

25 – 29 MARCH 2018

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



Conference B

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/RES/1/1	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote
GA2/RES/1/2	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote
GA2/RES/1/3	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	101 votes in favor, 13 votes against, 28 abstentions
GA2/RES/1/4	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	129 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 10 abstentions
GA2/RES/1/5	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	118 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 16 abstentions
GA2/RES/1/6	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	133 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 8 abstentions
GA2/RES/1/7	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	120 votes in favor, 11 votes against, 11 abstentions
GA2/RES/1/8	The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development	130 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 9 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 the 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 142 Member States and one 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 16 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics such as education, water management and transportation. The committee started off at a remarkable pace, where the atmosphere was one of collaboration and teamwork; by the end of the session on Tuesday evening, multiple working papers merged along complementary and similar themes.

On Wednesday, eight draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted eight resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support from the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including sustainable and smart cities, renewable energies, and social inclusion. Throughout the week, the body engaged in debate and worked hard in order to achieve a consensus when addressing the topics discussed.



Code: GA2/1/1

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2
3 *Recalling the 6th and 11th Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
4 *(2015), which set targets regarding access to clean water and sustainable cities, respectively,*

5
6 *Highlighting the role of United Nations Water (UN-Water) and their recommendations on educating societies on*
7 *water responsibility, which may assist in the achievement of SDG 11,*

8
9 *Cognizant that one in four cities globally suffers from high water stress, which indicates the strong probability of*
10 *future water scarcity as described in the report on the progress of SDG 6,*

11
12 *Taking into account the growing need for water in cities, owing to stronger demand for water-intensive electricity*
13 *and foods,*

14
15 *Acknowledging that industrial activities are responsible for more than two-thirds of water consumption and*
16 *consequently noting that efforts in saving water should start at the business level as opposed to with civil society,*

17
18 *Recognizing that climate change exacerbates low-income communities and water-related problems as regions endure*
19 *increasingly harsh weather conditions, with arid areas becoming even drier and wet areas growing even rainier,*

20
21 *Acknowledging that there are higher risks of diseases and spread of illness in cities, which can be fought essentially*
22 *only by a good and clean water infrastructure,*

23
24 *Keeping in mind the potential use of recycled wastewater as a resource for states under water stress as declared in*
25 *the 2017 United Nations World Water Development Report,*

26
27 *Bearing in mind the efforts made by Member States during the World Urban Campaign to conceive, design and*
28 *write The City We Want 1.0, which was a manifesto of nine principles suggesting concrete ways on how to achieve*
29 *sustainable urban development,*

30
31 *Taking into account the SDG 8, which refers to decent job opportunities and sustainable economic growth as*
32 *increasing labor productivity will decrease the unemployment rate, which is essential to achieving sustained*
33 *economic growth,*

34
35 *Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 64/292 on the “Human Right to Water and Sanitation” and SDG 6, which*
36 *highlight sustainable methods for access to clean water and sanitation as a means to further sustainable urbanization,*

37
38 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/256 that endorsed the *New Urban Agenda* as adopted by UN Habitat III,*

39
40 *Recalling Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which states that organizations shall promote*
41 *higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,*

42
43 *Recognizing the fact that careless dumping of wastes in open environments lead to air and water pollution, according*
44 *to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/10, which promotes the adoption of urban agriculture technologies*
45 *as a means to supplement income and food supply,*

46
47 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/256 that addresses the matter of ensuring the sustainability of future*
48 *urbanization and management of urban-rural divides,*

49

50 *Recognizing* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) Best Practices Database
51 identifies, documents, and disseminates best practices and enables policies on sustainable urban development,
52
53 *Noting* the effectiveness of certain programs directing private institutions towards sustainable waste management,
54
55 *Reaffirming* UN-Habitat's Governing Council resolution 25/6, which aims to establish international guidelines for
56 urban and territorial planning,
57
58 *Referring* to General Assembly resolution 69/313, which calls for multiple stakeholders to collaborate on sustainable
59 building efforts,
60
61 *Emphasizing* General Assembly resolution 70/197, which affirms the importance of international cooperation in the
62 development of energy efficient and low-carbon transportation systems in urban areas,
63
64 *Realizing* how low-income citizens do not always benefit from new state capacity to provide clean water due to the
65 price at which it is charged despite the World Bank's \$4.7 billion investment in low interest loans to support
66 governments' water sanitation projects,
67
68 *Aware* of the need for sufficient financial solutions in achieving efficiency in sustainable urbanization,
69
70 *Highlighting* SDG 17 regarding the role of public-private partnerships in affordable urbanization,
71
72 *Emphasizing* the profound effect that collaborative efforts between private enterprises and local governments have
73 on the formation of new and innovative housing options,
74
75 *Deeply concerned* that women and marginalized communities are affected disproportionately by socioeconomic
76 disparity surrounding urban planning,
77
78 1. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council's Population Division work with all relevant non-
79 governmental organizations and other relevant UN bodies with the goal of:
80
81 a. Providing more effective strategies of waste management using the waste and grid system;
82
83 b. Implementing the water grid and sensor system in order to adequately manage water usage;
84
85 c. Developing new strategies of urban planning involving using long lasting infrastructure material;
86
87 2. *Urges* UN-Habitat to evaluate and create an action plan for Member States that are facing severe disparity,
88 concentrating on the most prevalent urban issues while recommending changes such as the creation of public-
89 private partnerships and further South-South cooperation;
90
91 3. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat reorganize the Best Practices Database in order to bring efficiency to
92 international collaboration on urbanization practices;
93
94 4. *Recommends* that the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization collaborate with UN-Habitat
95 and institutions of higher learning within Member States to ensure sharing of knowledge and best practices in
96 an effort to support further capacity building and to promote sustainable urbanization planning practices;
97
98 5. *Requests* the United Nations Global Compact to encourage businesses, such as those manufacturing, importing,
99 and selling packaging, electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), batteries and end of life vehicles (ELVs), to
100 be responsible for the environmental impact of their products by:
101
102 a. Encouraging producers of the mentioned branches to register for the program through an awareness
103 campaign addressing businesses;
104
105 b. Establishing a label justifying companies' participation in the program;

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- c. Engaging concerned companies to finance the collection, treatment, recovery, and environmentally sound disposal of waste linked to their products;
 - d. Establishing an international database obliging registered companies to report annually on their production outcomes and their expenses linked to the aforementioned commitments;
 6. *Calls for* the expansion of the UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab Initiative in order to improve infrastructure across the short, medium, and long-term by:
 - a. Increasing the number of UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Labs assigned to areas of exponential population growth;
 - b. Training member of target communities to implement sustainable practices in construction and transportation;
 - c. Creating a special sub-unit that deals specifically with creating sustainable infrastructure following natural or man-made disasters;
 7. *Supports* the improvement of water and sanitation in urban areas by using technology to improve water systems, treatment and recycling as well as providing sanitation infrastructure;
 8. *Endorses* methods designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of sustainable practices in urban transport networks, including:
 - a. Infrastructural investments in environmentally-friendly transit, such as the implementation of bike-rental programs along with the establishment of accessible bike lanes;
 - b. The establishment of active and walking lanes, Promotion of intra-urban rail network, encouragement of car-pooling and collective transit programs for private vehicles and promoting the use of the aforementioned energy-conserving practices;
 9. *Recognizes* the necessity for the international community to demonstrate strong political will and to join the Greener Cities Partnership, which was developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to promote environmental sustainability in urban development;
 10. *Affirms* the importance of improving capacity building in cities worldwide in order to reduce inequalities by providing more inclusive job opportunities regarding sustainable development by supporting social enterprises and providing vocational skills training for migrant workers in order to address individual capacities and skill level while integrating vocational education and training resources and fully providing government subsidies for vocational skills and training services;
 11. *Endorses* initiatives that focus on education for sustainable development in urban areas and promote the preservation of vulnerable resources such as soil, water, and air;
 12. *Endorses* the creation of an ad hoc committee that will discuss the progress and improvements made by Member States regarding sustainable development;
 13. *Further urges* the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and regional development banks, including the Islamic Development Bank, to facilitate support for building and maintain water related infrastructure as long as Member States under water stress are unable to fund their own water infrastructure;
 14. *Encourages* Member States to work with UN-Water which will make policy recommendations on sewage water treatment facility creation, desalination plant building, connecting water infrastructure to municipal energy sectors, building water harvesting structures, focusing on the construction of water pipes that provide close access for every citizen, erecting water reservoirs to collect water from extreme rainfalls and climate related

- 162 weather changes, necessary construction of water purification plants, especially in areas where water related
163 diseases occur, the creation of bio-diverse and resilient wetlands, and repairs of existing water pipes to reduce
164 losses and improve the quality and reliability of water to reduce health risks, particularly replacing lead pipes
165 which cause a significant risk to the brain development of children;
166
- 167 15. *Further encourages* the structuring of national budgets to respond to present and future water scarcity and the
168 potential societal and environmental issues caused by it;
169
- 170 16. *Requests* further studies on global water-risk management systems by UNEP, in partnership with UN-Water, to
171 identify changing water flows, particularly in light of climate change, in ways such as but not limited to:
172
- 173 a. Researching in cooperation with private sector organizations that survey satellite imagery to predict
174 water shortages and inundations;
175
- 176 b. Identifying potential future water flows, which can be used to adequately prepare for natural crises by
177 investing in water safety infrastructure, such as water reservoirs and water pipes in the case of droughts
178 and dams in the case of floods;
179
- 180 17. *Encourages* Member States to work with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World
181 Meteorological Organization to create comprehensive assessments on urban flood risks and develop a strategy
182 to develop local prevention measures, focusing on topics such as:
183
- 184 a. The development of systems that prevent flash floods such as mangroves and dykes, the creation of
185 eco-friendly dams for slowing the flow of water, and the development of embankments along
186 riversides;
187
- 188 b. The establishment of strategies for reforestation, drainage systems, land-use regulations, and
189 community-led development as pre-emptive responses;
190
- 191 18. *Appeals* to local governments to work with municipalities in the creation of affordable housing through:
192
- 193 a. Renovating underutilized structures and land in an effort to decrease the cost of construction;
194
- 195 b. Encouraging partnerships with private entities;
196
- 197 c. Restructuring financing options such as subsidies to low-income households;
198
- 199 19. *Invites* local governments to encourage increased importance on viable infrastructure through awareness and
200 growth stability programs, aimed at increasing the capability of low-income communities to withstand natural
201 disasters and long-term negative climate change outcomes;
202
- 203 20. *Encourages* discussions and legislation regarding the issues of vulnerable populations within urban settings,
204 such as women and marginalized communities;
205
- 206 21. *Suggests* that local governments push for increased importance on viable infrastructure through awareness and
207 growth stability programs aimed at increasing the capability of low-income communities to withstand natural
208 disasters and long-term negative climate change effects.



