forums on emerging individual issues faced in the efforts towards green cities;

b. Requesting the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to adhere to the current transparency and expand upon their annual reports to include matters discussed;

c. Encouraging all Member States to establish Local, National, and Regional Urban Observatories in line with the UN Urban Observatories Program, that:

i. Collect and disseminate data on the key indicators on sustainable urban development laid out in the Urban Indicators Guidelines;
ii. Are in charge of monitoring the progress made on the goals laid out in the *New Urban Agenda*;
iii. Serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices on urban policies;

10. *Encourages* developed Member States to increase direct contributions to national programs of developing Member States in accordance with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and put emphasis on an open dialogue on disaster risk reduction through:

a. Increased individual Member States' funding for research in and increased international research collaboration between universities, private research institutes, and other institutions on the topic of early warning systems for natural disasters, so that the International Early Warning Programme (IEWP) will benefit from technological advances achieved;

b. The establishment of internationally-agreed guidelines for disaster-resilient building and rebuilding measures after catastrophes;

11. *Encourages* Member States to reduce pollution and waste production by industry and households through:

a. The regulation of industrial carbon-dioxide emissions through national or regional frameworks respecting the sovereignty of all Member States;

b. The creation of guidelines for effective waste management systems that transform it into sustainable energy sources as electricity to minimize the pollution on earth, rivers, and oceans, and protect their respective wildlife;

c. The minimization of the use of microplastics, that cannot be taken care of with conventional wastewater treatment;

d. The elimination of single use lightweight plastic bags until 2025, by encouraging the use of environmentally friendly materials;

e. The implementation of deposit systems for plastic and glass bottles, that reward recycling contributions;

f. Exchange technologies between developed and developing Member States to endorse the production of electricity and heating as an example of it from waste;

12. *Recommends* the development of an international strategy for environmental sustainability in the water sector, to increase water resources in order to meet efficient use of the resources and prevent the waste by:

a. Declaring 1% of funding already provided through individual and business taxes to be allocated directly toward education for prevention;

b. Encouraging Member States affected by this issue to utilize the extensive funding already provided, and working with experts to implement the proper systems in these fragile environments;

c. The implementation of contaminated and unclean water collectors in urban areas that have the capacity to transform it into clean and safe drinking water, as well as the establishment of effective distribution of potable water systems;

13. *Strongly encourages* the implementation of fair trade practices in agriculture-based and developing Member States through the mutual cooperation of private and independent businesses, alongside consumers and local governments, to:

    a. Facilitate the reciprocal economic support of both agricultural and urban industries concurrently in order to support the growth and development of urbanization, while protecting rural and agricultural areas;

    b. Foster the stimulation of the economy from within developing and agriculture-based Member States;

    c. Bridge sustainable development and economic innovation with the already existing framework within these Member States;

    d. Limit intermediary interference in order to maintain the sustainability of fair trade as a long-term strategy between both the agricultural, rural and urban sectors of these societies.

Code: GA2/1/2
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," underlining the importance of integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries,

Stressing the importance of enhancing efforts to improve the sustainability of developing nations,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 67/216 (2013), implementing the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), guided by the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* of 2015, which focuses on investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience,

Endorsing the creation of a comprehensive multilateral digital platform to exchange information about developing cities,

Appreciating already existing information regarding urban planning practices to prioritize the implementation of the database, while at the same time increasing coordination to identify developing nations that suffer with lack of urbanization,

Acknowledging the importance of the Participatory Slum Upgrade Programme (PSUP) to bring prominence to other developing countries, thus further cooperation measures could bring more prosperous result for a more stable, just, and unified future,

Affirming the commitments reached on the *Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All* adopted in Ecuador in 2016, in which the *New Urban Agenda* was settled and then adopted by General Assembly resolution 71/256 (2016),

Guided by General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015) regarding the adoption of the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* to plan the financial framework aiming at the alleviation of rural/urban inequalities with Food Tank's initiative of "farm to market and market to farm" supported by national transport plans,

Reaffirming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which pursue a "quiet revolution" where sustainable and inclusive urbanization can be a catalyzer for rural areas, through a beneficial mutual cooperation of rural and urban areas,

Recognizing the PSUP, which ensures the support of major slum areas to reach sustainable housing and the exposition of Shanghai in 2010 of the program "Education for Sustainable Urbanization Development," leading to the "Building Sustainable, Inclusive, and Creative Cities" framework created by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in order to reduce slums and to aim for ecological prosperity,

Emphasizing the Commitments and Policy Recommendations of the Global Transport Conference as the most effective way to connect people to communities, jobs, schools, and healthcare,

Emphasizing the message of Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) dealing with the consequences of rapid growth of urbanization, which sets at risk the right of adequate housing,

Concerned with rural areas living in poverty due to the lack of employment rate and market integration, associated with urban elements, thus directly affecting urban areas both economically and socially,

Deeply convinced of the importance of SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequality, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 17 on Partnership for the Goals,

Stressing the importance of housing development and its role as an important measure in fast-paced and sustainable urbanization aimed by the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Sustainable Urbanization Strategy,

Further recalling the efforts of UN-Habitat in developing a comprehensive monitoring framework based on Local, National, Regional and Global Urban Observatories, and the City Prosperity Initiative,

Emphasizing the significance to increase the role of tourism used as an export industry making cities more aware of the monetary, social, and cultural value of promoting tourism, thus urban tourism can bring cities a variety of employment opportunities reducing the vulnerability of the poor,

1. *Encourages* the cooperation of national governments with local and international organizations to implement the framework of adequate housing, by strengthening regional networks as a fundamental policy through:

    a. Governmental projects expanding welfare in a more balanced way by reducing regional development disparities;

    b. Increasing the ratio of municipal population provided with wastewater services to 80% and the ratio of municipal population with sanitary services to 85%, aiding social housing projects toward the low- and middle-income groups taking into account the characteristics of cities and environmental conditions;

    c. Aiding social housing projects toward the low- and middle-income groups taking into account the characteristics of cities and environmental conditions;

    d. Deepening the monitoring framework for sustainable urbanization by strengthening Regional Observatories for Housing and Urban Development (RUOs), serving as essential link between Global and National Urban Observatories by:

        i. Further harmonizing the agreed set of indicators concerning sustainable urban development;
        ii. Ensuring the RUOs to be in line with the measurement principles of UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative;
        iii. Geographically restructuring the bodies to establish RUOs for each of the following regions: North America, South America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania;

2. *Requests* Member States to enforce stronger urban-rural linkages to include more efficient land use and planning, realize a better management of resources, have better benefits in line with the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA), in order to:

    a. Improve the transportation routes, by making them more secure and capable, with the initiative "farm to market and market to farm" supported by national transport plans providing benefits to local and regional farmers and the broader community through fostering connections between students, teachers, parents, farmers, and policymakers in activities that support health, nutrition, agriculture, and local economies;

    b. Develop an efficient regional food system based on the cultivation, conservation, productiveness, distribution;

    c. Narrow the income gap between rural and urban areas through social welfare policies with insurance programs to end the rural tax burdens;

3. *Strongly suggests* financial collaboration of national governments with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) by using the exponential food demand of urban development, in order to promote incomes of the rural poor through:

a. Developing extensive and refrigerated transportation in order to increase the product's value of small farmers;

b. Emphasizing the promotion of interaction between cities and rural localities by generating employment for rural residents, creating opportunities to market agricultural products in urban areas;

4. *Recommends* the coordination of the public-private partnership (PPP) in order to generate more benefits with the cooperation of UNDP and UN-Habitat, which may offer a toolkit as a contribution to work on sustainable capacities in local governments, businesses, and communities, and improve service delivery to the poor, as well as a flexible portfolio of demand-driven services based on a strong partner network and results at the country level, including:

a. The improvement of the lack in the efficiency of basic services such as clean water, waste management, efficient transport and energy, and health, with the project "Cooperation 4 All," supported by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), promoting forums composed by companies that want to invest and being important stakeholders;

b. The increase of the land value to boost the economy by applying the "Cooperation 4 All" project and supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to show in a transparent way the information of the land use, with the aim of attracting the attention of the private sector and investing in lands covers;

