The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlined in General Assembly resolution 70/1, particularly the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”,

Emphasizing the importance of the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement and its goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,

Considering the conclusions from the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),

Acknowledging the need to reduce transportation based on fossil fuels, stressing the importance of adopting more eco-friendly options, such as electricity-powered high-speed trains, and recognizing in particular the importance of an environment-friendly alternative of transporting commercial goods between cities, countries and continents,

Supporting the usage of renewable resources, such as solar, wind and hydro energy to provide green energy,

Realizing that undesired effects of urbanization, such as the Urban-Rural divide, reduction of air quality in cities or disenfranchisement of the poor can mainly be attributed to mismanagement and lack of funds,

Taking into account that the creation of infrastructure projects serves as an effective opportunity of creating jobs and stimulating economic growth,

Acknowledging that 90% of the world’s population growth until 2030 will take place in Africa and Asia,

Realizing the benefits of the United Nations Special Climate Change Fund (UNSCCF), which was established in 2001 to finance different projects relating to certain areas, such as technology transfer and capacity building, energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, water management, economic diversification,

Emphasizing the need for an increased global exchange of ideas and research results with regard to sustainable transportation,

1. Recommends the establishment of a United Nations Sustainable Infrastructure and Railway Initiative (SIRI), which shall inter alia:

   a. Support Member States on a multilateral level regarding the planning and implementation of sustainable infrastructure projects, particularly on the field of railway transportation;

   b. Become a part of the Special Climate Change Fund and therefore allow Member States to access existing financial resources of said fund in order to realize their infrastructure projects;

2. Supports the idea of constructing an extended railway system that connects not only countries, but also adjoined continents to promote inclusive globalization and to foster economic growth in a sustainable manner, which shall:

   a. Start as a pilot project by further connecting the countries of the Eurasian continent and then transition towards the African continent;
b. Be implemented upon existing infrastructure by renewing it, or be created by building new infrastructure where necessary;

c. Focus on the usage of electricity-powered trains to reduce net emissions and support sustainable transportation;

d. Not only connect economic centers and big cities, but also put an emphasis on providing transportation and access to more rural areas, thus supporting the development of those areas and ensuring that all people can benefit from globalization, not only those located in urban areas;

e. Utilize the financial means of the aforementioned SCCF;

3. Encourages all Member States to closely monitor the success of the SIRI and its pilot project in the Eurasian continent;

4. Encourages also all Member States to participate in the SIRI in their respective geographical area by utilizing:

   a. The financial means provided for the SIRI by the SCCF;

   b. The financial means provided by the funds of their respective regional Economic Commissions;

5. Suggests the establishment of a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure, which shall:

   a. Exist as a part of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);

   b. Have a formal meeting every six months and discuss the latest developments in the field of transportation infrastructure, with the goal of improving scientific exchange between countries on said topic;

   c. Consist of representatives from fifteen different Member States, that will be elected by the General Assembly for a six-year term;

   d. Will publish a report on their past work every three years.