Code: GA2/1/2

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2
3 *Inspired by Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), which establishes the sovereign equality of all*
4 *Member States and Article 13, which promotes international cooperation in educational, economic, social, and*
5 *cultural fields,*

6
7 *Recalling the 2014 United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) report entitled* *World*
8 *Urbanization Prospects, which found that by 2050, 66 percent of the world's population will reside in urban areas,*
9

10 *Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 70/1, which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),*
11 *and specifically SDG 4, which focuses on quality education as a foundation to improve people's lives and SDG 11*
12 *aimed towards establishing sustainable practices and development within cities,*

13
14 *Emphasizing the importance of the unique educational opportunities offered by the United Nations University*
15 *(UNU), formally established by Security Council resolution 2951 and by the Charter of the United Nations*
16 *University, in building the understanding of pressing global issues by scholars, the international community, and*
17 *future leaders,*

18
19 *Applauding the international work and global outreach of the SymbioCity sustainability initiative in its efforts as a*
20 *platform for promoting sustainable development worldwide with the intent of achieving SDG 11,*

21
22 *Recognizing the potential of the Global Municipal Database for Sustainable Urbanization, a 2016 pilot created by*
23 *the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) officials, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*
24 *for reporting municipal fiscal data,*

25
26 *Reaffirming the necessity of educating citizens on the importance of using sustainable and innovative transportation*
27 *modes as recognized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transportation Committee,*
28

29 *Aware of the importance of enhancing educational programs like the International Centre for Technical and*
30 *Vocational Education and Training of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's*
31 *(UNESCO-UNEVOC) program, which strives to provide access to knowledge and technical skills,*

32
33 *Taking into consideration that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) assists partners to achieve*
34 *sustainable, people-centered development, linking policy with planning and programming for promoting results-*
35 *based management, monitoring, and evaluating impact and equally learning from failures and successes,*
36

37 *Emphasizing UN-Habitat as a program that works towards a better urban future and that has a mission that promotes*
38 *socially and environmentally sustainable development of human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter*
39 *for all,*

40
41 *Expressing appreciation for the generous financial contributions from willing Member States and individuals aimed*
42 *towards programs seeking to improve urbanized areas through educational opportunities,*

43
44 *Acknowledging the benefits of social business investment in allowing aid to reach the targeted beneficiaries,*

- 45
46 1. *Endorses databases similar to the Global Municipal Database for Sustainable Urbanization instituted by UN-*
47 *Habitat and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy as a resource for growing urban centers in Member States to*
48 *utilize as they combat the challenges of urbanization and proposes the additional data collection of records*

- 49 relating to urban population growth, estimated poverty rates, and the effectiveness of public service programs;
50
- 51 2. *Calls for* the logistical management and analysis of this data by bodies, such as UN-Habitat, UNU, and UNDP,
52 who will:
53
- 54 a. Support urbanization-focused academic publications, research, and initiatives supported by UN
55 Publishing as a formal academic platform;
56
- 57 b. Grant access to precise information to all policy makers wishing to utilize current data trends to assist
58 their growing urban populations;
59
- 60 3. *Calls upon* the Global Municipal Database for Sustainable Urbanization to record and include information
61 regarding education for vulnerable urban populations to have a concise record for groups including, but not
62 limited to refugees, internally displaced people, migrant workers, women in conflict areas, and children with
63 disabilities;
64
- 65 4. *Encourages* Member States to designate the UNU as a unique institution to inspire future global collaboration in
66 educating international scholars, citizens, and leaders on the subjects of urbanization problems, technologies,
67 and potential solutions, including:
68
- 69 a. The creation of a program focusing on Urbanization with specialization in urban planning,
70 infrastructural policies, research, and development;
71
- 72 b. The creation of a specific UNU scholarship program funded in conjunction with UN-Women
73 specifically tailored towards financial assistance for women in developing nations;
74
- 75 c. Participation in the online United Nations University Conversation Series by SymbioCity, UNDP, and
76 relevant international urbanization experts;
77
- 78 5. *Endorses* an annual regional education-focused conference hosted by UNESCO, UNDP, and UN-Habitat for
79 Member States, non-governmental organization (NGOs), and private corporations to facilitate sharing of current
80 urbanization issues, solutions and new technological options that will:
81
- 82 a. Facilitate regional partnerships between vulnerable groups and the applicable mentor state or NGOs;
83
- 84 b. Encourage public-private partnerships between research-based organizations and think-tanks with
85 interested Member States;
86
- 87 6. *Recommends* that UNESCO-UNEVOC utilize databases to expand the Technical and Vocational Education and
88 Training program to provide vocational skills training to all community members, especially those who are
89 economically and socially vulnerable through:
90
- 91 a. Utilization of skilled volunteers from the community to provide necessary training and already
92 available resources in the community;
93
- 94 b. Encouragement of social activities outside the skill training course to enhance unity in local
95 communities;
96
- 97 7. *Suggests* that UN-Habitat implement an international awareness campaign centering around teaching the
98 importance and advantages of utilizing alternative transportation modes, particularly bicycling, in order to:
99
- 100 a. Highlight the potential of forming faster connections between economic core areas in urban spaces;
101
- 102 b. Encourage citizens to partake in utilizing cycling and existing public transportation modes by creating
103 a more positive image of cycling;
104

- 105 c. Promote further mobile sustainability as a stronger collective transport to move closer to reaching
106 climate and air quality targets;
107
- 108 8. *Invites* Member States to participate in social business ventures that seek to improve educational opportunities
109 while abiding by the principles of sustainability and ethical entrepreneurship.



Code: GA2/1/3

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2

3 *Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) of promoting higher standards of*
4 *social and economic growth,*

5

6 *Viewing with appreciation the important role of the New Urban Agenda, which addresses the creation of global*
7 *standards for achieving sustainable human settlements and sustainable urbanization,*

8

9 *Congratulating all Member States on the progress, efforts, and achievements that have been made toward the*
10 *recognizing the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) thus far, especially on the Sustainable*
11 *Development Goals (SDGs), in our aims to make inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities,*

12

13 *Affirming the message of UN Secretary-General on World Cities Day 2016, in which he stated that in order to*
14 *transform our world, we must transform its cities,*

15

16 *Reaffirming the importance of the 1992 Treaty on Urbanization, whose main purpose is the creation of a model*
17 *focused on economic growth, capital accumulation and profit for sustainable cities, towns and villages,*

18

19 *Acknowledging the advancements made by the United Nations (UN) and many of its supporting actors, such as the*
20 *UN Development Program (UNDP), the International Institute for Environment and Development, United Nations*
21 *Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), as well as the Department of Economics and Social Affairs (DESA), in*
22 *providing a platform for cities and smaller communities with a toolbox for raising awareness of the SDGs,*

23

24 *Taking into account SDGs 8, 9, and 10, which highlight the need for decent job opportunities for all and the*
25 *development of sustainable industrialization as well as which guarantee a sustainable development through*
26 *urbanization,*

27

28 *Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/189, on “Financial inclusion for sustainable development,” and*
29 *General Assembly Resolution 70/214, on “Culture and sustainable development,” both of which provide*
30 *recommendations on reconsidering economic and financial instruments within the sustainable development*
31 *framework and their effects on urbanization,*

32

33 *Alarmed by the 2016 World Cities Report: Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures, which stated on the*
34 *severe situation in cities in terms of public service allocation, slum building, air pollution, inequality and crime*
35 *which are aggravated by the constant growth of urban agglomeration,*

36

37 *Inspired by the principles of the Urban Development and Decentralization Project of the World Bank and its spirit to*
38 *be more inclusive according to the target 10 of United Nations SDGs,*

39

40 *Taking into consideration the limited carrying capacity and resulting strain on population parameters that certain*
41 *cities have in developing and developed countries,*

42

43 *Bearing in mind Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which establishes the right to*
44 *have a decent standard of living including health care, proper houses and the access to social services,*

45

46 *Emphasizing the importance of the decentralization of rapid migration in order to relieve pressure in terms of social*
47 *affairs, environment and public services from primary cities,*

48

49 *Further emphasizing the importance of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) in order to improve the*
50 *transparency and mutual accountability regarding aid,*

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1. *Calls upon* all Member States to enact violation prevention measures for the purpose of ensuring that sexual abuse is reduced and does not impede upon the full participation of marginalized stakeholders or the inclusive development of urban communities, including measures such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Ensuring that sources of revenue do not impede on the proliferation of human rights principles;
 - b. Establishing a sustainable economy through infrastructure which causes states to move away from those economies that are reliant on the sexual abuse of their citizens;
 - c. Establishing a relationship between under-developed countries and private partnerships that could provide debt relief to these nations and provide loans to improve the infrastructure and provide sustainable means of living;
 2. *Encourages* all individual Member States to align with the *New Urban Agenda* principles and all the SDGs in order to provide Member States the opportunity to:
 - a. Design urban and economic policies that are best compatible to each Member State and have coherent articulation of goals with an adequate time framework, monitoring system and guided implementation plans;
 - b. Implement regional actions plans for achievement of the SDG's via allocation of responsibilities to governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other relevant stakeholders with a clear roadmap for implementation and reporting of progress closely aligned with other related global processes already in motion such as the *Paris Agreement*;
 3. *Invites* all Member States, in accordance with SDGs 8, 9, and 17, to consider urban funding mechanisms that aim to generate revenues and that involve multiple stakeholders such as municipalities, capital market participants, development partners, technology companies, and venture capital, with principles including, but not limited to:
 - a. Initiating public infrastructure development projects in cooperation with the private sector in both urban and rural areas;
 - b. Suggesting voluntary basis of tax increment financing that uses fiscal incentives as tax relief and property tax specifically earmarked for the development;
 - c. Establishing public market funds that will be funded voluntarily by corporate investors who would have access to a limited part of the sponsored public infrastructure assets;
 - d. Suggesting the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to improve loan agreements made with borrowing nations to emphasize the access to clean water stated in SDG 6, working alongside of bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
 - e. Recommending the use of venture capital in order to develop urban technologies with the investment going towards urban innovation and revenue coming from advertising;
 - f. Distributing ledger technology block chain-based land registration and payments platforms in order to bring accountability and trust into land investments;
 4. *Further encourages* Member States to improve the transparency and mutual accountability mechanisms, as targeted by the SDG 17, in accordance with the Global Partnership on Aid Effectiveness, under the *Paris Declaration*, through:
 - a. Analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of increasing registers and databases;