5. *Proposes* the expansion of the PSUP in other Member States of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group of states, and the European Commission (EC), which may benefit from:

a. The reduction of impoverished slum areas;

b. The possibilities of partnerships;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to share national and local experiences in order to strengthen the capacity of other Member States to improve housing and landscape initiatives, to aid sustainable urbanization through:

a. Providing urban and sustainable development experts with domestic experience with the issues;

b. Establishing a database for development knowledge-sharing on mutually-agreed terms established by the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU), serving as a platform to share knowledge and data, discuss the latest developments and form collaborations for further research, and ensuring transparent, easy access for all interested governments to either share or receive expertise;

c. Sending experts into less developed countries to support governments in providing sufficient housing;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to reduce the existing inequality between neighboring cities and rural areas through the development of a project that manages the new relationship between rural areas and cities, improving local governments, called the Virtuous Circle, as suggested by the *New Urban Agenda*, through:

a. Coordination between central and local governments, while considering partnerships with the private sector and the civil society;

b. Providing technical experience to implement green technology in rural areas to overcome the gap between cities and rural areas by strengthening sustainable agriculture, considering this as a positive influence to countries' growth capacity;

c. Promoting the protection of native flora and fauna in cities and rural areas, which reduce the environmental impact generated through reducing the carbon footprint of global urban areas;

8. *Strongly suggests* Member States to use of gentrification politics in order to promote the displacement of unprivileged families in certain neighborhoods high-classed, through social housing programs accessible for these individuals:

    a. Promoting social mix through urban renovation and inter-communal cooperation;

    b. Conciliating maintenance of popular population in these specific quarters and improve the attractiveness and the value of these real estates using the National Agency of Urban Renovation (NAUR);

    c. Encouraging the rural area exodus to move in these neighborhoods, in order to reduce the gap between urban and rural zones through more accessibility to job opportunities, healthcare, and education;

    d. Taking advantage of these habitat ameliorations through gentrification politics to promote an eco-quarter ensuring ecological prosperity and environment protection, by implementing car-free, transportation in common, recycling-inclusive policies and eco-housing called "passive houses;"

9. *Encourages* all Member States to work in collaboration with foundations and NGOs as well as promoting their participation in the existing programs provided by the UN system to improve leadership workshops, not only in cities but also in rural areas approaching this issues;

10. *Emphasizes* the benefits that technology can have on effective and efficient energy use in urbanization and therefore highlighting the importance of:

    a. The reduction of thorough personal and public transport caused air pollution by introducing traffic flow monitoring and analyzing sensors, enabling an analysis and thus management of rush hour and low traffic times resulting in a smooth and thus resource-efficient traffic regulation, thus contributing to a more efficient transport system as well as increased living quality within cities;

    b. Best development practices in the context of energy efficient construction procedures/methods to promote energy conserving buildings for country specific conditions and capacities, in terms of available resources to achieve an overall energy-conserving construction approach, such as the introduction of ray-driven heating systems instead of fossil energy use;

11. *Recommends* Member States the introduction of a platform for international knowledge transfer in terms of technological, agricultural, and ethnic urban planning practices by:

    a. Looking for funding and operation through the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

    b. Fostering the exchange of experience and hence identified best practices among the international community, regardless of their development state, but rather the achieved success regarding a specific topic mainly aiming at the spread of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to overcome the digital divide;

    c. Pointing to the subsequent introduction of basic ICTs to less developed countries by drawing on the experience of countries who achieved relevant success as seen in the accomplishment of the Asian Member States in terms of the economic adoption of mobile telecommunication technology;

    d. Conducting research on ethnic separation phenomena in developed countries to identify key factors inducing separation and gentrification, drawing on the knowledge of concerned countries to avoid similar future situations in less developed countries, and ensure an ethnically inclusive urban development, minimizing tensions among varying ethnic backgrounds;

    e. Following the action of UN bodies such as UNDP, UNCTAD, and the World Food Programme to research on the topics of proof of concept and scale up, as well as publications and investments

regarding the implementation of the block chain technology (institutions or private sector initiative should be urged), aiming to:

i. Create an entirely transparent, decentralized and safe platform for international cooperation in terms of an international knowledge transfer, monetary aid, and publicly accessible services;
ii. Enhance the initiatives of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on transferring financial value related to humanitarian issues, including donor financing, securing/monitoring supply chains and data protection;
iii. Bring together people from diverse sectors to foster new partnerships, encourage technical collaboration, and explore traditional funding sources;

12. *Suggests* Member States to use the incomes made through tourism to improve the urbanization in local communities, by receiving finance by tourists with their visits in the sense of eco-tourism, supported by private partners, donor agencies, international touristic agencies, and global partnerships, such as the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development, among others.

Code: GA2/1/3
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) Urban Open Data, which aims to compile data on urban indicators, which also warns that two-thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas by 2050,

Emphasizing the importance of the *New Urban Agenda* (2016), specifically Article 141 that promotes urban and territorial transport infrastructure and service funds based on a variety of funding sources,

Acknowledging the importance of private sector partnership development, which is of vital importance to deal with the problems, such as unemployment within urban slums, and following the guide of the World Bank Group's *Private Sector Development Strategy*,

Keeping in mind the importance of the General Assembly resolution 69/266 (2015), which endorses a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development, encouraged Member States to participate in geodetic data, standards, and convention, allowing for multilateral cooperation to facilitate disaster risk reduction,

Recognizing the Australian Government's initiative, the National Infrastructure Construction Schedule (NICS), in the efforts of creating a domestic information sharing system outlining all current and upcoming infrastructure projects on one comprehensive website,

Deeply disturbed by the urban population of more than nearly one billion living in slums, which affects livelihoods of people, such as employment, income, training, and human capital,

Concerned by the limited capacity of Member States in both funding and expertise to plan and manage cities due to the expected cost of $ 41 trillion in developing sustainable cities,

Aware of the importance of collecting constructive criticism from the community of Member States and strengthening the conversation between the individuals that need assistance to improve current plans to fit emerging needs,

Reaffirming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), with special emphasis upon Goals 8, 9, and 11, which detail economic growth, importance of innovation in infrastructure, and sustainable cities,

Reinforcing the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, including environmental business models and respecting the rights of workers,

Deeply conscious of the work done by the international community over the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015), in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization through the collaborative work of the international community,

Highlighting the importance of the *New Urban Agenda,* as stated released by the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016, to enable equal opportunities for development for all regions of the world,

Remembering the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), which details the basic and eternally fundamental rights that should be available to all members of the human family,

Bearing in mind the need for cooperation across sectors, the various fields involved in the area of urbanization, to ensure beneficial outcomes for growing urban populations,

Aware that the process of urbanization will lead to an increase of urban population by 2030 to up to 60% of the current global population,

Deeply alarmed by ongoing security issues all over the world, resulting in the destruction of lesser-populated areas and forcing their former inhabitants into the relative safety of urban areas in the process of internal displacement, thereby accelerating urbanization even further,

Noting with concern that one in seven people around the world live in extreme poverty, which is defined as living on less than $1.25 a day,

Having considered the role of local businesses in providing employment to grant the same possibilities to all urban and non-urban residents, in order to sustain an existence in line with Article 22 of UDHR on the economic, social, and cultural right of each human based on one's dignity and social security,

1. *Recommends* the establishment of a more extensive scope on the purpose of the UN-Habitat Open Urban Data initiative, through:

    a. The addition of an Urban Issue Report Depository (UIRD) for developed and developing Member States that will allow for the consolidation of urbanization issues through:

        i. Participation of international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local government units in data gathering through field work;
        ii. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping Technology that will allow UN-Habitat to classify high-priority areas;
        iii. Assistance of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in facilitating universal data collection standards;

    b. The establishment of an Urban Project Development Platform aligned with *the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015) for Member States in need of spatial development planning through research and development based on the data analysis of the Urban Issue Report Depository (UIRD), through cooperation of urban planning experts with the assistance of UN-Habitat and collaboration of international organizations, NGOs, and local government units, to commit resources to the development of urban planning strategies for better city space efficiency;

2. *Encourages* Member States to examine urban cities on a micro, mezzo, and macro level with the assistance of respective national governments:

    a. To ensure cooperation of Member States officials from national, regional, and municipal levels;

    b. To share macro level reports to be uploaded on the database and with the international community in order to further analyze the issues;

    c. To assist Member States and NGOs for financial or strategic with issues on micro, mezzo, and macro levels;

3. *Recommends* the establishment of strong connections and communications between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and civil society through:

    a. Partnerships between organizations that provide assistance to IDPs and organizations within industries that provide adequate housing to those in need;

b. Awareness and dialogue for communication on sustainable living through conversations with the public such as technical events, training and education programs, public events, outreach campaigns and university to gather students, urban thinkers, scientists, public representatives, and companies;

