



# NMUN • GALÁPAGOS

## ECUADOR 2024

Documentation of the Work of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** NMUN simulation\*



\* National Model United Nations ([nmun.org](http://nmun.org)) organizes simulations of the UN. The resolutions in this document were the work of dedicated college and university students attending our conference. They are not official UN documents, and their contents are not the actual work of the UN entity simulated.

# United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Tobias Dietrich
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Karla Bayas

## Agenda

- I. Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
- II. Biodiversity and Health

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
UNEA/1/1	Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure	Adopted without a vote
UNEA/1/2	Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure	43 in favor, 1 abstention



**Code:** UNEA/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* that the mandate of this committee calls for the progressive guidance of international environmental policy,

*Mindful of* Article 25 of the 1948 United Nations' (UN) *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which advocates for the access of adequate living conditions,

*Reiterating* the concerns and hopes outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 (clean water and sanitation), 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), and 15 (life on land),

*Deeply alarmed* by the fact that, according to the United Nations Environment Management Group, 92% of the 169 individual SDG targets are either directly or indirectly influenced by infrastructure investments,

*Paying close attention* to UNEA Resolution 5/9 (2019), which identifies the increasing importance of sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure and further stressing the infrastructure gap that may require significant investment from both private and public sectors,

*Reaffirming* the importance of a nation's sovereign ability, as declared in the UN Charter, to choose its own development path, while further acknowledging the individual nature of development, and that local governments and indigenous communities are the most aware of their immediate needs and threats and are the ones best suited to address their own challenges,

*Deeply Disturbed* by the fact that climate change is a common concern of humankind, as supported by the *Glasgow Climate Pact* and *Paris Climate Accords*,

*Acknowledging* that Member States are developing at their own pace, and further recognizing the collective terms used in this resolution are by nature imperfect and may misrepresent the diverse status of each Member State,

*Noticing* the lack of resilient infrastructure in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), according to the UN Office for Sustainable Development and United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/492 (2023),

*Deeply concerned* by the detrimental effects of natural disasters on infrastructure and rise of droughts in rural and farming regions contributing to the rise of famines,

*Reminding* all Member States that according to the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) infrastructure and its uses are responsible for 79 % of greenhouse gas emissions and 88 % of all adaptation costs,

*Recognizing* that soft infrastructure and its creations, such as legislation and government entities, are necessary to uplift policies that support sustainable and resilient hard infrastructure,

*Realizing the efficacy* of the *Carpathian Convention* and the *TRANSGREEN* project, particularly in regard to sustainable transportation systems and cross-border networks,

*Alarmed by* the devastating impact of natural disasters on the environment, a Member State's capacity and humanity as a whole, specifically that economic losses from climate-related disasters have surpassed \$ 1.6 trillion annually according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

*Affirming the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)* and the Sahel Green Belt initiative to achieve sustainable development in desert and drought prone areas,

*Guided by* the success of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* produced by the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR),

*Stressing* General Assembly resolution 78/69 (2023) in which it endorsed the importance of protecting coastal regions from environmental disasters as a step to facilitate SDG 14,

*Understanding* the gap in North-South infrastructure sustainability and readiness for extreme weather changes, with currently only 25% of infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean designed to be climate-resilient,

*Acknowledging* the fact that according to the World Bank, over 1 billion people lack access to an all-season road and 2.6 billion people in the world are digitally unconnected,

*Further recognizing* the work and importance of UN-based databases, such as the Open Data Infrastructure for City Resilience, to guide best practice implementation regarding sustainability across Member States,

*Cognizant* that the UN recognizes most natural disasters as being water-related,

*Aware* of the UN 2023 World Water Development Report and its finding that an estimated 2.2 billion people lack access to clean water,

*Conscious* of the need to protect freshwater sources in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/144 on "Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Development", which calls for the importance of sustainable use and management of water,

*Having heard* of the effort of the 2005 Conservation of Iranian Wetland Project (CIWP) on the promotion of youth contribution to environmental matters,

*Keeping in mind* the value of clean water initiatives, circular production, and sanitation systems to advance public health and environmental conservation purposes,

*Encouraged by* the contribution of the International Water Association's Young Water Professionals (YWP) supported by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) to the search of solutions related to water access,

*Recognizing* the initiative of the Centre de Recherche et d'Education Pour le Développement (CREPD) over the sustainable management of chemicals,

*Applauding* the success of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which facilitates the implementation of resilient infrastructure by harnessing South-South knowledge exchange and capacity building,

*Stressing* that an additional investment of \$ 6.9 trillion is needed annually to reach the 2030 climate goals according to OECD,

*Recalling* the World Bank estimates that there currently exists a \$ 3.5-5 trillion gap in infrastructure investment needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030,