- 107 b. Increasing cooperation based on sharing aid as technology and training in order to build up analytical
108 capacity in developing countries;
109
- 110 c. Implementing audits through the United Nations Board of Auditors to ensure proper allocation of
111 funds and improve national developmental frameworks;
112
- 113 d. Encouraging the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to publish annual
114 investment policy reviews on all Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum;
115
- 116 e. Inviting Member States to replicate the *Cairns Compact*, which will reduce aid fragmentation and
117 release the burden of the aid administration;
118
- 119 f. Cooperating with developed countries on capacity development will improve the ability to plan and
120 control long-term development;
121
- 122 5. *Encourages* all Member States to prioritize individual financing programs for economic development in
123 developing states to encourage sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication and make progress on
124 SDGs 1, 8, and 11, with guidance from ECOSOC and by:
125
- 126 a. Encouraging higher levels of official development assistance from more economically developed states
127 to develop provide investments for the promotion, building and funding of small businesses in
128 developing countries;
129
- 130 b. Requesting funds from industrialized nations that will be repaid with interest and a transparent long-
131 term partnership between developing countries and private businesses in urban areas;
132
- 133 c. Promoting trade between developed and developing countries;
134
- 135 d. Encouraging other Member States to expand and promote trade with developing countries;
136
- 137 6. *Recommends* the creation of growth strategies based on decentralization policies which identify migration
138 alternatives to already heavily populated urban areas that may be employing unsustainable practices by
139 redirecting potential migrants to new locations that will have a development plan based on achieving
140 sustainability through focus on specific SDGs in order to create new urban areas with enough physical space to
141 accommodate new populations by:
142
- 143 a. Considering designating less urbanized cities as a focused growth area to help overcome regional
144 imbalances to facilitate a natural flow of resources from oversaturated areas into smaller city, rich in
145 potential and resources;
146
- 147 b. Encouraging the development of cities with relatively large market potential and developed industrial,
148 scientific, and economic base that establishes conditions for self-sustainability, growth and job
149 opportunities;
150
- 151 c. Recommending an environmentally conscious contention plan based on risk preparedness and the
152 *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* to allow for increased efforts towards establishing
153 green economies, which will aid in merging economic development with environmentally protective
154 agendas;
155
- 156 d. Utilizing proper guidance from SDG 11 and the *New Urban Agenda* in order to create improved
157 transport connectivity, higher employment rates, and physical infrastructure such as power, water and
158 telecommunication supported by national programs;
159
- 160 7. *Further recommends* the implementation of a guideline spatial configuration program in order to address major
161 local and regional challenges with the purpose of looking for assertive urban configuration plans as well as

162 organization models for cities development, having guidance from UNDP to provide the proper assessment for
163 goods, needs and services in every local area by:

- 164
- 165 a. Including urban investment within the public and private partnership for the improvement of the
166 already existing infrastructures but not limited to be applicable to said infrastructures as well as the
167 inclusion of the Urban Innovation Fund;
- 168
- 169 b. Emphasizing poverty eradication and having in mind the accomplishment of the SDG 1 by addressing
170 vulnerable communities within the Global Social Compliance Programme's assessment for slums
171 upgrading;
- 172
- 173 c. Referring to the Urban Local Government Support Project being held partnership with the World Bank
174 with the purpose of improving vulnerable communes, building infrastructure and aiming proper urban
175 services;
- 176

177 8. *Recommends* the expansion of the UN-Habitat Best Practices Database into a portal with the purpose of sharing
178 expertise with all relevant stakeholders, CSOs, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such that it can
179 serve as an information sharing platform for the public and contain the best national, regional and local
180 practices of all Member States in line with the *New Urban Agenda*, in order to incentivize an internal working
181 network by:

- 182
- 183 a. Gathering data results and reports in order to be further analyze and implemented as pilot city plans in
184 different countries and localities;
- 185
- 186 b. Including annual progress checks for the programs and initiatives being uploaded in the portal with the
187 purpose of verifying the aspects of feasibility, efficiency in fulfilling the SDGs, adaptability in
188 different situations and accountability of funds;
- 189
- 190 c. Inviting a panel of experts coming from all Member States that will gather annually in order to
191 collaborate and exchange expertise on innovative ideas and best practices on the urbanization,
192 architecture, engineering field as well as outstanding students and specialized institutions, in order to
193 check the progress and effectiveness of all the programs being implemented as well as introducing
194 suggestions for policy making measures;
- 195

196 9. *Encourages* all Member States to comply with General Assembly resolution 70/1, which emphasizes the role of
197 an inclusive private sector for reducing poverty and social inequality, as established in SDG 10, by:

- 198
- 199 a. Encouraging NGOs, CSOs, and local governments to take part of the Global Partnership for Effective
200 Development Co-Operation's (GPEDC) annual round tables in order to discuss the importance of
201 upscaling best practices for direct investment of local entrepreneurs with different backgrounds;
- 202
- 203 b. Supporting communities with the implementation of a framework that monitors the impact of the funds
204 and resources invested and assists the ministry and other stakeholders to gain long-term community
205 benefits from their investments;
- 206
- 207 c. Improving infrastructure that will provide access to clean water, with the support of the World Health
208 Organization (WHO),
- 209
- 210 d. Improving urban water management systems that will provide access to clean water according to the
211 principles of the WHO by encouraging private enterprises to invest in water sanitation infrastructure
212 and research and development of more cost-effective methods;
- 213
- 214 e. Stimulating cooperation and communication between local government and small businesses through
215 the integration of said stakeholders into the GPEDC annual round tables;
- 216

- 217 f. Implementing training programs for local workforces in order to improve their expertise and
218 employability by creating contracts with developing partners and private corporations to hire local
219 workforce instead of bringing foreign professionals;
220
- 221 g. Encouraging private sector to develop corporate social responsibility solutions that aim to empower
222 local communities and promote their social ascension, such as microfinance initiatives, by raising
223 awareness of private sector' economic benefits of these initiatives;
224
- 225 10. *Recommends* that Member States implement regionally tailored measures based on the *New Urban Agenda*
226 development goals 77 and 97 in order to mitigate natural or manmade disaster in settlements as well as
227 upgrading slums, aiming to target the specifics in SDG 11 with the purpose of addressing these major
228 challenges by:
229
- 230 a. Suggesting that local populations and government officials establish locally fitting criteria that address
231 the needs of the targeted areas, so all parties can address their specific needs;
232
- 233 b. Encouraging the domestic use of sustainable energy such as solar, wind, water or geothermal energy;
234
- 235 11. *Suggests* the implementation of an entrepreneurial urban youth competition under the lines of the open
236 innovation principles, similar to the ones being held by Gehl People Specialized Urbanization and Urban
237 Mobility Working group, as an academic and technologic competition for specialized institutions and
238 universities, being funded by the Urban Youth Fund and including specialized institutions to analyze the
239 possible implementation of the selected projects bearing in mind but not being limited to proposals such as:
240
- 241 a. Encouraging the development of sustainable cities pilot plans for more economically developed
242 countries as well as least developed countries that are not yet being implemented;
243
- 244 b. Including a judge panel in charge of analyzing the feasibility and sustainability aspects of each project
245 regarding urbanization principles such as the *Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and*
246 *Urbanization*;
247
- 248 c. Emphasizing the role of the public and private partnerships investments to the local sustainable cities
249 pilot plans as well as the proposals on the projects presented at the competition.



Code: GA2/1/4

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2
3 *Deeply concerned* by rising ocean levels due to temperature increases that exacerbate the risk of natural disasters
4 and are an existential threat to many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as acknowledged within the *SIDS*
5 *Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,*

6
7 *Appreciating* the actions and steps recommended in the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS)
8 *Declaration on Climate Change* of 2009,

9
10 *Emphasizing* the importance of environmentally stable cities as noted in United Nations Human Settlement
11 Programme's (UN-Habitat) *World Cities Report 2016, Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures for*
12 *Sustainable Development,* as well as the importance of the preservation of natural resources as it corresponds to the
13 development of smart cities in concentrated regions,

14
15 *Taking note* of the work of the United Nations Secretary General's High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable
16 Transport,

17
18 *Considering* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 which aims at achieving an environmentally sound
19 management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their whole life cycle as well as SDG 11 which aims at
20 promoting sustainable and safe communities,

21
22 *Commending* previous global and regional cooperation through fora such as the Pacific Island Forum, the United
23 Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean Community, the Small Island
24 Developing States Action Platform, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, as well as others,

25
26 *Reaffirming* the goal of a data-driven approach to urban planning and provision of official development assistance
27 (ODA) as stated during the United Nations Economic and Social Council 2014 Integration Segment,

28
29 *Endorsing* the progress made by the adoption of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015),*

30
31 *Recognizing* United Nations Secretary-General reports 53/65 and 56/170, which support the development of an
32 Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI),

33
34 *Encouraging* cooperation between Member States and within regional bodies on the accommodation of
35 environmental refugees,

- 36
37 1. *Urges* Member States that are signatories to the *Paris Agreement (2015)* to continue to set goals through
38 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, which outline actions of the Member States aimed at
39 strengthening climate resilience;
- 40
41 2. *Recommends* that Member States explore the development of renewable energy sources such as geothermal,
42 solar, wind, and water through bilateral and multilateral partnerships between developed and less developed
43 states and work towards increasing the percentage of domestic and international energy production from
44 renewable sources;
- 45
46 3. *Invites* Member States to commit to high energy efficiency and net-zero carbon pathways for newly-erected
47 buildings by 2060 in accordance with the 2017 Global Status Report;
- 48

- 49 4. *Suggests* that Member States recognize the value of bicycles for carbon-free transportation in urban areas, as
50 well as consider implementing bicycle awareness and safety training for public audiences;
51
- 52 5. *Encourages* Member States to formulate effective national policy and coordinate with each other to handle
53 waste in an environmentally-friendly manner through initiatives such as:
54
- 55 a. Implementing energy-efficient waste collection systems, making use of waste-to-energy sources such
56 as municipal solid waste, biomass, and livestock waste as well as centralizing such power generation
57 through collection of waste residues and resources from medium and large-scale sources;
58
- 59 b. Removing contaminants from wastewater flows, and use of reclaimed water for municipal purposes, in
60 conjunction with water conservation strategies, modeled after such programs as the United Nations
61 water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives;
62
- 63 c. Tracking waste levels, types, and sources to mine necessary data for the tailoring of further specific
64 strategies in reducing point-source waste, and enhancing waste utilization programs;
65
- 66 d. Committing to recycling of reusable waste, and initiating public-private partnerships in reducing litter
67 and increasing recycling levels of personal commercial waste including drink and food containers;
68
- 69 e. Strategizing in collaboration with affected island states towards frameworks such as *Cleaner Pacific*
70 *2025* as well as further collaboration strategies between other Member States;
71
- 72 6. *Implores* Member States, at the next scheduled conference among SIDS, to:
73
- 74 a. Approach problems and experiences with sustainable urban planning in mind, particularly in terms of
75 sustainable use of space;
76
- 77 b. With recommendations and assistance from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social
78 Affairs, gather specialists for urban planning and collaborate on topics pertaining to sustainable urban
79 development;
80
- 81 c. Build an international support network of developing states that will allow permanent devotion to and
82 exchange between Member States on the topic of environmentally-conscious urban planning;
83
- 84 d. Consider green spaces such as parks and community gardens in urban planning to promote
85 environmentally-minded sustainable urbanization;
86
- 87 7. *Calls Upon* Member States to increase present levels of ODA for developing states working towards a
88 sustainable urban development, and further encourages private donors as well as public investors to provide
89 funding in forms of voluntary contributions for said states as this will soon lead to economic wealth;
90
- 91 8. *Reminds* all Member States to report to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to ensure
92 accordance with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*;
93
- 94 9. *Promotes* continued development of EVI indicators for SIDS as carried out by the UN Development Policy and
95 Analysis Division;
96
- 97 10. *Supports* bilateral or multilateral agreements between Member States and within regional bodies on evacuation
98 methods, locations, and provisions, for the purposes of providing for environmental refugees displaced by
99 natural disasters as implemented in the Caribbean region by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management
100 Agency and efforts to further such programs in other global regions by:
101
- 102 a. Investing in drainage and flood barrier infrastructure and in improved forecasting and early warning
103 technology;
104

105
106
107

- b. Encouraging Member States to strengthen multinational cooperation by regularly sharing best practices and experiences in relation to combating extreme weather events, including, but not limited to their prevention and actions to be taken in response.