4. *Calls upon* other Member States to implement the platform of information accountability and transparency between stakeholders through:

    a. A website that will provide quarterly information on all projects across country jurisdictions and governments of Member States;

    b. Contractors, investors, and governments uploading all information related to the infrastructure projects, such as purpose, project, plan, budget, schedule, and status of work/completion;

5. *Notes* that urbanization can be the result of people moving into urban city centers in search of greater work opportunities, and it is therefore important to provide for responsible sustainability standards to aid Member States in streamlining:

    a. Employment standards in relation to small businesses by:

        i. Employing a local workforce;
        ii. Sustaining local culture through promotion of workplace communities;
        iii. Eliminating discriminatory hiring practices in relation to race, gender, or religion;
        iv. Encouraging gender equality within wages in all Member States;
        v. Paying a livable wage in the sense of Article 23 of the UDHR to ensure an existence worthy of human dignity;

    b. The need for progressive environmental standards, by the use of these measures:

        i. Maximizing the use of renewable energy sources and minimizing the carbon footprint;
        ii. Providing for the infrastructure for effective waste management;
        iii. Encouraging the promotion of educational measures in order to educate citizens on effective and sustainable use of pre-existing infrastructure;
        iv. Utilizing renewable resources in local businesses within their production process;

6. *Recommends* the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to create a website, catering to the consumers as the main force in the market, to inform the public about sustainable business, as urban areas are increasingly convoluted due to higher competition and business density, in order to facilitate a starting point for the research on sustainable business practices, factoring in the sustainability standards, being headed by a UNDP board of officers, corresponding with UN field offices, funded and maintained by UNDP, which provides the following measures:

    a. Providing information about whether a business is adhering to the sustainability standards and where a business has potential to improve;

    b. Monitoring the progress of local sustainable businesses for the benefit of investors, the businesses, and the general public, by involving the public in the evaluation of businesses through a rating system on the site;

7. *Encourages* Member States to support local entrepreneurs and the creation of sustainable local enterprises to promote sustainable growth in urban areas by:

    a. The integration of the following standards in the regional frameworks in place;

    b. The use of a regional framework for urban and non-urban areas and promoting sustainable urban and non-urban growth for sustainable businesses to include and facilitate the following, especially during the process of urbanization:

i. Reliable urban economic infrastructures that are inclusive of all forms of business, both independently-owned and large-scale corporations;
ii. Long-term investments in local and sustainable businesses without unfavorable conditions, including the implementation of systems that enhance investment and collateral initiatives;
iii. Sustainable local business standards as defined by regional actors, laborers, and governmental forces;

c. Increasing feasibility of entrepreneurial ventures and strengthening those ventures abilities to participate in trade by waving or reducing licensing fees, and urging Member States to facilitate investment in the creation and maintenance of sustainable businesses through tax incentives for sustainable and independent businesses;

d. Monitoring and communicating with private companies to avoid compliance issues to the contractual agreement for spatial development;

e. Encouraging the cooperation of local and regional governments in the implementation of tax incentives for sustainable and independent businesses;

f. Calling upon sustainable investment NGOs such as Care International and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to continue work in investing in sustainable businesses to ensure successful businesses interactions for the future;

8. *Calls upon* the cooperation of NGOs, such as the Development Innovations Group, and regional urban municipalities, to aid in the creation of technological and business hubs within urban areas to ensure citizens have access to employment databases and data-sharing technology by:

a. Working within these technological hubs to build access for small business agglomerations within urban areas to promote the circulation of information;

b. Continuing the cooperation with local educational institutions to encourage knowledge spillover and promote the growth of active labor pools for small businesses in agglomerated areas to:

i. Encourage the cooperation of educational systems to providing education to newly urbanized and low-income marginalized populations to educate a sustainable workforce;
ii. Specifically encourage educational systems to aid in the further education of women, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups;

c. Suggesting governments and businesses to strengthen partnerships and share information and technology to ensure business prosperity;

9. *Encourages* the cooperation of developed and developing Member States in the execution of training technical and urban planning experts by:

a. Promoting international exchanges and cooperation in urban planning study programs;

b. Requesting international organizations to set up citizen training programs to empower citizens with basic working skills;

c. Utilizing the database to identify the areas where skill training projects should be deployed immediately to maximize the implementation of spatial development plans;

10. *Further encourages* stakeholders to strengthen the cooperation and information exchange between non-urban and urban areas to establish additional opportunities to citizens in partnership with UNDP:

a. Provide recreation possibilities and qualitative living space for urban cities:

i. Develop non-urban tourism and other alternative types of trade using non-urban farmsteads as holiday and summer houses;
ii. Establish possibilities for marketing of agricultural and forestry production;

b. Promote equal and wider availability of educational opportunities through initiatives such as, but not limited to:

i. Utilization of educational technology and arts programs for children and teenagers similar to the Armenian Tumo Center for Creative Technologies for the youth on a global level;
ii. Promotion of gender equality in learning environments with the aid of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

c. Develop inter and intra city and non-urban area transportation, well-functioning public transportation in overcrowded urban areas:

i. Increase public transport capacity through public-private partnership;
ii. Construct reusable transportations, which are fueled by green energy in order to encourage low cost rides;

11. *Underlines* the importance of developing the primary sector, such as locally-owned businesses, and public transportation, so as to reduce as much as possible the differences of populations and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita between urban and non-urban areas:

a. Promoting railways and freeways could be upgraded through an international collaboration, as well as the investments of developed Member States;

b. Reaffirming the importance of the primary sector as an incentive and a better sector for the ecological and sustainable development of non-urban areas;

c. Welcoming collaboration among any willing and able Member State to send the technical staff in order to provide programs and cooperate with the local population to effectively and efficiently operate locally-owned businesses;

12. *Encourages* cooperation for the proposed measures towards achieving sustainability in urbanization:

a. Promotion of financial and operational stability in spatial development data-gathering via UIRD, and planning from the assistance of stakeholders, such as, but not limited to:

i. International Monetary Fund;
ii. World Bank;
iii. Voluntary contributions from Member States;

b. Cooperation of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the Grameen Bank, along with NGOs, such as KIVA and Positive Planet, to expedite applications for the financing of sustainable urban small businesses and business infrastructure to achieve sustainable urban growth:

i. Hoping that microcredit loans will ensure that the fight against poverty will lead to increased creation of small businesses;
ii. Welcoming preexisting international frameworks, such as the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (GCAP) from the World Bank, that provide microfinance tools, microcredits, and microloans for economic development, for the purposes of attracting private investment;
iii. Emphasizing the establishment of subsidies and tax benefits for businesses located in urban and urbanizing areas for more than five years to generate an economic growth.

Code: GA2/1/4
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 (2012), which reaffirms the global community's commitment to sustainable development,

Further recalling the importance of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) in promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication, and *reaffirming* the need to continue working towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),

Highlighting the outcome of the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) *Strategic Plan 2014-2019*, outlining seven key areas of urban development focused on urban legislation, land and governance, urban planning and design, urban economy, and urban basic services,

Fully aware of the rising negative externalities, such as congestions, pollution, and social disaggregation from the global rapid rate of urbanization is largely due to the absence of urban planning strategies, framework, and coordination,

Acknowledging the efforts made by the 2016 UN Development Programme (UNDP) report *on Sustainable Urbanization Strategy* to formulate a criterion for urban evaluation, however, still lacking the standardization for assessment, evaluation, and recommendation for urban planning for individual urban centers,

Reaffirming the *Buenos Aires Plan for Action* (BAPA) of 1978, which was the first major blueprint of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) to facilitate technical skills and knowledge of housing and urban infrastructure development, in order to strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries via the sharing of information,

Further reaffirming Member States and observers' commitment to the *New Urban Agenda* (2016), specifically promoting measures to support cleaner cities,

Deeply conscious about environmental issues and the lack of information and use of public transportation, especially in urban areas, and the impediments that arise from this issue,

Appreciating the cooperative information exchange programs established by the Global Network of Urban Planning and Design Labs, and specifically its focus on the facilitation of relevant knowledge and the mobilization of necessary resources,

Expressing its concern over unilateral quota policies imposed by certain Member States regarding land use in fast growing urban areas,

Recognizing the importance of making relevant, localized data on urban development widely available,

1. *Recognizes* the correlation between collaborative information sharing and sustainable urbanization;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote multilevel and multilateral transparency and information sharing between regional, national, and local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector organizations, and international governmental bodies, in order to foster proper urbanization standards across all members;