*Conscious* of the variability and diversity of climates, project types, and the need to consider all environmental factors, impacts, costs and benefits, and national priorities when determining the feasibility of a project,

*Underscoring* the need for fiscal oversight in situations when international funding is allocated to Member States or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for infrastructure, sustainability, and environmental projects,

*Guided by* the success of the Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) to ensure economic progress while simultaneously fostering the transition to a greener future,

*Emphasizing* the integral role that funding plays in facilitating the realization of infrastructure projects globally, including initiatives led by the World Bank, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Green Bond Initiative (GGBI), and other such programs,

*Further reminding* Member States that, according to the World Bank, investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure led to returns of \$ 4.2 billion during the useful life of the new infrastructure,

*Recognizing* the vital role of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in reviewing the progress of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (Rio Declaration) (1992),

*Having adopted* the *International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure*, in hopes to support Member States in strengthening national policies to minimize the risk of structural damage during climate-related natural disasters,

*Acknowledging* the involvement and value of NGOs in promoting and sourcing information to create sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects,

*Expressing its appreciation* of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and its Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) which works to assess public-private partnership (PPP) projects early on and improve them throughout their design and implementation phase,

*Recognizing* the importance of fostering North-South cooperation as a means to promote global economic growth, reduce inequalities, and address shared challenges such as poverty, climate change, and sustainable development,

*Fully aware* that knowledge sharing between Member States hopes to facilitate a universal standard for sustainable infrastructure projects,

*Acknowledging* UNEA resolution 5/5 (2022), which emphasizes the importance of nature-based solutions in the implementation of resilient infrastructure that conserves biodiversity and various ecosystems,

*Referring* to green taxonomies, frameworks that define environmentally sustainable investments, which allow Member States to determine how infrastructure can be transformed to become more sustainable and aligned with SDG 9,

*Encouraging* the use of carbon pricing models as an effective tool to significantly decrease the environmental costs of greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate towards a low-carbon economy in alignment with the SDGs,

1. *Advises* Member States to ensure the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure, such as supply chains and medical aid, especially during regional and global crises;
2. *Requests* all Member States to develop comprehensive land management plans prioritizing the gradual increase in accessibility to the human right to water and safe water infrastructure;
3. *Expresses its hope* to develop a non-binding High-Level Advisory Panel that will make recommendations to UNEP and issue determinants on what defines safe water infrastructure and water accessibility that will help guide best practices and policies surrounding the land management plans and establish suggestions for a planning system;
4. *Requests* the support of UNEP and associated subject matter experts through mobilization of the Environment Fund to guide Member States implementing best practices as they align with the SDGs and to reduce any possible biases that projects may be prone to;
5. *Asks* the General Assembly to create a Digital Knowledge Hub to promote knowledge sharing regarding infrastructure projects, best practices, innovation, national and regional updates, and other information in a globally accessible manner;
6. *Strongly endorses* the participation of UN organs and NGOs in the Digital Knowledge Hub, providing information on the implementation of public policy, statistics, case information, and scientific data;
7. *Advises* Member States to participate in multilateral knowledge sharing to support global efforts in infrastructure initiatives by:
  - a. Encouraging the pairing of nations based on similar development experience, either by climate, project type, or other similarities;
  - b. Reminding Member States with more developed, innovative, and green infrastructure of their responsibility to assist those Member States still developing their infrastructure by sharing their experiences;
8. *Invites* Member States to join a voluntary international summit hosted by Japan at the Tokyo Development Learning Center to outline legislative plans to increase government capacity with soft infrastructure, which includes:

- a. Detailing the different policies, government agencies, and other methods by which soft infrastructure can support sustainable development of hard infrastructure;
  - b. Creating context-specific solutions that consider Member State's capacity and priorities;
9. *Recommends* the continued promotion and investment in UNDRR for Member States to access in a preventative capacity by:
  - a. Establishing early warning systems and risk identification measures, particularly in high-risk areas;
  - b. Improving drainage systems and flood barriers in accordance with UNEA resolution 6/13 for sustainable water infrastructure by utilizing dam technology to secure water nationally and locally in accordance with strengthening water policy;
  - c. Creating integrated fire management in accordance with strengthening the 2030 United Nations Strategic Plans for forests to achieve the UN Global Forest Goals;
10. *Requests* collaboration with UNEP on the creation of a Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Index Score (RSIIS) through which Member States would be able to share data on the status of their hard and soft infrastructure, and the level of sustainability they have achieved by:
  - a. Expanding the existing monitoring capacities built into the Assembly's structure;
  - b. Publishing an RSIIS for each Member State every 5 years;
  - c. Furthering global efforts by developing resolutions in alignments of the RSIIS;
11. *Underscores* prioritizing projects that give sustainable access to water to those remaining without it, by:
  - a. Expanding the work of UNCCD and the Sahel Green Belt initiative to other Member States at risk of desertification by:
    - i. Addressing the underlying causes of land degradation, such as improving the quality of soil;
    - ii. Establishing effective water management such as drip irrigation;
  - b. Modeling projects between Member States with influence from previous UNDP-supported projects to serve as a model for other such joint UN projects with other Member States;
12. *Calls for* the expansion of UNEP's consultative process on sustainable infrastructure to include formal evaluation and inspection frameworks for climate-resilient infrastructure that is tailored to the individual circumstances and climate risks of Member States, including:
  - a. Frameworks encompassing different geographic regions such as coastal, forest, island, and desert regions with their unique biodiversity;
  - b. Annual resilience stress tests that evaluate areas of improvement in existing infrastructure to highlight areas of improvement for Member States;