Code: GA2/1/5

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2

3 *Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 72/212 and 69/212, which address transport in achieving the Sustainable
4 Development Goals (SDGs),

5

6 *Recognizing* that improving access to sustainable transportation promotes connectivity between urban, peri-urban,
7 and rural zones furthering economic growth by providing new employment opportunities as discussed at the 2016
8 UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference,

9

10 *Guided* by the success of the African Transport Policy Program (SSATP) in establishing policies leading to safe,
11 reliable, and cost-effective transportation as a result of cooperation between local governments and the private
12 sector,

13

14 *Acknowledging* the promise of proposed international transportation projects such as the One Belt, One Road
15 initiative, which would connect eastern markets with Europe and Central Asia, and would tremendously boost the
16 economies of low- and middle-income nations,

17

18 *Concerned* by the fact that 75 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions are produced in urban areas, as stated in the
19 UNDP report on *Support to Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities in the Developing World*,

20

21 *Reiterating* the need for Member States to utilize environmentally friendly fuels to power sustainable transportation
22 in order to reduce carbon emission and reliance on fossil fuels as addressed in the *New Urban Agenda*,

23

24 *Deeply concerned* that cities around the world are suffering from economic losses due to traffic congestion, as stated
25 in the UN Report *World Urbanization Prospects 2014*,

26

27 *Recalling* the *Decade of Action for Road Safety*, focused on reducing the high concentration of private transportation
28 in order to make roads safer,

29

30 *Appreciating* the Safe Bus Journey event coordinated by the United Nations (UN) Entity for Gender Equality and
31 the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in 2017, which drew attention to the fact that women in urban areas
32 have a unique set of challenges and priorities concerning safety in public transportation and limited access to private
33 transportation,

34

35 *Recalling* the 9th World Urban Forum celebrated in 2018, which focused on transit-oriented development as an
36 effective and innovative urban design concept to improve urban air quality in relation to traffic,

37

38 *Calling* on Member States to explore alternatives to private transportation such as public transport, including
39 railways and bus lanes, walking, and cycling,

40

41 *Recalling* SDG 17 in order to enhance knowledge-sharing and cooperation at regional and international level,

42

43 *Highlighting* transportation projects such as the Ethiopian National Railway Network, which has successfully
44 developed connections through public transportation,

45

46 *Acknowledging* the difficulties developing Member States face when obtaining funds for sustainable development as
47 recognized within *The Future We Want* (2012),

48

49 *Reaffirming the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)*, which suggests Member States collaborate with bilateral and
50 multilateral development banks, the public sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other bodies outside
51 of the United Nations to promote the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 8, 9, 11, and 15,
52

53 *Recognizing* the benefits of the World Trade Organization's Aid for Trade Initiative, which encourages high-income
54 Member States to invest in the transportation infrastructures of low- and middle-income countries in exchange for
55 access to emerging markets,
56

57 *Emphasizing* the high importance of public-private partnerships as an essential actor in financing urban
58 development, as mentioned in the United Nations Secretary-General's report on Effective governance, policy
59 making and planning for sustainable urbanization,
60

- 61 1. *Recommends* the creation of a national transportation subsidies toolkit based on *Target Subsidiaries in Public*
62 *Transportation: Combining Affordability with Financial Sustainability's Framework*;
63
- 64 2. *Further recommends* national boards that will create and develop subsidiary bodies to record, analyze, and
65 develop the established five points of the framework utilizing the national methodologies and tools for
66 determining low-income and poor populations in urban areas;
67
- 68 3. *Invites* regional forums to discuss best practices and analyze shifting demographics within nations through the
69 information provided by the United Nations Population Division in order to best accommodate these shifts;
70
- 71 4. *Encourages* private and public partners to collaborate to create subsidies for citizens to utilize sustainable
72 transportation by:
73
 - 74 a. Developing programs to incentivize vanpooling and carpooling;
75
 - 76 b. Providing secure locations for employees and citizens to bike;
77
 - 78 c. Endorsing compressed work schedules and telecommuting;
79
- 80 5. *Supports* using the key points of SSATP as a model for other regions, putting emphasis on:
81
 - 82 a. Fostering awareness of sustainable policies in urban mobility;
83
 - 84 b. Ensuring that cities have an established understanding, mandate and capabilities to incorporate
85 efficient transportation policies;
86
- 87 6. *Encourages* Member States to provide equal access to transportation both publicly and privately that is safe and
88 accessible;
89
- 90 7. *Endorses* international infrastructure projects by Member States aimed at connecting urban regions by public
91 transport, as such inter-regional public transport both lowers the need for private car ownership of urban
92 citizens as well as makes regional markets more accessible and reduces the cost of transportation;
93
- 94 8. *Encourages* Member States using data and digital tools with cooperation with NGOs and the private sector to
95 better plan public transport services reducing the costs of both building and operating public transport systems
96 so that these can be made more accessible to a wider section of the urban population, in particular by making it
97 more cost effective to connect to rural areas;
98
- 99 9. *Calls for* all Member States and global development networks, such as the United Nations Development
100 Programme (UNDP), to consider an implementation of an urban pavement sponge system within urban
101 functional districts and rural regions alike, so that people from rural regions could better access the economic
102 and social centers of the cities;
103

- 104 10. *Emphasizes* that Member States should include a focus on safe and inclusive transportation for women when
105 developing public transportation systems;
106
- 107 11. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate on the improvement of existing and integration of new, eco-friendly
108 forms of transportation, such as busses, subways, trains, and bicycles, to improve connectivity between regions,
109 and to facilitate trade and investments;
110
- 111 12. *Encourages* Member States to further increase their work with UN-Habitat's sub-division Urban Transport, and
112 the UNDP on the increased usage of renewable energy sources in public transportation;
113
- 114 13. *Recommends* that Member States work to reduce dependence on their roadways and encourage by developing
115 high occupancy vehicle lanes and increase availability and dependence on railways that are fueled by renewable
116 and alternative energy sources;
117
- 118 14. *Draws the attention* to the need for complete revamping of current public transportation in Member States to
119 move toward greener options such as:
120
- 121 a. Pushing toward the use of biofuel and magnetized transportation;
122
- 123 b. Incorporating transportation connects rural environments to urban cities and ensures fast and efficient
124 transit;
125
- 126 c. Ensuring that local communities are at the forefront of the workforce used to revamp public
127 transportation;
128
- 129 15. *Recommends* the creation of a working group within the existing UN-Habitat Urban Transport sub-division
130 focusing on demand-driven assessment of opportunities to integrate green transportation and transit-oriented
131 development into national urban planning plans and initiating the sharing of knowledge between Member States
132 and experts;
133
- 134 16. *Encourages* Member States to jointly work with UN-Habitat and the UNDP on the increased usage of
135 renewable energy sources in public transportation;
136
- 137 17. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will develop transportation infrastructure that provides fast, comfortable
138 navigation of their territories in ways that reduce the demand for private transportation which crowd's highways
139 and harms the environment;
140
- 141 18. *Invites* all Member States, in collaboration with the private sector, to promote telecommuting as a follow up of
142 the integration of mobile telecommunication;
143
- 144 19. *Calls for* the advancement of light-weight vehicle technology research, facilitated by individual Member States,
145 to begin developing lighter transportation to replace existing infrastructure and advance fuel-saving mechanisms
146 and reduce carbon emissions;
147
- 148 20. *Encourages* Members States to pay special attention to modern public bus transportation systems by:
149
- 150 a. Implementing dedicated lanes and an off-board fare collection system in order to facilitate its
151 efficiency, making this a time-saving system, and therefore increasing its attractiveness in the civil
152 society;
153
- 154 b. Expanding and simplifying public transport networks to increase use of capacity and service hours;
155
- 156 c. Introducing transport-on-request which enables passengers to request public transport in real-time;
157
- 158 21. *Invites* all Member States to develop bilateral and regional public transportation frameworks and share their
159 innovative solutions and success in order to encourage the duplication of such solutions at the regional level;

- 160
161 22. *Recommends* that Member States begin working toward the creation of elevated walkways to increase use of
162 walking and cycling, as well as expanding existing walkways to ensure citizens have the means to transport
163 without vehicles in urban environments;
164
- 165 23. *Encourages* Member States to develop bicycle networks to relieve the urban traffic and make cities as well as
166 rural areas more accessible to everyone through:
167
- 168 a. The implementation of affordable bicycle sharing networks, safe bicycle lanes, and bicycle racks;
 - 169 b. The support of bicycle transit, which includes the capability of transit vehicles to transport bicycles;
- 170
171
- 172 24. *Calls upon* high-income Member States to invest in the transportation infrastructure of lower-income countries,
173 middle-income countries, and Member States deemed in need of support by the Economic Vulnerability Index
174 to foster mutually beneficial trade;
175
- 176 25. *Further invites* national governments to create aid for trade national strategies to further transportation
177 infrastructure in rural and urban areas by:
178
- 179 a. Incorporating the core principles of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for least developed countries
180 to coordinate and deliver aid;
 - 181 b. Working to include university-business partnerships to develop and create transportation-focused
182 classes and job training with the help of the Higher Education on Sustainability Initiative;
 - 183 c. Facilitating dialogue and transparency between donor countries and recipient countries to ensure that
184 transportation projects are mutually beneficial.
185
186