3. *Strongly* encourages UN-Habitat to create a digital United Nations Library on Urban Development (UNLUD) under the supervision of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) acting as an updated, centralized catalogue on the best practices in terms of urban development, and organized into specific sections dedicated to the following regions: North America, Central America, South America, Northern Africa, Central and Southern Africa, Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia, Northern and Central Asia, Oceania;

4. *Requests* that the UNLUD be made accessible for national and local governments as well as research institutions;

5. *Recognizes* the significance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in building a green and sustainable path towards urbanization and in promoting information sharing between developing Member States by:

    a. Working together with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, and developing Member States to complement capacity building and cooperation;

    b. Encouraging the creation of workshops on the national and local level to promote SSTCs;

6. *Strongly encourages* UN-Habitat to invite international panels of experts such as the Urban Planning and Design Lab to submit a report to be presented to the General Assembly every third annual session, as follows:

    a. The report is to contain a section dedicated to each of the regions recognized by UNLUD;

    b. The report is to explore the most efficient and updated practices in the field of urban development, including but not limited to: Energy and water efficiency, Expansion of road and other transport infrastructures, Housing and city planning, Central Business District development, Waste management, Pollution levels;

    c. The report is to explore the current levels of implementation of the objectives set out by the *New Urban Agenda* in each of the regions recognized by UNLUD;

7. *Encourages* local and national authorities to submit their own respective reports to UNLUD in order to provide more detailed and accurate data for third parties and prospective investors;

8. *Supports* preparations for a new Strategic Plan for UN-Habitat, as a continuation of the *Strategic Plan 2014-19*, based on the recommendation of the Mid-term Evaluation to:

    a. Focus on the remaining three urban development objectives of:

        i. Housing and Slum Upgrading;
        ii. Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation;
        iii. Research and Capacity Development;

    b. Develop transformative indicators that can reflect the transformational results achieved from the Strategic Plan;

    c. Orient the New Strategic Plan around the *New Urban Agenda* and SDG 11;

9. *Encourages* Member States to further explore the possibilities offered by quota systems in fast growing urban areas by concentrating on existing Member States' policies and improving their efficiency;

10. *Further recommends* UN-Habitat to make a series of UN standardized urban assessments and recommendations, referred to as the United Nations Urban Development Assessment and Planning Recommendation (UNUDAPR), to:

a. Assess the current local urban development situation of individual urban centers, which include, but are not limited to: transportation and traffic, housing, pollution and environmental impacts, infrastructure;

b. Standardize urban situation assessments and recommendations amongst Member States, enabling easier cooperation and support amongst parties;

c. Facilitate cooperation between the local government of the assessed urban center and UN-Habitat regarding the UNUDAPR process, by holding joint local authority and UN-Habitat evaluator update meetings;

d. Invite third-party voluntary experts to participate in the UN-Habitat UNUDAPR processes, to provide insights for unique urban situations, including urban governments of different areas or states, urban development NGOs, and international urban planning experts;

e. Perform assessments issued upon the request of a local government in a specific urban area.

Code: GA2/1/5
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

In accordance with the *New Urban Agenda* (2016),

Guided by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 11, 12, 13, and 14, which act as the guiding core principles of all United Nations (UN) activities,

Recognizing the important role that successful agriculture programs, such as the Association for Vertical Farming, and Aerofarms, as well as techniques such as controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), in order to assist in forming an environment that creates effective and sustainable development through the process of urbanization,

Deeply concerned over the effects of climate change on agricultural land, resulting in less productive farming seasons,

Keeping in mind that sustainable agriculture uses techniques and technologies that contributes to reducing water consumption and carbon emissions, which in the process protects human beings and environment health, while also improving living conditions in urban areas,

1. *Recommends* the implementation of CEA techniques and systems, such as those developed and advanced by leading agricultural and genetic universities, leading to advances in self-sufficient development through:

    a. Increasing efficiency by:

        i. Reducing the land area required for agriculture;
        ii. Increasing crop yield;

    b. Creating an environment that encourages cities to produce their own food, for the purpose of serving as a foundational element to support rising urban populations as the global urban population increases, as stated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) to increase production needs by about 50%;

2. *Urges* all Member States to consider vertical farming as a chance to fight the negative impact of climate change, by using modernized agricultural practices, including but not limited to CEA, for the purpose of achieving more effective harvests that benefit urban centers long-term, while also reducing greenhouse emissions via:

    a. The promotion of controlled water systems that limits exposure to evaporation and contamination, by utilizing hydroponic and aquaponics systems in order to ensure water sustainability;

    b. The reduction in shipping distances and requirements in order to reduce gas emissions, for the purpose of reducing greenhouse emissions and improve air quality in urban areas in order to combat climate change;

    c. The reduction of waste resulting from transportation of agriculture products, which is crucial for all Member States with accessibility to the world's oceans, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

3. *Supports* all Member States implementing CEA practices, which will secure the supply of agricultural goods for urban areas in times of natural catastrophes and during unstable weather conditions;

4. *Invites* all Member States interested in implementing CEA to refer to the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, as they are willing to share their knowledge and experience, additionally extends an invitation to visit the Expo 2020 in Dubai, which will offer more in-depth information in this regard;

5. *Encourages* Member States to further advance the *Paris Agreement* (2016), by means of promoting the usage of sustainable agriculture for the purpose of stabilizing this sector of the economy, that serves as the foundation of many Member States, while contributing to global food and nutrition security for cities' population, while enhancing human health and life longevity, and safeguarding natural resources based upon which agriculture depends;

6. *Suggests* that donor and recipient nations work within the relationships built and strengthened by the *Accra Agenda for Action* (AAA) (2008), and the *Nairobi Outcome Document* to best administer aid, for the purpose of building and training citizens to work in facilities that best serve the specific situations presented to developing nations, to ensure that no one is left behind;

7. *Supports* economic growth of Member States and their attempts to better foster:

    a. Construction and servicing jobs in more developed nations that opt to implement larger or more complex structures in urban areas that will lead to further urbanization;

    b. Opportunities to increase farming efficiency and availability in less developed nations that do not have as strong of a focus on urbanization;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of technological and financial help needed for countries that cannot support agricultural projects on their own, by means of utilizing resources, such as, but not limited to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the World Bank;

9. *Stresses* that all Member States with vulnerable coastal cities utilize vertical farming as a way of securing the supply of agricultural goods for their inhabitants, as contained crops are weather resilient.

Code: GA2/1/6
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Emphasizing the purposes and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945),

Affirming that over the past 25 years, the global urban population has grown from just over 2.5 billion people in 1990 to just under 4 billion in 2015, which represents an increase from 43% to 54% of the global population,

Emphasizing the importance of including vulnerable communities in economic opportunities created by urbanization, to promote improved economic mobility and greater inclusiveness, regardless of economic, religious, ethnic, or gender status,

Alarmed by the raising CO2 emissions produced by cities, along with the high level of greenhouse gases and, moreover, current urgent state of global climate change and its effects on the creation of well-planned urbanization,

Alarmed by the 1.3 billion tons of waste reported in the *Municipal Report on Solid Waste* by the Department of Technology and Society,

Recognizing the human right to water and sanitation as established through General Assembly resolution 69/213 of 2014 on the "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development,"

Believing that the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent opportunities to alleviate poverty, hunger, and empower populations while respecting the environment,

Reaffirming the *Habitat Agenda: Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements* (1996) in promoting cooperation to improve the living conditions in cities, towns, and villages throughout the globe, especially in developing states, by engaging in information and technology sharing,

Guided by the United Nations (UN) Conference on Human Settlements as well as the *New Urban Agenda* that emerged from the Third UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III),

Recognizing the importance of efficient and accessible transportation as addressed in General Assembly resolution 69/213,

Referring to the inefficient usage of natural resources illustrated in Article 44 of the *New Urban Agenda*,

Further recalling the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) *Convention against Discrimination in Education* (1960), which underlines that education is no luxury but a fundamental right,

Noting with concern the gap in employment within the formal sectors as it relates to women and lack of knowledge and education to fulfill occupational roles for achieving SDG 4,

Highlighting Article 2 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979), as it emphasizes the importance of the participation of women in all spheres of society,

Recognizing the importance of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to advance economic, environmental, and social sustainability,

Noting the guiding principles of 2015 *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA), aiming for global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing sustainable development as a critical factor at the global, regional, national, subnational, and local levels, through the participation from all Member States,