13. *Invites* CSD to produce an annual report regarding climate-resilient cities aligned with the principles of the Rio Declaration with a focus on:
  - a. Identifying regions that require capacity-building in LDCs and the Global South;
  - b. Developing comprehensive action plans for climate-resilient cities and infrastructure and promoting improved and resilient water infrastructure;
  - c. Advancing sustainable water infrastructure by utilizing dam technology to secure water nationally and locally in accordance with UNEA resolution 6/13 strengthening water policy;
14. *Proclaims* the expansion of water sanitation protections to further develop healthy living standards in LDCs by:
  - a. Promoting private sector funding for LDCs clean water programs;
  - b. Utilizing the methods of chlorination, solar disinfection, and chemical disinfection to methodize clean water initiatives;
  - c. Emphasizing the importance of fresh and clean drinking water in the facilitation of water infrastructure and food cultivation by following General Assembly resolution 78/144;
15. *Calls upon* Member States to implement policies that facilitate the efficient allocation of resources towards infrastructure development, specifically:
  - a. Developing a national infrastructure strategy that prioritizes projects based on community needs assessments, ensuring that investments are targeted where they will have the most significant impact;
  - b. Establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure investments, allowing for adjustments and improvements based on performance data and community feedback;
16. *Further encourages* the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to develop the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Committee (SIDC) to assist Member States in implementing sustainability and resiliency into existing infrastructure, by:
  - a. Utilizing financial consultants and industry experts to work hand-in-hand with Member States to bolster their existing infrastructure by:
    - i. Using risk analysis to identify weak infrastructures for industry experts to analyze how to implement environment-friendly practices;
    - ii. Creating an online platform for Member States to request assistance from the SIDC;
  - b. Receiving funding from the World Bank for their commitment to ensuring sustainable development;



- c. Receiving potential implementation guidance from a partnership with the G20 Global Infrastructure Hub to implement the SIDC globally with the help of G20 Members;
17. *Supports* the youth and female contribution towards environmental conservation worldwide by:
- a. Recognizing the labor of the International Water Association's YWP on supporting youth talent focusing on water issues;
  - b. The CREPD and its contribution to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership for responsible management of chemicals in products;
  - c. Utilizing the UNEP's GEO-6 for Youth which provides engagement and education for youth in action to help understand environmental positive transformative changes;
  - d. Asking Member States to promote women's employment in the sustainable infrastructure sector and promote women's participation in the STEM field;
18. *Asks* the General Assembly to discuss environmental matters from a shared perspective, as well as allowing the youth to actively participate in the decision-making over the reconstruction of resilient infrastructure, to organize regional youth summits among the Member States in a summit which consists of:
- a. A five day duration and will take place annually at the different headquarters of the UN per region, with the headquarters of each next year's summit announced at the final day of present year's summit;
  - b. Each Member State's participation, in order to honor the principle of sovereignty, it will be voluntary;
  - c. The regional youth summits for the environment will be covered with the Environment Fund;
19. *Encourages* expanding funding options, opportunities and methods for countries and development focused NGOs who are working on resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects through:
- a. Increasing emphasis on upgrading and maintaining existing infrastructure projects so that those options are viewed as equally important as new infrastructure when it comes to international funding opportunities;
  - b. The expansion of the GGBI to a global scale so that the vision of better oversight can be achieved through an enhanced, cohesive multilateral program;
  - c. A joint governance board made up of the UNEA Chair, officials from the World Bank and the International Monitoring Fund, which will be charged with overseeing the application of internationally issued green bonds;
20. *Encourages* the evaluation of feasibility of all types of projects created by private sector stakeholders prior to the funding of infrastructure projects by:

- a. Engaging with established entities such as the GCF or World Bank to ensure expertise in sustainability assessments as well as expansion of and compliance with international standards;
  - b. Conducting environmental impact assessments and cost-benefit analyses that consider long-term economic, social, and environmental outcomes;
  - c. Collaborating with local stakeholders, technical experts, and NGOs to address local social, cultural, and technical feasibility;
  - d. Establishing flexible monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track project performance and adaptability to future climate conditions in alignment with Paris Climate Accords and Glasgow Climate Pact;
  - e. Organizing pilot infrastructure projects in partnership with global public and private financial institutions, to demonstrate financial viability and facilitate local capacity and knowledge building, before advancing to larger-scale investments and project development;
21. *Invites* private sector participation in adding sustainable and resilient infrastructure to address areas such as:
- a. Water scarcity and desertification in rural areas by:
    - i. Supporting the use of economic incentives, such as optional tax reductions, in Member States to motivate companies to invest in renewable energy projects that power water management systems;
    - ii. Encouraging partnerships between local businesses and international firms to deploy scalable technologies for efficient water use;
  - b. Improvement of educational infrastructure in rural areas by:
    - i. Implementing tax credits for companies that invest in building or renovating schools, libraries, and vocational training centers in low-income areas as each Member State sees fit;
    - ii. Launching a voluntary matching grant program where government funds match private investments in educational infrastructure projects, amplifying the impact of private contributions;
22. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen partnerships with NGOs striving for sustainable infrastructure, while implementing the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure, to:
- a. Reduce the risk of structural damage during climate-related natural disasters;
  - b. Help integrate sustainability into pre-existing infrastructure, future planning, and delivery;
23. *Recommends* the establishment and expansion of PPPs that employ PIERS as a framework to:

- a. Facilitate collaboration focused on the implementation of sustainable infrastructure specifically designed to increase climate resilience and circular production within the private sector;
  - b. Utilize data and research voluntarily shared by Member States to provide research-based guidance on how to apply best practices to each region, factoring in domestic environmental obstacles and needs;
  - c. Spark investment in resilient and sustainable infrastructure for future private sector projects;
  - d. Create educational programs for local private sector leaders enabling training for sustainable waste systems, circular production processes, and conscious resource usage;
24. *Underscores* the importance of PPPs to ensure supply chains operate efficiently, medical aid is accessible, and critical infrastructure can withstand during times of global crisis;
25. *Instructs* a comprehensive project-financing framework relying on banks, equity investors, government agencies, and multilateral institutions to enable the successful undertaking of large-scale infrastructure projects that support:
- a. The transition to renewable energy through hydroelectric energy projects and carbon pricing for heating and transportation systems;
  - b. The development of local and national incentives for private sector companies to invest in large-scale sustainable infrastructure projects;
26. *Encourages* the expansion of the Great Green Wall Initiative, prioritizing large-scale reforestation to restore degraded lands;
27. *Requests* the integration of Sub-Saharan Africa into regional initiatives, with expanded funding and technical resources to combat desertification, restore degraded lands, and enhance agricultural productivity through sustainable practices;
28. *Strongly encourages* the expansion of North-South partnerships to reduce the disparity in resilient infrastructure in the Global South while ensuring that voluntary knowledge transfers are tailored to the comparative advantage and circumstances of receiving Member States by:
- a. Incentivizing capacity-building initiatives to implement regional-specific and nature-based solutions;
  - b. Improving existing infrastructure, making it more sustainable to natural disasters and disasters caused by climate change;
29. *Endorses* the creation of a partnership between Member States, the World Bank, and other relevant regional financial institutions, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders to collaborate on the gradual transition to sustainable infrastructure, by:
- a. Emphasizing electric climate-resilient public transportation, sustainable waste disposal systems, and other vital infrastructure projects utilizing infrastructure and technology that

is currently present in Member States' regions;

- b. Utilizing the guidance of local policymakers, regional financial advisors, sustainability and climate-resilience experts, and academic institutions to oversee the implementation of infrastructure projects;
  - c. Employing the use of UN-based databases, such as the Open Data Infrastructure for City Resilience, to guide the implementation of eco-friendly infrastructure based on past successful initiatives in other Member States;
30. *Advises* Member States to develop policies that prioritize investments in green technologies as a strategic approach by:
- a. Encouraging PPPs to research, develop, and deploy these green technologies in LDCs and climate-affected regions;
  - b. Creating accessible financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, to facilitate investments by developed and developing countries;
  - c. Promoting capacity-building initiatives to train local communities and institutions in the implementation and maintenance of green technologies;
31. *Suggests* Member States gradually transition to incorporate green taxonomies within their economic systems to:
- a. Identify and establish how infrastructure can transform to become more sustainable in nature and in line with SDG 9;
  - b. Increase the use of green bonds so as to allow for more green investments and ensure they are fiscally accessible to all Member States;
32. *Calls upon* Member States to increase investment in connectivity through sustainable and efficient transportation systems, with a focus on:
- a. Shifting toward public transportation networks fueled by clean energy to avoid service inefficiencies, increased costs, precarious trips, and social exclusion for marginalized groups;
  - b. Enhancing regional connectivity by constructing high-speed railways, such as cross-border transportation corridors, with particular consideration for low carbon emissions;
  - c. Ensuring that projects consider the preservation of environmentally vulnerable regions, which might be affected by the construction of transportation systems.