Code: GA2/1/6

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* its full support for the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), specifically its focus on
4 people, the planet, peace, prosperity and partnership and the need to identify current and future measures to mitigate
5 the challenges of development and urbanization,

6
7 *Guided by* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8, 9, 11 that respectively focus on economic growth, innovation
8 and infrastructure, and sustainable cities and communities and their impact on sustainable urbanization and
9 development,

10
11 *Recognizing* the diligent work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the leading authority and
12 advocate of the global environmental agenda, and its efforts to improve and preserve the quality of life for the
13 world's future population,

14
15 *Concurring* with General Assembly resolutions 69/15 and 72/217 and reaffirming that Small Islands Developing
16 States (SIDS) remain constrained in their ability to implement all three dimensions of sustainable development,

17
18 *Emphasizing* the need for international efforts to help cities implement the *Yangzhou Recommendations on*
19 *Sustainable Cities and Urbanization* (2013) developed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
20 (DESA),

21
22 *Confident* in the *New Urban Agenda* (2016), which provides a framework for addressing sustainable development,
23 such as national urban policies, legislation and regulations, planning and design, local economy and municipal
24 finance, and local implementation,

25
26 *Alarmed by* the indisputable negative effects of climate change, as targeted by SDG 13, and the *2030 Agenda for*
27 *Sustainable Development* (2015), which includes the rapidly growing levels of pollution around the globe which
28 negatively affects urban air quality and population health,

29
30 *Acknowledging* that ineffective urban planning poses a threat to sustainable development across the globe, as
31 reported by DESA,

32
33 *Further recognizing* the role of satellite cities in sustainable development and their ability to mitigate the effects of
34 rapid urban migration while highlighting partnerships between countries and international organizations that
35 implement policies and programs consistent with national regulatory frameworks,

36
37 *Supporting fully* the existence of the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities,

38
39 *Conscious* of the harmful consequences of urban migration and urbanization on developing nations, as well as
40 potential solutions to these challenges through innovative solutions in line with the *New Urban Agenda* (2016) as
41 well as national regulatory frameworks,

42
43 *Underscoring* the importance of the *Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All* (2017)
44 that recognizes excessive focus of economic development in main city centers drains opportunity for surrounding
45 cities to grow in urban and rural areas,

46
47 *Guided by* the United Nations Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab's network of city planners, public institutions
48 and private enterprises efforts to incorporate habitat urban planning principles into locally adapted practices,

49

50 *Noting* the 2016 World Cities Report, which addresses challenges in providing adequate urban services, increased
51 residency in slums and informal settlements, and the rising inequality and exclusion in urban societies,
52

53 *Taking into account* the United Nations Habitat urban initiative for planned city extensions, which highlights the
54 need to provide proper spatial designation for future population growth, both in density and geographical sprawl,
55

56 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 72/200, which outlines the importance of access to information and
57 communication technology (ICT) for fostering sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable
58 development in developing states and urban areas,
59

60 *Recognizing* that, according to The State of Broadband 2016, 47 percent of the world's population lacks access to
61 ICT resources,
62

63 *Recognizing* the importance of effective transportation in streamlining the process of urbanization, and giving rural
64 communities access to urban markets and economic centers,
65

66 *Further recognizing* the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/197, which outlines the need to connect
67 the economies of SIDS to the network of global supply chains that can help improve transportation and
68 infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and facilitating trade and investment to impulse urbanization of rural areas
69 with difficult access,
70

71 *Recalling* the statement made by former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the first Global Sustainable Transport
72 Conference that inefficiencies in the transportation sector account for nearly one quarter of all energy related
73 greenhouse gas emissions,
74

75 *Calling attention to* the disparity of access to clean water between both rural and urban communities noted by SDG
76 6, as well as the opportunity that urbanization affords to provide clean water to more global citizens,
77

78 *Acknowledging* the success of currently existing programs and the use of cooperation and diplomacy to further aid in
79 water and distribution efforts,
80

81 *Acknowledging* urban development is and remains foremost a municipal responsibility, including the administrative
82 responsibility for clean and sewage water systems,
83

84 *Highlighting* the need for resilient and reliable water infrastructure, especially in fast growing urban areas and water
85 scarce environments,
86

87 *Emphasizing* the need for mobilization of financial resources to augment efforts of governments and the local
88 community, building off of General Assembly resolution 72/206, to create sustainable urban areas and human
89 settlements for the purpose of economic self-reliance,
90

91 *Recognizes* the role played by the international financial institutions in implementing SDGs and promoting foreign
92 direct investment and partnerships between rural and urban communities,
93

94 *Further Recalling* General Assembly resolution 55/2 and the 2015 United Nations World Water Development
95 Report, which call for equitable access to water and non-exploitation of resources along with the need for economic
96 support for those goals, respectively,
97

98 *Acknowledging* the benefit of community educators in the early development of children as supported by research
99 done by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) based on the targets on
100 education for sustainable urban development, specifically target 4.7 of the SDGs,
101

102 *Welcoming* the promotion of training programs regarding the dialogue and sharing of information on the urban
103 development and technology, based on the working of World Urban Campaign coordinated by UN-Habitat,
104

105 *Recognizing* the International Aid Transparency Initiative which addresses the need for accountability and clarity
106 with regards to aid deployment,
107
108 *Bearing in mind* the lack of trained personnel in industrial and technological fields and the need for technological
109 advancements to increase internet access in developing regions,
110
111 *Recognizing* that urbanization has the potential to be a powerful economic driving force especially through
112 conglomeration, industrialization, and the augmenting of employment opportunities in rural and urban areas,
113
114 *Reaffirming* the findings of the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want* (2012), and the *New Urban*
115 *Agenda* (2016) concerning the important role of women in urban development in addition to the efforts of the UN-
116 Habitat engaging states on urban issues through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) and the efforts
117 of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in promoting policies to further
118 women's education,
119
120 *Recognizing* the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), which provides educational institution to
121 collaborate with one another between States on initiative based on higher education, science, and policy making,
122
123 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 69/213, which highlighted that local communities in rural areas in
124 developing countries still suffer from a lack of access to health care, education and basic facilities,
125
126 *Guided by* the success of the Supporting African Municipalities in Sustainable Energy Transitions (SAMSET) in
127 Ghana, Uganda, and South Africa,
128
129 *Recalling* the conclusions of the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* (1994) on the importance of
130 addressing and adapting to the spread of desertification which contributes to overall land degradation and potentially
131 threatens rural communities forcing people to migrate to urban areas in mass due to resource scarcity,
132
133 *Recognizing* Member States who use renewable energy sources to create cities that are powered by sources such as
134 solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric energy,
135
136 *Bearing in mind* the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, which establishes that by the year
137 2030 Member States should work towards ensuring universal access to modern energy services, increase the use of
138 renewable energy and develop energy efficiency,
139
140 *Recognizing* that combating environmental degradation is of utmost importance to foment sustainable development,
141
142 *Profoundly concerned with* the disparity between developed and developing nations in regard to their ability to
143 detect and act upon natural disasters such as floods and extreme weather,
144
145 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 72/132, which states that rapid urbanization can increase the impact and
146 risk that natural disasters can have on populations and affect the availability of natural resources,
147
148 *Gravely concerned with* the economic effects of increasingly frequent natural disasters on small and developing
149 nations and their effect on policy implementation, as emphasized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction,
150
151 1. *Recommends* that the World Bank dedicate working groups to the implementation of the *Yangzhou*
152 *Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization* (2013) that would:
153
154 a. Further its implementation in both developed and developing Member States;
155
156 b. Focus on topics including renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, public transportation, technology,
157 environmental protection, water and health, education, housing and job opportunities;
158
159 c. Collaborate with private institutions and civil society, in addition to its original members, to share
160 knowledge and information;

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215
- d. Assist Member States in developing a national framework that covers the recommendations made by the World Bank Platform and United Nations;
 - e. Collaborate with the UN Development Assistance Framework, World Urban Campaign within UN-Habitat, and private entities;
2. *Recommends* partnerships between Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in developing solutions to housing crises, bearing in mind:
- a. The importance of citizen involvement in the planning processes;
 - b. That citizens should utilize their right to information and participation in land access and management;
 - c. The goals of the *New Urban Agenda*;
 - d. National laws and regulations protecting Member States' domestic and international interests;
3. *Recommends* that Member States market smaller cities as designated growth poles to facilitate a natural diffusion of economic resources and human capital, providing growth in regional markets and attracting companies and investments into new and growing areas;
4. *Encourages* Member States to promote satellite and peri-urban cities as a means of mitigating the effects of rapid urbanization through effective planning that are consistent with national regulatory frameworks calling on Member States to develop:
- a. Affordable housing and food security provided by local farms;
 - b. Policies supporting the Cities Without Slums Initiative in order to revitalize cities;
 - c. Partnerships between government agencies and federations such as the National Slum Dweller Federation, Urban Poor Fund International, and local policing entities;
5. *Expresses its hope* for the discussion between local, national, and regional organizations for the development of rational, cost effective urban layouts and structures in current and planned neighborhoods through the use of:
- a. Urban plans that account for long term growth potential through proper space delegations and adaptable building styles which will allow for expansion as it becomes necessary;
 - b. Repurposing programs to adapt existing structures;
 - c. Human capacity building structures to ensure regional acceptance and sustainability;
6. *Welcomes* Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to create urban development centers, which promote the integration of domestic rural-urban migrants, and other new urban inhabitants by:
- a. Providing information about professional opportunities in the region, especially labor for unemployed workers;
 - b. Providing a forum for youth entrepreneurs to discuss and exchange ideas;
 - c. Presenting entrepreneurs with access to microfinance programs to aid in the innovation and growth of urban communities;