Reminding the international community of the imperative need to stop the growth of slums around the world, as highlighted in *The World Cities Report 2016*, *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures* drafted by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and achieving SDG 11.1 as mentioned in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

Reaffirming the international community's commitment to the development of a monitoring framework on the achievements of the SDGs, as well as the UN-Habitat's efforts in developing a comprehensive monitoring framework through the Global Urban Observatory, its City Prosperity Initiative, and its Urban Indicators Guidelines,

Recalling the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Knowledge Management Strategy Framework, and committed to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF),

Emphasizing the achievements of initiatives similar to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis in promoting educational opportunities for vulnerable children and young people in host communities,

Highlighting the success of projects similar to the Southeastern Anatolian Project in supplying sanitary drinking water to over 7,000 human settlements that had either a water supply or an insufficient water supply,

1. *Advises* Member States to supply the needs of residents in developing human settlements by:

    a. Prioritizing the protection of water resources and investing in water sanitation programs through domestic legislations declaring areas to be "Environmentally Protected Zones;"

    b. Laying down the legal foundations to prevent water pollution in harmony with the targets of economic and social development;

    c. Maintaining sustainable and renewable freshwater supplies through cooperation between the local government and the private sector;

2. *Encourages* Member States to participate in education initiatives that promote educational opportunities under the supervision of an Urban Education Coordinator, a teacher appointed for every local municipality by:

    a. Offering access to state-sponsored primary education opportunities to all children, regardless of, but not limited to: gender, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity, class;

    b. Defining measures to prevent school dropouts, especially in primary education;

    c. Working together with an honorary board of local teachers and parents, meeting every month to include the ideas and concerns on education of the local community;

    d. Promoting the UNESCO curriculum, which should be based on the International Bureau of Education's guideline on what makes a quality curriculum;

    e. Cooperation amongst Member States and private organizations;

    f. Raising awareness through forms of media, such as the Internet, newspapers, television, and social media;

    g. Identifying gaps in urban school systems, especially concerning barriers to access schools, like missing infrastructure or registration problems;

h. Provide financial incentives to secondary education to disadvantaged groups through scholarship and tuition grants;

3. *Urges* Member States to engage in the HLPF to follow-up on their progress in implementing the current platform for SDG 11, to provide developing urban centers with the resources needed to bridge the gap to becoming a sustainable city, by:

    a. Encouraging business professionals, such as architects, engineers, and technicians in developed urban centers to contribute to sharing experience and knowledge with developing and least developed urban centers, in order to create new trading partnerships and financial opportunities abroad;

    b. Encouraging developing countries to be active within the platform, in order to gain access to innovate urban planning measures that will assist them in promoting greater efficiency and productivity:

        i. Member States within the platform will gain technological advances in regard to transportation, information, and waste management;
        ii. Creating small businesses to strengthen local communities and promote employment opportunities for women and minorities;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to deepen the monitoring framework on sustainable urbanization by strengthening Regional Observatories for Housing and Urban Development, serving as an intermediary between Global and National Urban Observatories, by:

    a. Reporting biannually a set of indicators of sustainable urbanization that aligns with the measurement principles of UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative, and complements the current Urban Indicator Guidelines, stepping up the monitoring framework to report on the progress of the goals laid out in the *New Urban Agenda*, by measuring:

        i. Drinking water safety;
        ii. Educational inclusion;
        iii. Air pollution;
        iv. Local response time in emergency cases;
        v. CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions;

    b. Following the UN Geoscheme's Regional Division;

    c. Leaving the regional harmonization of the exact measures employed to the Regional Urban Observatories for Housing and Urban Development;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to initiate projects analogous to the UN Slum Almanac 2015-2016, to properly measure the amount of people living in high-risk areas such as slums, thus the quality of people's lives can be improved by:

    a. Looking into possible partnerships with the World Bank, private enterprises and other lending institutions to achieve:

        i. Educating low-income citizens on financial risk, and connecting them to regulation banks and micro-finance institutions to become active participants in their local economy;
        ii. Making loans clear for the receiver;

    b. Supporting secure land tenure and affordable housing;

    c. Strengthening the capacity of local people and their institutions to engage with local authorities and other service providers for the sustainable provision of basic services;

6. *Requests* long-term growth programs that focus on the organic cultivation of both foreign and domestic business investors through 10-year incentivizing plans, incentivizing plans allow for tax breaks, land allocations, and subsidies for those who are moving from the rural sector into priority urbanized workforces, the programs foster growth that will have lasting growth for the Member State's economies and sectors;

7. *Supports* the creation and improvement of national agencies to help ease the transition of those moving from rural communities to cities under the guidance of ECOSOC by:

    a. Providing domestic financial assistance to emerging urban communities;

    b. Educating communities on the importance of sustainable urbanization;

    c. Sensitizing the different communities on the importance of tolerance and mutual respect in the urban life;

    d. Helping the rural communities to settle in cities by providing help on job search, access to healthcare, secure habitat and access to education;

8. *Recommends* investments from private independent corporations in local urban centers to be used specifically for micro-financing with a focus on impoverished populations, by:

    a. Calling upon national and local government to sponsor accredited lending institutions with a focus on populations living in urban centers of development;

    b. Creating partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that focus on empowerment to provide necessary knowledge regarding financial stability to women;

    c. Educating them on financial risk and regulations concerning banks and micro-finance institutions to become active participants in financing upgrading as part of their core business;

9. *Endorses* the creation of industry-specific training programs to provide the education necessary for women, disadvantaged, and impoverished groups in developing urban areas to obtain technical skills required of private and public sectors by:

    a. Establishing partnerships with private sector companies and schools to elucidate on business acumen;

    b. Instructing sector-specific companies to provide contingent employment upon completion of training programs;

    c. Insisting schools to bring in professionals from differing industries to provide knowledge of their respective occupations;

    d. Implementing community-based leaders that coordinate within different regions to create a cohesive education and training program throughout Member States;

10. *Requests* that Member States establish awareness programs, such as public advertising and youth education campaigns, to encourage their citizens consume water responsibly;

11. *Urges* Member States to cooperate and coordinate with members of the international community through information by:

    a. Offering training programs in developing countries to better utilize their local resources that could employed as a greener alternate source of energy;

    b. Engaging in technology sharing through investments in green energy, cooperating with NGOs and private enterprises in research and development in the study of the former;

12. *Recommends* Member States implement transportation corridors within urban plans to reduce congestion by:

    a. Implementing walkable and bike areas accessible to those living in poverty in urban areas, consequently, improving the physical health of citizens and reducing pollution levels;

    b. Expanding current public transportation such as trains, bus lines, and roads to link to rural areas, thereby providing opportunities to marginalized rural populations;

    c. Mobilizing resources to increase the use of renewable energy sources for major transit;

13. *Encourages* Member States to construct waste-to-energy power plants to generate power for the cities of tomorrow and reduce the amount of waste resulting in landfills;

14. *Implores* the international community to enhance the quality of healthcare through humanitarian programs in urban migrant communities, and collaboration with non-governmental agencies, and encourages Member States in training already-skilled displaced residents by integrating them into their society.

Code: GA2/1/7
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Affirming that urbanization and sustainable development are necessary for one another,

Recognizing that many people in both developing and developed countries do not have access to adequate resources, such as running water, electricity, and waste management, regarding homes specifically, and that urbanization encompasses sustainable housing,

Noting further the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Taking into consideration that unchecked and uncontrolled urban expansion leads to scarcity, inequity, and mismanagement of resources,

Fully aware that proper infrastructure is imperative for urbanization and that in developing nations the need for infrastructure is paramount,

Deeply conscious of the deplorable conditions of slums and slum-dwellers and the adverse effects, such as social repression of women and girls, low literacy rates, and poor health and sanitation they have on sustainable development and the environment,

Alarmed by the lack of education infrastructure and the limited resources devoted to educational advancement, and *recognizing* the importance of education in advancing developing nations and providing opportunities for their citizens,

Keeping in mind the need for the policies proposed to be overseen and audited by the collective bodies of the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP),

Emphasizing the multilateral approaches that General Assembly resolution 25/2626 (1970) on the "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade" provides through the help of both public and private programs on a self-help basis, regional cooperatives, and through voluntary international assistance to help Member States meet the standard provided for sustainable housing,

Recognizing that 1.1 billion people lack access to electricity and suffer from unreliable power voltages,

Deeply conscious of the adverse effects of climate change and the need for sustainable, reliable power generation sources,