**Code:** UNEA/1/2

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Assembly

**Topic:** Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure

---

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recalling* that the mandate of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is to provide global leadership and set strategic guidance on environmental issues,

*Affirming* Article 13 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) and the freedom of movement afforded to all people through the adoption of sustainable transport systems within Member States, territories, and regions,

*Recognizing* all Member States' rights to sovereignty as stated in the *Charter of the United Nations*,

*Emphasizing* the importance of collaboration between Member States to promote sustainable infrastructure development through capacity building, technology sharing, regional cooperation, promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting public and private partnerships, and supporting integrated trade routes,

*Encouraged by* past efforts at the international and regional level to increase the resiliency of infrastructure in rural and urban communities, such as through the Just Energy Transition Partnership, which facilitates collaboration between Member States and the United Nations Development Programme to establish clean and sustainable energy systems,

*Considering* past UN General Assembly resolutions 78/311 (2024) and 78/326 (2024), which affirm the international community's commitment to utilizing North-South multilateral collaboration to increase resilient infrastructure development,

*Noting* that fostering a sustainable and inclusive green economy is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure),

*Acknowledging* that the Partnership for Action and Green Economy (PAGE), as an initiative of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), assists countries in integrating sustainability in their economic planning, including their infrastructure, to deliver practical and locally adapted solutions,

*Further acknowledging* the persistent disparities between developed and developing nations, particularly within the traditional North-South framework, which often overlooks the complexities of shared challenges and the potential for equitable and innovative partnerships,

*Recalling* the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) as the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing and Development,

*Reaffirming* the important role of the Global Infrastructure Forum established by the AAAA,



*Noting with alarm* that indigenous peoples are three times more likely to experience extreme poverty according to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR),

*Committed* to the rights of indigenous peoples as laid out in General Assembly Resolution 78/189 (2023), which highlights the importance of utilizing the knowledge and sustainable practices produced by indigenous communities, which are invaluable to achieving sustainable development goals, a tool that many times is underutilized by governments,

*Further noting* that, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) only 12% of low-income countries have adequate capacity to implement sustainable infrastructure projects,

*Guided by* the principles laid out in the *Sendai Framework Disaster Risk Reduction* from 2015 that emphasizes the creation and maintenance of infrastructure aiming for it to be safe and sustainable,

*Remembering* the Masdar City Special Economic Development Zone plan introduced in the SDG Action No. 39514,

*Taking into consideration* the forcibly displaced people fleeing from climate-vulnerable countries and are protected from the impact of climate change, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Climate Resilience Fund,

*Establishing the need* for region-specific research and development initiatives that advocate for Member States' Sovereignty, which currently are not accounted for through traditional sustainability methods,

*Alarmed by* the World Bank Group's estimate of a 20% rise in urban city populations by the year 2050, encompassing over 70% of the world's population,

*Recognizing* General Assembly Resolution 78/165 (2023), which calls for closing the economic disparity between urban and rural regions,

*Recalling* Article 13 of the UDHR and the freedom of movement afforded to all people in the adoption of sustainable transport systems within Member States, territories, and regions;

*Affirming* the need to enhance local capacity for integrating Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to address the dual challenges of urbanization and climate change, as highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and the New Urban Agenda,

*Noting* that the climate crisis has a direct negative impact on the frequency and severity of natural disasters,

*Conscious of* increased rates of wildfires, natural disasters, and the spread of diseases that negatively impact our populations,

*Expressing concern* for changing wind patterns and oceanic levels, which increase natural disaster severity,

*Further recognizing* the growing challenges posed by water scarcity and the necessity of adopting long-term conservation practices to ensure sustainable water management,



*Affirming the importance* of NBS in addressing climate change and enhancing ecosystem resilience through approaches such as wetland restoration, mangrove protection, and urban greening,

*Recalling* the importance of international frameworks such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in promoting sustainable water resource use and ecosystem protections,

*Also acknowledging* that according to UN DESA, global carbon dioxide emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes have reached an all-time high of 36.8 billion tons in 2022, causing global temperatures to rise exponentially,