- 216 7. *Encourages* Member States to work alongside regional development banks, such as the African Development
217 Bank, and the World Bank to provide funding for the development of sustainable transportation including mass
218 transit systems which connect rural and urban areas and streamlined public transit systems within heavily
219 populated areas;
220
- 221 8. *Encourages* Member States to promote transit-oriented development (TOD) focusing on creating compact
222 mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented communities centered around highly efficient public transportation facilities
223 funded by the support of international and national organizations such as the Sustainable Development Goals
224 Fund, World Bank, International World Transport Union, International Union of Railways, and public actors, in
225 order to diminish the motorized vehicle dependence in urban areas by:
226
- 227 a. Improving pre-existing infrastructure and creating new ones as walking lanes, biking lanes, bus rapid
228 transit ways as well as metro and train railways in order to create a more efficient and safer
229 transportation planning in regards of every country development stage;
230
 - 231 b. Promoting the benefits of active transportation, mainly bicycle and walking in urban areas, on both
232 health and air quality through sensitization campaigns;
233
 - 234 c. Enhancing the accessibility of car-sharing systems in order to significantly reduce the global car fleet
235 as well as providing affordable transportation for every citizen;
236
 - 237 d. Providing an enhanced assistance to developing countries regarding TOD in order to bolster the
238 importance of affordable convenience in creating new job opportunities for population living in
239 informal settlements;
240
- 241 9. *Expresses* the need to improve pre-existing infrastructure and create more efficient planning for maritime
242 transport, light rail transit, and roads to improve access to public transportation and mobility of the general
243 population of urban areas, with a special focus on:
244
- 245 a. The renovation of existing roads and highway networks in order to promote sustainable evacuation
246 procedures;
247
 - 248 b. The development of new road networks and sustainable transportation systems to promote equitable
249 migration and increased transit availability between urban and rural areas;
250
 - 251 c. The advancement of sustainable and efficient transportation vehicles through the use of eco-friendly
252 resources such as amphibious vehicles that utilize tidal energy;
253
- 254 10. *Recommends* that Member States establish ICT infrastructure as a public utility in urban areas by:
255
- 256 a. Encouraging the establishment of public ICT cooperatives in existing and new urban areas;
257
 - 258 b. Integrating ICTs into urban transport, utility, and communication systems to facilitate greater
259 efficiency;
260
 - 261 c. Allowing for high bandwidth public access to ICTs within urban areas to increase information
262 availability to citizens;
263
 - 264 d. Prioritizing flexible ICT infrastructure in the planning and development of new urban areas;
265
- 266 11. *Reaffirms* its commitment to urban planning and its support of the UN-Habitat Design LAB through:
267
- 268 a. Collaboration between urban planning institutions and developers at every level of government and in
269 connection to the private sector;
270

- 271 b. Development of urban plans to be implemented by local institutions that can best be adjusted to the
272 specific societal, economic and geographical challenges;
273
- 274 12. *Fully supports* aiding Member States in planning the construction of new sustainable water management and
275 reclamation centers by working with partner organizations such as the UNDP;
276
- 277 13. *Calls upon* UN-Water, the United Nations Children’s Fund’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene teams, and other
278 regional water organizations, to aid Member States in conducting research to ensure the sustainability in
279 existing water management centers;
280
- 281 14. *Suggests* that UNDP investigate the potentials of using human manure in urban agriculture in order to improve
282 food supply, prevent water contamination from untreated sewage water, especially in periphery urban areas and
283 unauthorized human settlements as well as increase sanitation and hygiene standards;
284
- 285 15. *Recommends* that Member States recognize the comparative advantages of municipalities in efficiently
286 integrating regional knowledge-sharing by:
287
- 288 a. Strengthening regional and national city alliances by developing a comprehensive and voluntary
289 regional database that assess water availability and wastewater treatment;
290
- 291 b. Exchanging staff between developing and developed countries, as to foster North-South cooperation
292 and greater administrative knowledge-sharing, especially in regard to the maintenance of running
293 water systems in order to prevent the spread of water pollution and disease;
294
- 295 16. *Encourages* the creation of new lines of credit by the UNDP, the World Bank, Regional Banks, and private
296 donors for developing Member States to ensure access to drinking water within urban areas of developing
297 communities that do not have the adequate resources by strengthening the capabilities of local government
298 bodies through education on the development and management of water resources;
299
- 300 17. *Emphasizes* the need for broader, predictable, non-earmarked, multi-year funding for UN-Habitat from multiple
301 groups and organizations including both traditional and new voluntary contributors, the private sector, and the
302 regular budget and working capital fund of the United Nations;
303
- 304 18. *Strongly recommends* that Member States welcome and support assisting entities and NGOs within their own
305 countries to encourage community leaders to educate locals, especially in primary education;
306
- 307 19. *Suggests* that Member States adopt a five-year incentive program for the development and implementation of
308 community education programs with the purpose of training and developing the next generation of community
309 educators;
310
- 311 20. *Encourages* Member States to voluntarily and publicly release annual reports on the use and distribution of
312 funds provided by the Education Development Fund to UNESCO for performance review;
313
- 314 21. *Encourages* Member States to further internet access in accordance with the United Nations’ Sustainable
315 Development Goals by strengthening partnerships with non-profit organizations including, but not limited to:
316
- 317 a. Facebook’s Project Aquilla solar-powered high-altitude drones, which acts as a high-altitude
318 geosynchronous orbit in continuous flight to supply a satellite internet link in developing nations;
319
- 320 b. Alphabet’s Project Loon high-altitude self-programming balloons, which act as regional satellite
321 internet uplinks, which have been partnered with the UN’s International Civil Aviation Organization
322 (ICAO) and Sri-Lanka’s Information and Communication Technology Agency as of 2013;
323
- 324 22. *Recommends* further policy coordination between UN-Habitat and UN-Women through PSUP country teams,
325 which would work to expand the education for women within urban areas in accordance with their domestic
326 policies;

- 327
328 23. *Encourages* Member States to seek investments from international companies that place stake in urban
329 communities and to create training programs that:
330
331 a. Serve to train local workers in the necessary skills required for specific positions within the company;
332
333 b. Ensure the trained local workers receive employment at the end of the aforementioned training;
334
335 c. Give the trained local workers the prospect to become future trainers, as to create a beneficial circular
336 increase in community engagement and integration;
337
- 338 24. *Welcomes* Member States to collaborate with each other as part of HESI to increase higher educational
339 opportunities and initiatives:
340
341 a. Increase multilateral collaborations of educational institutions such as universities and technical
342 training colleges;
343
344 b. Improve the transfer of information and knowledge aid for training the people of the local states in the
345 public and private sectors;
346
347 c. Encourage North-South and South-South cooperation for increasing employment with the local
348 knowledge and locally trained personnel to further create a sustainable local economy;
349
- 350 25. *Encourages* Member States with national development funds to finance projects similar to SAMSET in order
351 for other regions to plan an effective transition to sustainable energy in urban areas;
352
- 353 26. *Invites* Member States to mitigate their carbon emission by implementing policies and strict enforcement
354 measures, especially considering rapid urbanization and the risk of pollution generated;
355
- 356 27. *Further invites* UNEP to begin looking toward increasing health-related work force capacities in urban
357 populations with rising climate change related diseases to efficiently prevent disease from spreading and
358 increase the relevance of public health;
359
- 360 28. *Calls upon* UNEP and Member States to collaborate and exchange information in order to promote best
361 practices to halt desertification, to protect food production, to prevent food shortages, and protect cities;
362
- 363 29. *Recalls* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015)* and General Assembly resolution 70/189 and
364 the need for resilient infrastructure within critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and government
365 structures;
366
- 367 30. *Encourages* Member States to support and subsidize the implementation of decentralized renewable energy in
368 urban environments with the aid of United Nations bodies and working groups by:
369
370 a. Working closely with startups and innovators specialized in renewable energy production;
371
372 b. Expediting the installation of renewable power generation in urban communities where it is most
373 beneficial to the affected populace;
374
375 c. Creating programs that increase popular access to renewable energy sources such as small-scale wind
376 turbines and personal photovoltaic solar cells;
377
378 d. Coupling ICT access and infrastructure with decentralized urban power generation to fully take
379 advantage of electrical access;
380
381 e. Fostering cooperation between developed and developing Member States to share new technologies
382 and best practices regarding renewable power generation;

- 383
384 31. *Calls upon* willing and able Member States to support Green Economies as stated in UNEP SIDS-based Green
385 Economy-Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities to enable sustainable growth opportunities in the Ocean
386 sector by:
387
- 388 a. Greening the aquaculture and fishing sectors, which are linked to local economic growth, job creation
389 and poverty eradication on SIDS;
 - 390
 - 391 b. Investing in green technologies and raising awareness on their importance on sustainability;
 - 392
 - 393 c. Increasing public investment and spending in order to enhance institutional capacities;
 - 394
 - 395 d. Ensuring that decisions are aligned with ocean-based green economies;
 - 396
- 397 32. *Endorses* local education programs in Member States based on environmental protection, land conservation,
398 and marine ecosystem preservation by:
399
- 400 a. Providing practical and realistic recommendations on how Education for Sustainable Development
401 may be delivered more comprehensively;
 - 402
 - 403 b. Teaching the youth skills and knowledge that will help influence their attitudes and behaviors to
404 address the impact of climate change;
 - 405
 - 406 c. Revising policies and frameworks to enable policy-makers to improve the implementation of
407 Education for Sustainable Development;
 - 408
- 409 33. *Recommends* Member States work alongside the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the
410 World Meteorological Organization to report on natural disasters that take place within their borders, therefore
411 allowing them to find at risk locations and collaborating to create local natural disaster preparation plans, which
412 would ensure that all commercial and public buildings are secure from natural and urban disasters;
413
- 414 34. *Endorses* cooperation between the UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to provide
415 tools and technical assistance to Member States to fully integrate disaster risk reduction plans within their urban
416 planning and outlying communities, by implementing early warning systems and focusing on resilient and
417 durable infrastructure;
418
- 419 35. *Further Invites* Member States to work with the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies and
420 various international banking organizations to promote disaster resilient development by:
421
- 422 a. Assessing the global regions that are most prone to natural disasters and assisting their disaster resilient
423 development;
 - 424
 - 425 b. Developing new housing code policies and national standards that promote disaster resilient
426 engineering in urban settings and decrease property destruction.