Encouraging Member States to consider the standards that areas of infrastructure should follow, and that the implementation of the standards in the long term could lead to successful Smart Cities,

Fully understanding that proper land management, urban planning, and administration is the foundation for urbanization in the pursuit of SDGs,

Observing the *National Land Use and Development Master Plan* of 2010, along with the 2015 Law Governing Urban Planning and Building sponsored by the African Union (AU), which have both successfully been implemented and replicated in various African Member States through the region,

Reaffirming the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* of 14 June 1992, which emphasizes the important role of urbanization and development in the effort to end poverty,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/212 of 2017 entitled "Strengthening the Links Between All Modes of Transport to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," with the hopes that by enhancing the role of sustainable transportation, mobility in job creation, improvement of the efficiency of supply-chain-logistics, schools and healthcare, and the delivery of supplies to rural and urban communities, thus providing all with equal opportunities and leaving no one behind,

Supporting the Trading Acceptable Resources In Foreign Free States (TARIFFS) policy and the Infrastructure Completion and Building Measure (ICBM), as measures that will bring economic development and success to all Member States,

Deeply convinced that the recommendation of the policy laid out by this resolution will lead to the creation of smart cities,

Taking into consideration the fact that many Member States' inefficiency lies in the lack of adequate transportation and that adopting a "Thirty Minute City" policy implemented in countries like Australia,

1. *Calls upon* UNDP to collaborate with the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) to work with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to survey and map areas for:

    a. Regions where sustainable urban development policies are implemented and have been successful;

    b. The opportunities that each region presents in terms of infrastructure;

    c. The economic and social need for people in various regions;

    d. Collecting other statistical regional data such as:

        i. Regions where sustainable urban development policies are implemented and have been successful;
        ii. The opportunities that each region presents in terms of infrastructure;
        iii. The economic and social need for people in various regions;
        iv. Collecting other statistical regional data;

2. *Further invites* the OAI to ensure continued cooperation through annual reports of surveys and mapping regions of interest between Member States, in order to achieve and maintain the SDGs laid out by the UN, while assisting any Member States struggling to meet or maintain the standards set by the SDGs;

3. *Declares* the importance of establishing minimum standards for a proper and sustainable house in Member States that do not yet have such standards, still acknowledging that Member States have the right to adapt the following structures and materials based on the needs and specifications of their country to:

    a. A structure of four walls and a roof;

    b. Protection and safety, such as locking mechanisms;

    c. Insulation, which is adaptable for various climates;

    d. A heat source, which is adaptable for various climates;

    e. A system of waste management;

4. *Encourages* Member States to provide both a basic physical structure and framework to support educational initiatives, in accordance with SDG 4, by:

a. Building a basic physical structure that protects from the elements, in order to provide to a safe learning environment;

b. Establishing schools within a 15-mile radius of one another in order to provide adequate choices for children to go to school;

c. Providing sufficient materials to schools and competent teacher training;

5. *Expresses* its hope that all healthcare centers be zoned within 15 miles of every community and city, and be provided with qualified professionals to train citizens by:

    a. Having non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as Doctors without Borders to help train the people;

    b. Supplying the proper and sufficient amount of medical resources, such as vaccines, surgical tools, and medical safety clothing;

6. *Supports* 20-year Power Purchase Agreements between local governments and companies in the private sector to encourage sustainable power projects, such as wind and solar farms, and hydroelectric dam projects, and encourages non-renewable sources of power generation, to adopt more green measures such as scrubbers and electronic precipitators, to ensure at least four hours of steady, continuous electricity;

7. *Reaffirms* the necessity of government actions taken in order to provide adequate, accessible, and sustainable transport infrastructure measures in rapidly urbanizing regions, through:

    a. With the help of NGOs, including the China Energy Fund Committee (CEFC) and local community partners, developing Member States' aim to allocate mutually beneficial resources, with the goal of South-South Cooperation, including:

        i. Safe pedestrian passing;
        ii. Regular and rapid transit buses;
        iii. Metros and trains;
        iv. Ferries between islands;
        v. Collective taxis;
        vi. Traffic engineering, parking, enforcement;

    b. The construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters includes:

        i. Paved roads and bridges;
        ii. Traffic flowing in both directions from rural to urban settings;
        iii. Traffic flowing in one direction within urban centers;
        iv. Clearly marked traffic lanes to reduce motor vehicle collisions;
        v. Clearly displayed traffic signs, such as stop signs, speed limit signs, exits, and routes;
        vi. Traffic circles, which reduce congestion and improve efficiency in urban centers;

8. *Endorses* the lucrativeness of Real Estate Purchase-Agreements for Member States to purchase existing vacant, abandoned, or incomplete building structures or parking lots, which once refurbished could serve as transitory or permanent slum rehabilitation projects;

9. *Invites* Member States to support and partner with organizations that handle slum integration and management, such as the Slum Dwellers Initiative (SDI) and the Asia Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) to oversee inclusive migration;

10. *Encourages* Member States to embrace a pro-business environment by implementing the TARIFFS and ICBM policies, which will help Member States accomplish the SDGs set by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in urbanization, as follows:

    a. The TARIFFS policy can be implemented by encouraging Member States to enter free-trade agreements and allow nations to invest capital in other Member States' borders by:

        i. Enabling companies to conduct business in developing nations via free-trade agreements;
        ii. Removing or lowering tariffs and quotas on construction companies' and transportation companies' goods, in order to encourage more long-term growth all of which follow the SDGs laid out by the UN;
        iii. Allotting areas of land to transportation companies that will invest in manufacturing centers inside of Member States' borders;
        iv. Recognizing the Volvo Group's initiatives for global manufacturing and cooperation, and encouraging other transportation groups to invest in similar sustainable transportation manufacturing partnerships;
        v. Focusing on renewable goods and sources of energy, trading in goods such as solar panels with other Member States for use in homes and urban developments, in order to create properly planned urbanization in accordance with the SDGs;

    b. The ICBM Policy can be implemented by:

        i. Allowing Member States to continue urbanization development;
        ii. Bringing construction of more apartment and office buildings around the world in order to help other Member States properly urbanize in a sustainable way;
        iii. Providing construction crews, city planners, and housing experts to oversee and implement the policy, by supplying the necessary staff, the initiative seeks to avoid the dangers of rapid urbanization without proper planning, therefore fostering sustainable growth for all Member States;
        iv. Relying on a voluntary coalition of Multi-National Corporations (MNCs), NGOs, and the UN, led by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the implementation of the program in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 73/5 by forming and continuing partnerships with Member States;

11. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will follow the agenda set by this resolution in order to move urban areas towards becoming smart cities:

    a. Defining a smart city as a city that is self-reliant, uses clean energy, is invested and advocating for modernized infrastructure, is invested in human and social capital, and is technologically advanced in order to fuel sustainable economic development and provides a high quality of life;

    b. Following the guidelines set by this resolution for sustainable development in urbanization:

        i. Adhering to the standards set by this resolution;
        ii. Unlocking the potential of all Member States to participate in the global economy;

    c. Ensuring that the cities of the future are environmentally conscious:

        i. Adhering to the *Paris Agreement* (2016) to ensure that Member States continue their policies of environmental consciousness;
        ii. Using clean and renewable energy;
        iii. Providing access to environmentally friendly transportation to all Member States;

12. *Recommending* Member States work towards promoting a 'Thirty Minute City' in every Urban development around the world by:

a. Defining a ‘Thirty Minute City’ as a plan for cities where residents can access employment, schools, shopping, services, and recreational facilities within 30 minutes of home, thereby improving accessibility and productivity;

b. Following the transportation initiatives created by this Assembly to:

    i. Unlock the potential of all urban areas to become centers for international economic success;
    ii. Improve access to essential societal developmental needs;
    iii. Integrate Member States into the modern age;

c. Recognizing the importance of transportation in an urban environment.