*Fully aware of* the negative resource and climate impacts of maintaining existing infrastructure and starting new infrastructure projects,

*Stressing* the lack of an International Green Construction Code of universally adopted construction codes that align with the SDG 11 framework,

*Alarmed* that the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (1992) fails to provide an international guide or framework when promoting sustainable development,

*Furthermore acknowledging*, the increasing vulnerability of infrastructure to climate change and natural disasters, threatening global economic stability,

*Expressing concern* with the impacts of carbon emissions from transportation and its contribution to global warming and other global, impactful issues,

*Further recalling* the Biennial Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience, which publishes financial risk metrics for each country and territory in the world, for all major infrastructure sectors, and most prominent global hazards,

*Underscoring* the need to curb corruption when financing large infrastructure projects, given that the World Economic Forum estimates global corruption costs at over \$ 2.6 trillion annually,

*Acknowledging* the funding and societal need for green initiatives to aid in urban development,

*Emphasizing* the role of NBS in achieving SDG 15, which focuses education on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems,

*Alarmed by* the World Economic Forum's report that predicts that the world is headed towards a \$ 15 trillion infrastructure gap by 2040,

*Further deploring* that 132 million people are projected to be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030, as reported by UNEP,

*Concerned that* according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, World Bank, and UNEP, an annual investment of \$ 6.9 trillion in infrastructure will be necessary by 2030 to ensure infrastructure investment is compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, limiting the capacity of lower-income nations' ability to build climate proofed infrastructure,

*Recognizing* the global necessity of sustainable and renewable energy sources in line with the Paris Climate Agreement,



1. *Calls for* expanding on a Global Capacity-Building Initiative for Sustainable Infrastructure Development to address the urgent need for technical expertise and technology transfer by:
  - a. Inviting Member States and experts from organizations such as UNEA and UNEP to conduct regional workshops focused on sustainable infrastructure planning and implementation;
  - b. Facilitating technology-sharing agreements between Member States with experience in successfully implementing sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects and Member States which request aid in developing, ensuring equitable access to innovations such as renewable energy technologies and efficient construction practices;
  - c. Providing targeted funding and resources through partnerships with the World Bank and Green Climate Fund to support the establishment of local training programs tailored to specific regional needs;
2. *Encourages* public-private partnerships (PPPs) between Member States and the private sector to facilitate the coordination and development of sustainable production infrastructure that meets region-specific climate needs and includes climate-fragile communities by:
  - a. Utilizing specific North-South and South-South partnerships for building and renovating infrastructure and promoting sustainability and cooperation;
  - b. Expanding on the UNEP Sustainable Infrastructure Partnerships by establishing an annual conference called Global Resilient Infrastructure Partnership (GRIP), which would work to strengthen sustainable and resilient infrastructure, unity, and innovation-sharing through best-practice sharing and increased capacity building by engaging Member States with both private and public sector actors;
3. *Recommends* the expansion of existing partnerships like the UNDP-Member State collaboration to include regional workshops that include partnerships between relevant financial institutions, expert NGOs, and Member States, which will:
  - a. Encourage best-practice sharing between Member States in resiliency and increasing investment in sustainable infrastructure;
  - b. Involve regional expert bodies to facilitate conversation on how scientific innovation and emerging technologies can reach climate-vulnerable communities;
4. *Further emphasizes* partnerships with the private or science sector through multi-stakeholder-initiatives like PAGE by:
  - a. Encouraging collaboration between PAGE and academic institutions to enhance research, innovation, and the development of evidence-based policy recommendations for sustainable development by creating platforms that connect scientific research and private sector expertise;
  - b. Suggesting the establishment of regional hubs under PAGE to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and share best practices;





5. *Calls upon* all Member States to establish a new framework of cooperation that transcends traditional North-South or regional divides, fostering partnerships between Member States with shared socioeconomic, infrastructure, and environmental challenges, irrespective of geographic or climatic differences, and leveraging the unique expertise of developed nations to support sustainable solutions in developing countries;
6. *Encourages* the development of a global standard for sustainable infrastructure, which Member States can adapt within their sovereignty by:
  - a. Creating a golden standard for environmental sustainability which should aim to:
    - i. Prioritizing renewable energy and protection of marine and land ecosystems;
    - ii. Utilizing the research from institutions like Accenture and EY to promote sustainable practices;
  - b. Promoting the expansion of specific frameworks that ensure that project proposals align with the Golden Standard mentioned in operative clause 6a, such as:
    - i. Screening the infrastructure project proposals before starting a project to assess their sustainability and environmental impact, which aims to support Member States in geographical areas where maintaining and creating infrastructure is prevalent;
    - ii. Suggesting adopting the existing framework, the International Green Construction Code to how it relates to their member state, which includes ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES 189,1-2023 Standard the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings and Robust climate and energy efficiency goals;
7. *Invites* the extension of the Global Infrastructure Forum, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, by:
  - a. Integrating a new sub-group specific to sustainability, called Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Forum (SIIF) to allow for Member States to share best practices as outlined in the golden standard mentioned in clause 6a collaborative;
  - b. Inviting Member States and investment experts, such as ministries of environment within Member States, indigenous leaders, to engage in strategic discussion and collaborations to increase sustainable infrastructure spending and funding;
  - c. Suggesting to request funding from the World Bank to Member States in need to support new initiatives and existing frameworks;
  - d. Presenting recommendations to enhance allocation for resilience and new policies to accommodate resilience and sustainability;
8. *Suggests* the expansion of the UN Technology Bank for least developed countries by:
  - a. Establishing regional offices or hubs to better address localized challenges and facilitate rapid dissemination of technology and expertise;