Code: GA2/1/7

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*

2

3 *Expressing* its utmost concern for the vulnerability of Member States as a result of economic restrictions, increased
4 strife in conflict zones, and frequent natural disasters, which may inhibit their ability to achieve sustainable
5 urbanization,

6

7 *Addressing* the unique needs of fragile states regarding the opportunities to urbanize,

8

9 *Deeply concerned* by the alarming amount of 25 million children out of school in conflict affected areas between the
10 ages of six and 15 years old, as noted by the United Nations Children’s Fund,

11

12 *Concerned* about the lack of access to international banking and funding in fragile states, including for urbanization
13 projects,

14

15 *Recalls* the *New Urban Agenda* (2016) on how cities and towns should be better planned and managed to fulfill the
16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in fragile states,

17

18 *Emphasizes* General Assembly resolution 64/292 on the “Human Right on Water and Sanitation” and the need for
19 equitable access to clean water as a key approach to all human rights,

20

21 *Noting with alarm* the high rate of lack of access to clean and safe drinking water among populations in urbanizing
22 areas of fragile states, which in turn inflates the amount of cases of water related illnesses,

23

24 *Noting* the measures taken in the People’s Peacemaking Perspective (PPP), which relate to peace-building strategies
25 and resolving conflicts,

26

27 *Understanding* that the process of urbanization in an environmentally friendly way is a global effort and should not
28 exclude Member States from green technology sharing,

29

30 *Stressing* the importance of reducing inequalities by empowering and promoting the social economic and political
31 inclusion of all, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal 10 to Reduce inequality within and among
32 countries and the *Universal Declarations of Human Rights* (1948), to guarantee effective participation in urban and
33 territorial development decision-making,

34

35 *Expressing its satisfaction* with agreements between Member States like the memoranda of understanding on the
36 Tigris Water allocating water outtake and usage from shared transboundary water sources to resolve divergences,

37

38 *Appreciating* the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), which stipulates that aid
39 should focus on results that meet the needs and works to uplift developing Member States,

40

41 *Calling attention to* the negative economic impact that terrorism and terrorist related activities have on the
42 economies of urban areas in fragile states,

43

44 *Recognizing* the work of Oxfam, Muslim Aid along with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently
45 working on eliminating poverty, through means of distributing clean water tanks and basic needed supplies to
46 internally displaced citizens and refugees,

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1. *Requests* collaboration between lawful bodies to advise and mediate disagreements pertaining to water resources across urbanizing areas in fragile states by:
 - a. Having safe accessibility and equal share of water sources between different Member States;
 - b. Coming to consensus about withdrawal amounts agreed upon and regulated by neighboring Member States within the same effected watershed systems;
 2. *Emphasizes* the importance of allowing equal access to limited food and water resources in fragile states regardless of ethnic group or religious identity;
 3. *Requests* collaborative inclusion to access to green technology to improve urbanization in an environmentally friendly way;
 4. *Further requests* the creation of a platform that facilitates trust and cooperation between urban citizens and local authorities by expanding the platform outlined in the PPP by:
 - a. Including a citizen inclusiveness platform that aims to incorporate methods of participation in the sustainability process of urbanization;
 - b. Strengthening local peace committees to empower communities;
 - c. Providing effective and accessible social services to citizens;
 - d. Promoting nationwide intercommunal conflicts and peace process dynamics;
 5. *Encouraging* all Members States to improve regional, national, and international efforts for the promotion of urbanization by:
 - a. Implementing a program with the similar framework of El Sahel;
 - b. Improving the promotion and dissemination of a culture of safety;
 6. *Invites* UN-Habitat to intensify their promotion on green cities with a view of Member states to have affordable energy and housing in rebuilding fragile states;
 7. *Desiring* safe accessibility and equal share of water sources between different Member states and the need for agreed upon withdrawal amounts and regulated by neighboring Member States within the same effected watershed systems;
 8. *Invites* all Member States to implement more comprehensive policy in situations that cause conflict or violence to promote urbanization and encourage sustainable economic development for achieving safer cities through the promotion of a higher living standard;
 9. *Requests* the World Bank to implement a voluntary donation fund supported by Member States and NGOs for regional projects and humanitarian aid in to further develop urbanization efforts in fragile states by cooperating with peace-building connected regional development banks;
 10. *Recognizes* the correlation between urbanization and the steady increase of instability within fragile regions of all Member States by combating racial and spatial segregation to ensure access to clean drinking water for all;
 11. *Discourages* the use of restricting access to water as an advantageous political tool in urbanizing areas;
 12. *Establishing* opportunities for urbanization through education in conflict areas by:

- 103 a. Developing local educational campaigns for the importance of need of education for urbanization;
104
105 b. Providing increased security for schools inside conflict areas;
106
- 107 13. *Further encourages* increased resources for programs such as UNICEF’s No Lost Generation, which gives
108 access to education for millions of displaced children;
109
- 110 14. *Requests* collaborative inclusion as well as equal access to resources for urbanization by developing a policy of
111 non-blockage for technology trading such as fuel-efficient vehicles for urbanization;
112
- 113 15. *Supports* the creation of a platform that facilitates trust and cooperation between citizens and local authorities
114 by expanding the platform outlined in the PPP and including a citizen inclusiveness platform that will:
115
- 116 a. Advocate for change on counter-terrorism related legislation;
117
118 b. Strength local peace committees to empower communities;
119
120 c. Provide effective and accessible social services to citizens;
121
122 d. Promote nationwide intercommunal conflicts and peace process dynamics;
123
- 124 16. *Further supports* the implementation of a donation fund for conflict affected, war zone, and economically
125 restricted states to further develop urbanization efforts in fragile states by increasing voluntary donations from
126 Member States and NGOs to regional developmental banks to fund the regional operations by utilizing the
127 European Investment Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic
128 Integration, the New Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the
129 Development Bank of Latin America, among others;
130
- 131 17. *Supports* work to further build the resilience of slum dwellers through provision of entry level jobs, thus
132 enabling their access to improved livelihood opportunities in fragile states;
133
- 134 18. *Urges* the GPEDC to adopt the following policies for comprehensive urban development aid in conflict and
135 fragile states including by:
136
- 137 a. Developing a common framework for application of ODA in areas of conflict;
138
139 b. Facilitating the ability of participating States to share outcomes and best practices through a bi-annual
140 report to the GPEDC;
141
142 c. Working towards the goal of reducing the obstruction of sustainable urbanization and development
143 caused by conflict and terrorism.



Code: GA2/1/8

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

1 *The General Assembly Second Committee,*
2
3 *Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), which laid the basic set of goals for Member
4 States to reach regarding alleviating and responsibly developing into the next century,
5
6 *Recalling* the paramount importance of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) to reduce negative environmental externalities,
7 imperative in urbanization,
8
9 *Noting with concern* the major challenge urbanization poses to a sustainable environment and acknowledging that
10 this predicament is set only to grow in the future,
11
12 *Acknowledging* the efforts made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Participatory
13 Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) country teams for slum upgrading to improve existing living systems within
14 urban areas,
15
16 *Bearing in mind* the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 and its call for the utilization of
17 public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the ultimate advancement of affordable and resilient urbanization processes,
18
19 *Understanding* the needs of both developing and developed Member States regarding sustainable urbanization,
20
21 *Recognizing* the role of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966), which
22 established the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity,
23
24 *Reiterating* the efforts of private companies engaging in partnerships with local municipalities while bringing in
25 innovative and environmentally-friendly agendas as recognized by the UN-Water Best Practices Awards,
26
27 *Deeply concerned* that there are over 720 million urban residents without access to a stable water supply, as
28 noted in the World Health Organization's Report on Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation,
29
30 *Cognizant* that sustainable tourism should be perceived as a means of rural development and investment,
31
32 *Affirms* the *Vienna Programme of Action* (2014) in its goal to transform traditional structures to meet evolving
33 urbanization needs,
34
35 *Alarmed by* the fact that over 1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing and 1 billion of those reside in informal
36 settlements or slums,
37
38 *Fully aware* of the evidence reported by the Human Rights Council that housing affordability is decreasing,
39 particularly for low-income households,
40
41 *Reaffirms* the principles set by the *New Urban Agenda* (2016) through the UN-Habitat's that highlights how
42 upgrading living infrastructure will foster healthy communities, strengthen local networks, and heighten quality of
43 life for residents,
44
45 *Bearing in mind* the implementation of SDG 17 in its call for the utilization of PPPs in the ultimate advancement of
46 affordable and resilient urbanization processes,
47
48 *Reinforces* the inclusion of women as equal participants in development and encourages efforts by the *Convention*
49 *on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979), the *New Urban Agenda* (2016), and the
50 Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want* (2012),

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Acknowledging the efforts made by the UN-Habitat to improve marginalized and vulnerable population 's participation as stakeholders in urban development,

Further acknowledging the importance of developing public transportation systems to create more environmentally friendly transport networks and bridges the rural-urban divide,

Noting the importance of General Assembly resolution 69/320 on Entrepreneurship for development, which will help to achieve the SDGs 8 and 11,

Supporting the work of the UN Technology Bank in providing aid for information and communication technology (ICT) development in member states,

Recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) and its specific focus on domestic and international private business and finance,

Reiterating the importance of partnerships between regional and national stakeholders as well as public and private sectors in the ultimate advancement of affordable and resilient urbanization processes to implement SDG 17,

Highlighting the connection between contractual labor and the ability to achieve adequate housing,

Endorsing the implementation of urban development projects in collaboration with the World Bank,

Reaffirming the need to control and maintain sustainable urbanization through the implementation of regulations for new urban developments, including standards that will aid in the proper collections and dispersion of government funds for such projects,

Recognizing the effective and efficient research of the *United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* (UNISDR) (1999) in relation to the United Nations Plan of Action and in accordance with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

1. *Encourages* Member States to establish comprehensive policies for further sustainable development efforts to include waste management, e-government, stakeholder inclusion, gender, employment, housing, air quality, energy and transportation, PPPs, state cooperation, financial inclusivity, solidarity, and comprehensive implementation;
2. *Recommends* that Member States implement local economic development strategies with assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO) by:
 - a. Supporting local enterprises and empowering local communities furthermore ensuring economic growth and opportunities in rural areas;
 - b. Improving global living conditions by establishing sustainable urban areas supported by the ILO;
3. *Encourages* Member States to improve sustainable living and minimize the negative socioeconomic impacts of urbanization by:
 - a. Utilizing current human resources to provide professional training for new workers and improve job quality and security;
 - b. Creating local employment offices to enable individuals to attain sustainable housing and income opportunities to empower local communities;
 - c. Implementing mentorship initiatives between experienced employees and those entering the workforce;

- 107 d. Monitoring equal rights among workers who establish sustainable urban areas in accordance with ILO
108 rules and guidelines;
109
- 110 e. Working with public, non-governmental, and private entities to establish an infrastructure that
111 encourages rental sales;
112
- 113 f. Empowering women by diminishing the negative effects of public housing contracts that discriminate
114 against women in underdeveloped areas;
115
- 116 4. *Further encourages* the strengthening of multilateral cooperation towards knowledge sharing of social and
117 economic development practices, locations, and performance indicators of initiatives facilitating regional
118 cooperation through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation;
119
- 120 5. *Recommends* that Member States cooperate to develop tailor-made sustainable urban development action plans
121 under the guidance of international institutions like the World Bank and the European Union's Partnership
122 Instrument to strengthen the impact of international city-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development
123 including by:
124
- 125 a. Reinforcing methodological basis by drawing upon examples set by URBACT and International Urban
126 Cooperation and in response to the recommendations of the *New Urban Agenda* (2016);
127
- 128 b. Emphasizing the communication and transparency to be an integral part during the process of
129 preparing urban development plans by the implementing partners and relevant guidelines;
130
- 131 c. Suggesting all Member States to establish their own tailor-made framework for a program adapted to
132 their own regional issues and relevant policy strategies through cooperation;
133
- 134 6. *Urges* all Member States to coordinate official development assistance and foreign direct investment with each
135 other as an important vehicle for financial inclusivity and financing urbanization;
136
- 137 7. *Recommends* the expansion of the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) hosted by the World Bank by:
138
- 139 a. Appealing to more developing states involved in supporting local municipalities towards implementing
140 naturally efficient methods for food and renewable energy production along with access to clean water;
141
- 142 b. Encouraging the GPSC to focus on the creation of locally based short-term action plans detailing the
143 usage of joint public-private ownerships, sharing knowledge between sectors on a large scale to
144 provide citizens with an adequate standard of life;
145
- 146 8. *Promoting* networking, exchanges, and learning activities to be organized between regions and cities in view of
147 further supporting and adding value to existing cooperation;
148
- 149 9. *Calls upon* relevant international organizations, subsidiary bodies, specialized agencies, and committees, to aid
150 in the implementation of the present resolution through their respective mandates and to further debate and
151 strategize on a case by case basis with non-governmental organization (NGOs) and expert groups;
152
- 153 10. *Requests* the UN Development Programme to assist NGOs, such as the Economic Rural Development Society,
154 to build partnerships with Member States to promote the importance of the green economy and climate
155 adaptation within local communities and to foster sustainable business practices for economic sustainability;
156
- 157 11. *Encourages* Member States to support the transformation of energy supplies through a multifaceted approach to
158 achieve a sustainable urban future by:
159
- 160 a. Modernizing existing energy systems with a transition to low carbon energy supply and supporting the
161 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
162

