



Code: DR/1/1

Committee: The General Assembly

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

- 1 *The General Assembly,*
2
3 *Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established through *Transforming our World: the 2030**
4 *Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1),*
5
6 *Recognizing the importance of the *Paris Agreement (2015)* for affirming the commitment of the United Nations*
7 *(UN) Member States to fight climate change globally,*
8
9 *Highlighting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) which addresses the rural-urban divide and establishes a*
10 *global financing framework pertaining to urbanization,*
11
12 *Expressing its appreciation to all Member States on the progress, efforts and achievements that have been made*
13 *toward the SDGs, especially SDG 11, which promotes sustainable cities and communities,*
14
15 *Acknowledging *The New Urban Agenda* set by General Assembly resolution 71/256 and the *Outcome of the United**
16 *Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III),*
17
18 *Reaffirming to take the view of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to focus on the application of specific*
19 *SDGs, like SDG 11 and to develop best practices for local communities,*
20
21 *Deeply concerned with the fast-growing rate of informal settlements, as defined in the outcome paper of Habitat III,*
22 *in urban areas and its negative consequences, such as insufficient municipal resources, increasing climate change,*
23 *furthering socio-economic inequality, deteriorating health crises, and marginalization,*
24
25 *Emphasizing the need for extended cooperation between ~~the~~ Member States regarding this issue, especially focusing*
26 *on regional and city partnerships, as well as environmental improvements,*
27
28 *Acknowledging the fact that water scarcity will continue to lead to migration crises and that there will be an*
29 *increasing amount of conflicts over fresh water supplies,*
30
31 *Recognizing that 7% of the world-wide population face water scarcity all year, and over 30% at least once a month,*
32 *especially in arid regions of the world,*
33
34 *Taking into account the demographic changes, such as the aging of societies or rural depopulation and impacts on*
35 *societies,*
36
37 *Appealing to the responsibility of developed countries towards helping developing countries,*
38
39 1. *Suggests a reduction of greenhouse gas emission by:*
40
41 a. *Improving public transportation in cities as well as connecting the rural areas;*
42
43 b. *Fostering the creation of urban green spaces;*
44
45 c. *Encouraging the use of renewable energy as well as the research of alternative energy sources;*
46
47 2. *Emphasizes the need for a reliable and renewable access to potable water for all by:*
48

- 49 a. Proposing to create a worldwide forum to discuss and exchange innovative technologies and ideas
50 concerning urban infrastructure, renewable energy, and water supply, working together multilaterally,
51 setting aside past conflicts;
52
- 53 b. Recommending setting aside funds to further invest in and research possibilities to desalinate water,
54 considering that 97% of the world's water is saline and the potable water supply is shrinking;
55
- 56 c. Encouraging Member States to invest in modernizing their cities' energy and water distribution and
57 supply, as far as their capacity and funds will allow them to;
58
- 59 d. Sharing knowledge and expertise in urban water management;
60
- 61 3. *Encourages* more sustainable consumption habits in order to fairly distribute sustainable investment
62 opportunities to build and strengthen urban areas by:
63
- 64 a. Promoting awareness for the need of producing countries to receive fair prices for their goods;
65
- 66 b. Raising awareness and actively promoting fair and sustainable prices in countries with a high
67 consumption ratio;
68
- 69 c. Encouraging citizens and enterprises to be responsible towards the environment by recycling and
70 minimizing waste;
71
- 72 4. *Underlines with concern* the need for international and regional cooperative work as only the sharing of
73 expertise, human capacity and knowledge, as well as mutual support can lead to progress in the field of
74 sustainable urban growth and is therefore firmly convinced of the efficiency of:
75
- 76 a. Increasing accessibility and transparency of expertise and practices concerning sustainability and
77 urbanization by hosting regular summits of the Member States;
78
- 79 b. Creating a database of knowledge for all, to ensure easy access to information and research needed for
80 sustainable urbanization;
81
- 82 c. Introducing student exchange programs in order to support international dynamics within the younger
83 generation to strengthen intercultural exchange for the future;
84
- 85 d. Establishing transnational city-partnership-programs between developing and developed states to
86 support states still on their path to sustainable urban development;
87
- 88 5. *Acknowledges* that current demographic changes are leading to depopulation of societies and need to be
89 countered by taking into consideration the dignity and the living standards of the elder generations by:
90
- 91 a. Building a society in which all generations support each other, via the creation of housing in which
92 different generations live together;
93
- 94 b. Establishing a fund that aims to provide people security in their old age;
95
- 96 c. Making effective use of the motivation and abilities of the elderly to keep them included in societal life
97 and decision-making, recommending to introduce regional programs addressing the matter;
98
- 99 6. *Expresses its hope* for a creation of a global program to strengthen sustainable urban and rural development all
100 over the world similar to the Yangzhou Recommendations on Sustainable Cities and Urbanization introduced
101 by the United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to provide humanitarian help
102 with the aim to improve living conditions in urban and rural areas;

- 103
104 7. *Encourages* UN Member States to uphold the goals of the *Agenda 2030*, reminding that a failure will
105 compromise the credibility of the UN as a whole by reducing the share of resources to Member States that do
106 not comply with the given goals;
107
- 108 8. *Considers* the necessity of integrating marginalized people into the urban population with the aim to reduce
109 segregation by:
110
- 111 a. Promoting cultural diversity and exchange, referring to the abovementioned cultural exchange and
112 raising awareness for the problem;
 - 113
 - 114 b. Boosting public schooling, to be able to reduce the reliance on private schooling in the future, via the
115 establishment of guidelines for education;
 - 116
- 117 9. *Proclaims* that urbanization also entails the development of rural areas by increasing mobility in the whole
118 country with a focus on the connection of urban and rural areas with the aim to reduce poverty to prevent social
119 segregation and marginalization by:
120
- 121 a. Increasing the effective usage of resources through sharing knowledge of recent innovations and tactics
122 regarding this issue to:
123
 - 124 i. Further economic development;
 - 125 ii. Assure a sustainable utilization of resources of any kind;
 - 126 iii. Improve the interconnectivity of rural and urban areas;
 - 127 iv. Create multimodal platforms to guarantee international connectivity;
 - 128 v. Install and enhance the public transportation system;
 - 129 vi. Foster equity by subsidizing transfers if needed;
 - 130 - 131 b. Mitigating the causes of rural-urban migration and rural depopulation through:
132
 - 133 i. The accommodation of basic needs of the inhabitants in less urbanized areas by providing services
134 such as medical care, education, security, nutrition, sanitation, water supply, electricity,
135 employment, and access to information and communication technologies;
 - 136 ii. The promotion of companies and other businesses settling in rural areas to create work
137 opportunities, by increasing the attractiveness of those locations;
 - 138 iii. The establishment of more efficient practices in agricultural activity aiming to preserve living
139 conditions in rural areas.