- b. Enhancing information and communication technology capabilities in least-developed countries to facilitate remote project management, digital governance, and connectivity for sustainable infrastructure initiatives;
9. *Emphasizes* the importance of Indigenous rights and knowledge by encouraging Member States to prioritize local Indigenous practices and working with them to find sustainability solutions that are specific to their particular region;
10. *Calls for* the strengthening of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) website, Prevention Web, by including Indigenous knowledge surrounding infrastructure and development through the use of pre-established councils on Indigenous information and expert bodies to update these websites regularly;
11. *Requests* that Member States continue to collaborate in discussions on infrastructure solutions and safety by:
  - a. Urging Member States to donate to the UNDRR, which combats natural disasters and works to undo climate change damages;
  - b. Further urging Member States to continue research on climate change and the effects it has on our citizens and economics;
12. *Suggests* the development of guidelines toward training programs for Member States local governments and communities to build capacity for implementing NBS and sustainable water practices by:
  - a. Launching global campaigns to educate citizens on the importance of water conservation and NBS;
  - b. Asking the World Bank to contribute funds towards UN Youth Volunteers;
13. *Endorses* the expansion of the New Urban Agenda by:
  - a. Developing good practice principles for urban housing development while cognizant of regional differences between coastal and land-locked urban cities;
  - b. Leveraging existing housing contracts with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Green Climate Fund to renegotiate the prioritization of sustainable and resilient urban housing initiatives addressing SDG 1 (no poverty);
14. *Further endorses* the creation of an International Resilience Fund using the UNHCR Climate Resilience Fund Model and the Global Resilience Project to fund prototypes of sustainable urban city projects like the Masdar city across vulnerable communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and rural Eastern European societies utilizing:
  - a. Transportation, as Masdar City is car-free and offsets about 15,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually, with electricity costs reduced to 1,35 cents per kWh, as a result of a lack of need for petrol;
  - b. Solar Energy, as the city is primarily powered by solar energy, with a power plant and extensive rooftop photovoltaic (PV) installations designing the city's buildings to reduce



energy and water consumption by at least 40% as compared to its non-sustainable counterpart;

- c. The location of this prototype city would be in the most populous location across the state or country;
  - d. Water supply, as the desalination facility that uses electricity from a hydrogen plant provides the city's water supply;
15. *Recommends* UNEP to prioritize wetlands restoration, mangrove reforestation, and urban greening projects in areas highly vulnerable to climate issues impacts by:
- a. Proposing the integration of NBS into urban planning and infrastructure projects to enhance climate resilience and ecosystem health;
  - b. Urging Member States to include water conservation practices such as advanced irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater recycling into national policies;
  - c. Strengthening the Transboundary Cooperation Coalition to coordinate cross-border water conservation efforts and include NBS implementations;
16. *Calls upon* Member States to voluntarily strategize financing wisely by:
- a. Allocating at least 10% of the total national or international infrastructure project cost for soft infrastructure:
    - i. Creating a World Bank Group led center per project for education and skills development;
    - ii. Providing job opportunities for newer generations;
  - b. Requesting financial assets for urgent employment when there are lack of access to employment, asking the World Bank Group for support;
17. *Strongly advises* the renewal of current infrastructure using more resilient infrastructure methods in accordance with the regional climate patterns of the respective Member State by:
- a. Encouraging improved drainage systems in areas struggling with water management issues caused by the natural climate while maintaining sustainable practices such as:
    - i. Building raised roadbeds, such as channels and dikes to cater for flood-prone areas;
    - ii. Tackling vulnerable, climate-risk zone areas first;
  - b. Facilitating innovation as Member States integrate new technologies and infrastructure updates into existing frameworks, resulting in increased efficiency and reduced emissions through:
    - i. Revitalizing infrastructure in order to stimulate local economies, reduce waste, and lessen the environmental impact associated with new construction;