Code: GA2/1/8
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Acknowledging the sovereignty of each Member State and Observer States and the current programs being implemented by these states,

Asserting the urge to provide everyone the access to their most basic needs, as stated in the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR),

Having considered the growing issues related to urbanization including the increase in depressed areas within larger cities,

Affirming Human Rights Council resolution 16/7 (2011) recognizing "the realization of the human right to adequate housing,"

Acknowledging urbanization and slum eradication as a key factor in the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially numbers 1, 3, and 11, and the decisive role of urban city planning on human happiness,

Remembering the special needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in support and international aid to harness the full potential of a rapid urbanization process,

Stressing the importance of the *New Urban Agenda* as stated by the United Nations (UN) Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016 to enable a sufficient chance for developing economies,

Aware that the limited access to those basic needs creates excluded and isolated areas of poverty and economic stagnation, and that connecting such urban zones will push forward local economic development,

Determined to address the positive and negative consequences of the increased urbanization of Member States,

Emphasizing that urban inequality threatens sustainability and can lead to social divisions and conflicts,

Recalling the important of the principles about waste management included in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Acknowledging the issues that arise in areas underserved by municipal waste collection services, such as drainage and flood protection, waste flowing into the ocean, and waste contaminating wells,

Reminding Member States that there has been formed the Global Partnership on Waste Management that is concerned with, inter alia, sharing information and raising awareness in order to protect human health, the environment, and to recycle efficiently,

Further reminding to approach the Global Partnership on Waste Management in regard to, including but not limited to, learning about new waste management strategies as well as making use of already existing partnerships, collaborations, and cooperation,

Recognizing that countries need to invest and utilize more renewable energy resources in order to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding global and urban populations with the help of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC),

Realizing that the access to resources such as water and electricity is a basic human right,

Recognizing that several areas are not well covered by public transportation systems,

Knowing that the lack of public transportation is a problem to connect slums and rural areas to urban areas,

Keeping in mind that personal private transportation is a major contributing factor to air pollution and smog,

Calling attention to incoming dualism about public transportation and private transportation especially in smart cities,

Recognizing the importance of education in order to provide opportunities for social mobility as well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which works to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Seeking sustainable planning solutions to achieve economic and social opportunities both in developing and developed Member States,

Fully aware that the lack of clarity over reporting lines, financing, and responsibility has implications on the implementation of urban development,

Recognizing the effectiveness of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program in partnership with the UN Human Settlement Program (UN-Habitat),

Acknowledging the efficiency and accuracy of the Housing Profile Tool utilized by the European Commission,

Being fully aware of the need for the refinement of development cooperation with local entities to guarantee a proper guidance of funds and best practices for community development,

Emphasizing the need for reliable statistical data on urban development, and the subsequent necessity to expand the reach of regional and global statistical communities like the Pan-African Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), to all areas that cannot provide those on their own resources,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to consider proposing the programs that will be set forth within this paper by improving public infrastructures, such as:

    a. Housing;

    b. Waste Management;

    c. Access to resources in terms of the availability of basic needs such as water and electricity;

    d. Public transportation systems;

    e. Smart cities;

2. *Proposes* the rebuilding of informal settlements through private funding of publicly-owned housing and economic infrastructures, according to the following pattern:

    a. Private partners shall make profit either on the rent of business spaces in order to create jobs for local inhabitants, or on joint-ventures with local business, depending on local legislation;

    b. The ownership of houses is to be controlled by the local government, which possess it and shall, during the five first years, rent it at the lowest possible price to maintain the buildings and to be affordable for the population with very low income;

c. Inhabitants can get access to ownership by rebuying those flats to the local administration at the lowest possible price, they will thus have benefited from the stability of a house before paying for it;

d. If certain families are unable to pay for ownership, they shall pay a progressively higher rent to the state until it reaches the market rents, in order to limit any abuse of the system and to ensure its long-term sustainability;

e. Only families registered and supervised by local superintendent shall be able to benefit from this program in order to prevent any abuse;

f. During the five first years, families who cannot pay the rent shall participate in common interest tasks in their neighborhood managed by a local superintendent;

g. International public aid of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005), UN Development Programme (UNDP) funds, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), can also be ways to fund building programs of that nature;

h. A UN supervising institution could be proposed in order to prevent any abuse or misuse of the system, and ensure that the conditions are in favor of local communities' interests;

3. *Urges* Member States to complete this housing system in order to address the proliferation of slums in developing Member States through the:

a. Connection of informal settlements to public services and transportation networks to answer the problem of social and economic isolation in these areas;

b. Enforcement of police and emergency services;

c. Application of safety norms and measures in naturally dangerous and polluted areas and rebuild concerned urban zones along to these rules;

4. *Further recommends* the following measures to assess the effectiveness of the housing plan:

a. Number of people provided with improved sanitation;

b. Reduction of slum areas;

c. Percentage of residents who are satisfied with the urbanization efforts;

5. *Encourages* the implementation of Infrastructure Completion and Building Measures (I.C.B.M.):

a. Advocates the Member States to continue urbanization development and bring construction of more apartment buildings around the world along with additional housing in order to bring about sustainable housing in the long run would provide construction crews, city planners, and housing experts from around the globe to provide oversight;

b. Suggesting for willing countries the use of 3D printers in order to build single houses for the needy, at minimal costs and fast time, that can be used to provide other standard buildings that can be used as schools or offices;

c. Funding would come from donations from charities, and will rely on Habitat for Humanity, and UN-Habitat;

d. Complies with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 73/5 (2017) by forming and continuing partnerships with Member States;

6. *Suggests* implementing the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, including the Housing Profile Tool, in order to give governments and local partners a better understanding of the housing market, the infrastructure system, and the funding;

7. *Encourages* increasing investments in waste management and trusts in closed-loop supply chain management, which can considerably decrease wastages in production systems:

    a. Assessing opportunities for public and private partnerships for the development and operation of municipal services;

    b. Installing new drainage and clean existing clogged drainage;

    c. Redesigning the consumption of infinite resources to extract the maximum value from them by lifting from linear economy towards a circular economy cycle built on long-term approach aiming to recycle, repair, and reuse resources, as it emphasizes the closed-loop supply chain management to minimize pollution, waste, and environmental degradation;

    d. Establishing "Waste-to-energy plant" instead of landfill: such plants are particular useful for all non-organic wastes and can be placed inside cities since their fumes are washed (Fume Scrubber), before being released in the air and reducing air pollution in cities, taking water needed for the process from sewers, since it is going to be filtered, and heating houses for free and producing sustainable energy with the Waste-to-energy;

    e. Insists on inviting large corporations to adopt the three Rs (Reuse, Recycle and Reenter) to achieve sustainable and green goals;

8. *Calls upon* on all partners to enhance their given support as well as sharing technical expertise in terms of constructing solid waste plants in regard to:

    a. Recycle as much of the waste as possible;

    b. Store non-recyclable waste in an environment-friendly way and in closed areas, to protect citizens from toxic waste pollution in the long-term;

9. *Suggests* that the water and electricity resources need to be managed through:

    a. Recycling and recovery of water used in industries;

    b. Encouraging the rational use of the water;

    c. Recovery of water resources through the construction of reservoirs or artificial lakes with the possibility of using them for sport activities;

    d. Filter for the water to protect people from chemicals and diseases and asking for help to private foundations;

    e. Smart sidewalks that create additional energy affordable for everyone that does not have a negative impact to the environment;

10. *Asking* for help of charity foundations, such as the NRDC, in order to:

    a. Create affordable energy for city slums and avoiding negative impacts on the environment;

    b. Implement the construction of reservoirs or artificial lakes for the rational use and the recovery of water;

11. *Directs* attention to connecting slums, rural, and urban areas, and avoiding air pollution of transportation, for example from private vehicles, by:

    a. Developing effective public transportation systems to integrate people from the slums into the society through job creation;

    b. Developing public transportation as bus networks, train systems, or further developing existing metro frameworks;

    c. Instructing Member States to build green infrastructure, such as transportation with barrier-free and eco-friendly systems;

    d. Planning and setting up metro and train systems in highly urbanized areas;

    e. Making available bicycle sharing for the citizens, like in smart cities, to develop sustainable transport;

12. *Suggests* that smart cities collect information about citizens, their behavior, their preferences, and using it with the aim of implementing better connections, including but not restricted to:

    a. Better connections between citizens;

    b. Better connections between cities, and;

    c. Better connections between cities and their inhabitants;

13. *Calls upon* Member States making efforts to promote social inclusion and cohesion in slums, which can strengthen the trust and lower the violence level, by:

    a. Establishing neighborhood committees in local communities, which enable local inhabitants to participate in governance;

    b. Encouraging governments to implement education programs to raise people's awareness of the importance of social inclusion and cohesion;

14. *Recommends* using education as a key for preventing and reducing the number of slums and associated societal issues through programs, such as but not limited to:

    a. Sex education programs that provide information about family planning and safe sex practices for different age groups, which aim to:

        i. Reduce the number of children per woman in order to decrease overpopulation;
        ii. Reduce prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases;

    b. Scholarship programs through NGOs in cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which provide funds for disadvantaged children to attend secondary institutions;

    c. Domestic technical and vocational training programs in order to increase the local workforce;

    d. Extra-curricular activities especially for disadvantaged teenage students for them to contribute positively in the community;