- 163 b. Establishing a locally centralized energy distribution network increasing cost efficiency and allowing
164 for a contemporary state of energy supply infrastructure;
165
- 166 c. Monitoring discussions regarding research and development for the use of renewable energy including
167 but not limited to transportation, food, and water security as well as waste management;
168
- 169 d. Increasing funding in cooperation with international financial institutions to promote the
170 implementation of the framework by enabling cooperation between the private and public sector;
171
- 172 12. *Appeals* to Member States to use advanced technology to monitor air quality standards and join an annual
173 international conference on the regulation of air pollution under the *Paris Agreement* by collaborating with
174 NGOs, private enterprises, and UN bodies;
175
- 176 13. *Recommends* that the UN-Habitat sub-division on Urban Transport integrate green transportation into urban
177 planning through a transit and transportation working group;
178
- 179 14. *Promotes* the reduction of private vehicle use and an increase in the use of public transportation and cycling
180 networks to reduce carbon emissions;
181
- 182 15. *Supports* discussions regarding research and development of train systems powered by renewable energy and
183 welcomes the guidance of Member States that have previously implemented these technologies in the creation
184 of a framework to achieve sustainable transportation systems;
185
- 186 16. *Encourages* Member States to increase the digitization of public transport systems to reduce costs and promote
187 innovation to increase accessibility and provide opportunities for marginalized communities;
188
- 189 17. *Requests* Member States to collaborate through regional partnerships to foster the development of cross-national
190 transportation routes, allowing for more fluid shipment of building materials to connect rural and urban areas to
191 promote infrastructure modernization;
192
- 193 18. *Further urges* Member States to encourage private and public-sector cooperation for the promotion of
194 transportation and rural infrastructure;
195
- 196 19. *Encourages* the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation to further focus on infrastructure in partner
197 countries with poor and vulnerable regional communities to improve the allocation and access of water
198 resources in pre-urban areas through international cooperation;
199
- 200 20. *Promotes* public-private cooperation and exchanges between regions and cities, to generate:
201
- 202 a. Improved collaboration with public NGOs and local authorities regarding food and water security;
203
- 204 b. A universal framework for an action plan, including enhanced food cultivation, and sustainable water
205 management;
206
- 207 21. *Calls upon* local governments to engage in collaborative partnerships with innovative private companies in the
208 establishment of environmentally-friendly and cost-effective housing projects through:
209
- 210 a. Engaging with relevant renewable energy companies that provide subsidized renewable resources for
211 housing projects in areas where renewable energy is not financially viable or readily available;
212
- 213 b. Expanding plastic waste management between regions and cities in the construction and the overall
214 development of projects;
215
- 216 22. *Further urges* the improvement of affordable housing programs by willing Member States through:
217
- 218 a. Encouraging the inclusion of civil society as stakeholders;

- 219
220 b. Integrating affordable financing plans offered by regional banks and other financial agencies;
221
222 c. Providing government subsidy options to low-income individuals living in informal settlements;
223
224 23. *Recommends* Member States to work closely with municipal governments and local private developers to utilize
225 pre-existing housing structures and to develop cost effective rental housing programs which will increase
226 efficiency and reduce costs of development of housing construction through:
227
228 a. Working with public, non-governmental, and private entities to establish an infrastructure that
229 encourages rental sales;
230
231 b. Empowering women by diminishing the negative effects of public housing contracts that discriminate
232 against women in underdeveloped areas;
233
234 c. Encouraging Member States to utilize research centers and public research-based universities to foster
235 sustainable solutions for affordable housing;
236
237 24. *Reiterates* the goal of UN-Habitat’s PSUP to transform informal settlements into safe and sustainable housing
238 by:
239
240 a. Requesting UN-Habitat to expand their mandate by allowing every Member State to apply and
241 participate in PSUP;
242
243 b. Recommending the implementation of a specialized comprehensive expansion model of urbanization;
244
245 25. *Encourages* all Members States to take concrete steps for capacity building of metropolitan areas and regional
246 infrastructure by improving technical and organizational implementation as well as innovative options to utilize
247 smart city policies that will contribute to the reduction of the rural-urban divide through:
248
249 a. Reminding Member States that smart cities may include sustainable infrastructural and planning efforts
250 as well as environmentally conscious and gender inclusive policies;
251
252 b. Reminding Member States that they have the right to implement these policies if they choose;
253
254 26. *Urges* Member States to involve rural populations in tourism development processes promoting both effective
255 tourism marketing and cooperation between local and regional actors and recommends these measures should
256 lead to prevention of the negative externalities of rapid urbanization in overpopulated cities;
257
258 27. *Encourages* UNDP to facilitate cooperation between urban centers and rural populations to enable the benefits
259 of urbanization areas to reach citizens in rural areas that cannot relocate due to financial spatial and
260 infrastructural obstacles;
261
262 28. *Reminds* Member States of the importance of the preservation of both their agricultural priorities and their
263 traditional and cultural heritage in both rural and urban areas;
264
265 29. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat consider incorporating the principles of India’s Smart Cities Program, which
266 empowers national governments to work with local governments to implement smart infrastructure, thus
267 improving the resilience of urban areas;
268
269 30. *Emphasizes* the dynamic state of global climate including the numerous protections of resilient infrastructure
270 regarding heavily urbanized areas focusing on sustainable infrastructure to reduce the effects of natural disasters
271 within impoverished localities and devising a plan to educate rural and urban governments regarding the
272 effectiveness of resilient infrastructure and the economic benefits of disaster planning;
273

- 274 31. *Requests* UN-Habitat to investigate the feasibility of creating an advisory board of urban planners with the
275 capacity to assist aspiring states and urban areas to increase capacity for pedestrian traffic, waste management,
276 and sustainability focusing on decreasing carbon footprints by:
277
- 278 a. Designing plans for construction of landfills based on modern and environmentally conscious
279 standards;
 - 280
 - 281 b. Improving existing municipal waste systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
282 Development;
 - 283
- 284 32. *Calls upon* regional development banks, institutions, and civil society organizations to focus on strengthening
285 urban planning capacity through sustainable urbanization policies by allocating and distributing resources for
286 developing Member States;
287
- 288 33. *Urges* Member States, urban planners, and governments to incorporate systematic planning such as building
289 codes, standardized design guidelines, and uniform housing to ensure the sustainability of urban planning;
290
- 291 34. *Encourages* Member States to design infrastructure according to national disaster risk reduction plans with
292 support from donor states and the UNISDR, to reduce the effect of natural disasters caused by climate change in
293 all regions with emphasis on those areas most affected;
294
- 295 35. *Encourages* an optional collaboration between Member States, UN-Habitat, and UN-Women to work towards
296 the inclusion of marginalized populations in sustainable urban development efforts including by:
297
- 298 a. Working with UN-Habitat teams to enhance inclusivity for all regional stakeholders and promote
299 capacity building of all urban areas to empower vulnerable and marginalized populations;
300
 - 301 b. Creating state-specific women in cities action plans for urban areas in willing Member States that will:
302
 - 303 i. Encourage the education of women in urban areas pertaining to their existing legal rights to
304 housing and legal representation;
 - 305 ii. Create programs to ensure that women in urban areas have access to health services;
 - 306 iii. Foster the creation of community-led programs to promote the education and participation of
307 women residing in urban communities in community development projects, local political
308 initiatives, and other stakeholder-based community programs;
 - 309
 - 310 c. Recommending that UN-Habitat include the following topics for potential discussion at their next
311 conference with the purpose of ensuring women's full participation in sustainable urban development
312 at all levels:
313
 - 314 i. Promoting education of women in urban areas pertaining to their rights;
 - 315 ii. Facilitating information sharing with a focus on gender mainstreaming;
 - 316 iii. Establishing further discussion and action on these topics at future UN Habitat conferences;
 - 317
- 318 36. *Suggests* willing Member States to work in conjunction with the UN Women, WFP, IFAD, and FAO on the
319 Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women to improve
320 the livelihood of these women thereby reducing the rate of urbanization by providing leadership and
321 employment opportunities for women in rural areas, such as, but not limited to, incentives for businesses run by
322 and for women;
323
- 324 37. *Recommends* Member States consider implementing a communal sustainable company index, modeled after the
325 Dow Jones Sustainability Indices, which will act as an index for community-owned sustainable-minded
326 organizations that encourages self-sufficiency and economic interactions while ensuring that profits remain
327 within urban communities;
328

- 329 38. *Encourages* the advancement of efficient urbanization programs and effective partnerships established through
330 the World Bank Flagship Program on Urbanization through the expansion and amplification of the program, by
331 involving relevant stakeholders in participatory partnerships;
332
- 333 39. *Strongly emphasizes* committing to a unified methodology for transparency regarding aid programs between
334 donors and recipient countries, based on the ability for Member States to create national action plans and
335 performance updates, along with annual reports detailing the progress and usage of aid regarding sustainable
336 urbanization;
337
- 338 40. *Recommends* Member States to create a five-year plan, every two-and-a-half years to address the needs of the
339 civil society, local and national governments to specifically define the needs of the country, and how aid
340 concretely impacts regional development goals to pave the way for sharing of responsible aid between donors
341 and recipients;
342
- 343 41. *Encourages* partnership between the United Nations Technology Bank and Member States to assist in the
344 implementation of e-government in providing public services to countries of the global South, with focus on
345 tracking financial resource disbursement between rural and urban communities, facilitating more efficient aid
346 control, and promoting inclusion of the underprivileged population.