15. *Recommends* the creation of a program focusing on helping slum inhabitants to find work and affordable housing, which would:

a. Consider the importance of having trained teachers and social workers who have followed a formation and who are able to work with marginalized people;

b. Emphasize the need to provide slum inhabitants with training in order to improve job skills;

c. Request that slum populations have access to classes teaching about the housing market;

d. Demand for the implementation of community projects that empower women, children, elderly, and disabled people;

e. Expresses its hope for close partnerships with governments, national companies, and local shops;

16. *Promotes* disaster risk reduction programs in the process of slums upgrading by:

a. Developing resilient infrastructure, which enables slums to become less vulnerable to natural disasters;

b. Reminding the expected increase in climate change-related refugees;

c. Encouraging to implement efficient programs and protocols for relocation of people in areas endangered by natural disasters;

d. Integrating disaster risk reduction policies into urban planning and development;

e. Rising awareness of the benefits of reducing risks;

f. Implementing the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign launched by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR);

g. Suggesting UNISDR hold workshops where Member States and local governments share their achievements and best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction;

17. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat considers establishing an "Annual Conference on City Development," to create a platform of urban actors, NGOs, and international institutions for development aid to build networks and share experiences, which could be accomplished by:

a. The UN-Habitat Executive Director drafting a report regarding the preparation and details of the conference that will be submitted to the General Assembly Second Committee to be considered during its next regular meeting;

b. Facilitating the establishment of this conference by creating a preparatory committee in order to prepare the first session, open to representatives of all Member States;

c. Hosting the conference in different Member States each year and determining the location of the conference by vote of UN Member States during the regular UN sessions;

d. Producing and submitting a report at the end of each conference on the findings of the conference to the General Assembly;

e. Requesting international private donors, financial institutions, and foundations to voluntarily contribute to a trust fund to support the holding of the conference;

f. Urging the preparatory committee to search for the most cost-efficient way to provide for the necessary contributions to the conference.

Code: GA2/1/9
Committee: General Assembly Second Committee
Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Emphasizing Article 1, Section 3, of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which calls for international cooperation in fulfilling targets related to the promotion of economic, social, and cultural development,

Deeply convinced of the need to address urbanization as a phenomenon at global, national, and local levels,

Guided by the *World Bank Urban Sustainability Framework* of 2018, stressing fiscal sustainability as a way to finance urban planning,

Bearing in mind the principles outlined in the 2016 *New Urban Agenda* developed by the United Nations (UN) Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development,

Noting further the importance of efficient financing strategies to even out inequalities within cities and the rural-urban divide,

Alarmed by issues that arise from corruption and lack of transparency, restricting the appropriate use of funds towards urbanization, and the need for establishing performance indicators to assess the progress of financed programs,

Encouraging the implementation of effective transparent monitoring mechanisms for financial frameworks,

Acknowledging the need for sustainable domestic resource mobilization,

Recognizing the significant importance of the 2015 *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and its focus on tax administration in order to finance sustainable development as stated in Article 22,

Emphasizing the need for support in the creation of national development strategies to efficiently harness the capacities of financing initiatives,

Keeping in mind the need for more diversified key actors to be financed, in order to achieve goals set for urban development,

Acknowledging the success of the Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum 2016 in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and the United Smart Cities Multi-stakeholders program,

Recalling the City Creditworthiness Initiative 2014 launched by the World Bank, as a way to improve financial sustainability,

1. *Recommends* Member States to implement the measures regarding increasing fiscal sustainability guided by the Urban Sustainable Framework, through improving own-source revenue collection and leveraging land use income, in order to finance urban projects by:

    a. Increasing the capacity of tax administration units regarding tax collection of:

        i. Taxpayer Identification and Registration;
        ii. Tax filing information;
        iii. Revenue Controls;
        iv. Tax Compliance procedures;

b. Integrating tax policy into fiscal systems and providing results-based management mechanisms guided by the Tax Policy Assessment Framework;

c. Improving property rights policies and enhancing the oversight mechanism of local land management to strengthen public finance management in urban planning;

2. *Calls upon* Member States' governments to implement additional investment incentives within their legislation by:

a. Facilitating concessions agreements for the private sector, especially, but not only limited to land properties, highway and road infrastructures, housing, and water supply;

b. Assuming a predetermined part of the cost concerning the urban concession project building, renovation or operation;

c. Implementing limited debt-financing projects, in terms of:

i. Providing risk guarantees for private investors;
ii. Ensuring the benefits of ownership are equally shared by the Member State, the population, and the private investor;

3. *Further invites* all Member States to follow up to the efforts of the UN Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) Global Urban Observatory Programme by:

a. Establishing within their territory a National Urban Observatory (NUO) that will serve as a consultative body on national urban policies by:

i. Coordinating and consolidating data at the national level;
ii. Using the data's results to produce evidence-based policy-making;
iii. Monitoring national trends and conditions and inform national-level policy and decision-making;
iv. Harmonizing the activities of Local Urban Observatories (LUOs) within the Member State's territory;

b. Implementing a network of LUOs in the major cities, mandated to:

i. Produce, manage, and analyze data on the performance of a city key urban indicators and thematic;
ii. Determine the urban policies' responsiveness to local priorities;

4. *Further recommends* UN-Habitat to reinforce the monitoring capacities of LUOs to ensure sustainable urban development initiatives, and implement a special branch within LUOs focusing on the financing of urban projects to:

a. Produce on a regular basis a report about urban sectors in crucial need of financing in the city;

b. Determine the urban economy sectors susceptible to attract investments from the private sector;

c. Target long-term oriented policies concerning urban development in other to make cities more sufficient;

5. *Strongly encourages* that requests for funding for urbanization projects by Member States also include a strategy paper that addresses the following:

a. The requested funding follows the principles outlined in the *New Urban Agenda*:

i. That are relevant to the funding project;
ii. That are within the capacities of the Member States to address;

b. The potential negative consequences of urbanization are mitigated by:

i. Producing, managing, and analyzing data on the performance of a city key urban indicators and thematic;
ii. Determining the urban policies' responsiveness to local priorities;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to focus on domestic resource mobilization and reduce dependence on foreign aid, by:

a. Scaling up the efforts for tax administration of both taxed revenues and non-taxed revenues, particularly targeting the improvement of transparency in the informal sector and monitoring the capital flight situation, in order to optimize domestic resource mobilization;

b. Changing structures on the urban labor market and fostering the integration of marginalized groups, such as women and displaced persons;

7. *Requests* enhancing the support of donor Member States in the crafting of national development strategies of developing countries, in order to the improve the effectiveness of funding urbanization development projects;

8. *Invites* targeted support of funding institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, towards civil society and private entities working on urban development and involve non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in field projects;

9. *Suggests* performance monitoring systems for urbanization development projects based on indicators by:

a. Applying external evaluations to financing across the board;

b. Developing cross-cutting evaluations and PFP evaluations;

c. Designating specific Member States to act as guarantors in the work of supervising and monitoring the funds and the destination they are taking, through Open Data mechanisms, in order to create more transparency and make them more reliable;

10. *Encourages* further multilateral expert meetings for knowledge sharing regarding financing smart, sustainable cities, by taking the following steps:

a. Proposing Liechtenstein as a conference host for another Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum, in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe;

b. Implementing the *Vaduz Declaration* (2016) with its ten points for action towards financing smart sustainable cities;

c. Holding the forum on a yearly basis due to rapid technological innovation;

d. Prioritizing areas for investments in smart cities, especially technological devices that help to provide services to citizens, such as smart transit systems, and environmental sustainability;

11. *Recommends* Member States to increase public and private partnerships through Creditworthiness standards and methods, as a way to increase credit quality and attract lenders into a smart, transparent, and reliable business climate to invest in urbanization, by taking the following measures:

a. Including credit-rating agencies to analyze the cities' repayment history and credit score on a local level, based on standardized methods guided by the World Bank and the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities, regarding:

    i. The capacity to meet financial commitments;
    ii. The capacity to meet business, financial, and economic conditions with respect to urban planning;

b. Increase transparency by making city management data available about operating expenditures, reserves, and liquidity through Open Data mechanisms, making data more accessible to public entities in order to track the allocation of funds.