- ii. Investing in the refurbishment and modernization of aging systems—such as transportation networks, roads, railways, and energy grids—in order to preserve valuable resources while enhancing the resilience of our communities;
18. *Further invites* the adoption of an integrated strategy to improve sustainable water management practices and implement NBS to address climate challenges by:
  - a. Encouraging Member States to evaluate their water resource management systems, focusing on the long-term impacts of water scarcity and potential climate-induced risks with strategies to absorb excess stormwater;
  - b. Supporting studies to identify ecosystems, such as wetlands, mangroves, forests, and floodplains, that are critical for natural water filtration and flood protection;
  - c. Calling for the identification of regions where NBS can effectively address specific environmental challenges, such as coastal erosion, to mitigate the impacts of climate-related disasters;
19. *Encourages* the expansion of the current annual Global Carbon Budget by:
  - a. Collaborating partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and private organizations to transition into green energy transportation;
  - b. Exploring avenues of development in areas that have limited access to public transport in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Net Zero initiative and, General Assembly resolution 78/165 (2023);
20. *Promoting* an international mutual fund initiative among Member States to further cultivate sustainable technological and industrial development by:
  - a. Promoting electric vehicles (EVs) and low-emission public transportation;
  - b. Adhering to UNEP's Global E-Mobility Program and The Green Climate Fund (GCF);
21. *Recommends* the tracking of SDG 7 to assess carbon emission rates and determine which countries have working carbon systems through State of Global Air reports of carbon emissions, air pollution, and climate changes;
22. *Further recommends* the creation of a Global Infrastructure Resilience Index (GIRI) under the purview of UNEA to assess how prepared Member States are in natural calamitous circumstances by:
  - a. Monitoring changes in a nation's level of vulnerability over time and subsequent implementation, by measuring both risk indicators and individual capability indicators of Member States;
  - b. Monitoring outputs of GIRI by following functional metrics such as:
    - i. Probable Maximum Loss Curve (PML), which is the loss a Member State would expect to incur under a newly implemented project to impact Infrastructure Resilience;



- ii. Loss Exceedance Curve (LEC), which represents the annual frequency at which a determined economic loss will be exceeded due to market forces, It is the most important and strongest measurement of risk for larger sized countries;
      - iii. Average Annual Loss (AAL), which is the expected value of the loss levels or the average loss that can be expected in a single fiscal year;
    - c. Evaluating each Member State through GIRI on a scale of 0-100, where a country would be considered relatively Infrastructurally Resilient on three different measures in 3 different categories — lacks quality, acceptable quality, and great quality — in respect to the global median:
      - i. A nation's Capacity to Absorb Damage;
      - ii. A nation's Capacity to Respond to Damage;
      - iii. A nation's Capacity to Recover;
- 23. *Urges* Member States to engage with public-private enterprises to diversify infrastructure financing initiatives by:
  - a. Identifying incentives for private enterprises to engage with sustainable public infrastructure initiatives, establishing PPPs that diversify risk and increase stakeholder input;
  - b. Developing comprehensive financial transparency guidelines and frameworks for public infrastructure, supported by independent oversight committees with audit, investigative, and publishing powers to ensure accountability, prevent corruption, and promote equitable resource allocation;
- 24. *Promotes* an investment increase of an international mutual fund initiative among Member States to further cultivate the technological and industrial development towards EVs and low-emission public transportation in developing Nations following up with UNEP's Global E-Mobility Program and The Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- 25. *Welcomes* funding from international entities such as the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, Multilateral Development Banks, regional alliances, and NGOs to finance NBS projects:
  - a. Encouraging partnerships with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and local stakeholders to drive innovative, community-based water management solutions;
  - b. Promoting projects centering on indigenous practices and knowledge through grants such as the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples with the OHCHR;
- 26. *Supports* the creation of an international voluntary Environmental and Economic Forum inviting discussions amongst Member States, NGOs, international funders, and the UNEP's Financial Initiative to develop financing plans for sustainable infrastructure projects for the varying needs of Member States by:



- a. Holding an annual conference hosted by different voluntary Member States with implementation by UNEP;
  - b. Encouraging regional partnerships amongst Member States towards innovative infrastructure methods that can be shared according to the geographical similarities that exist;
  - c. Allowing Member States to present their nation's infrastructure needs in front of NGOs, funders, implementers, and other Member States to then work alongside these entities and develop financing plans for sustainable infrastructure projects based on individual nation needs;
27. *Strongly emphasizes* the importance of reducing the economic and social gap in the developing world via green infrastructure initiatives program funding through:
- a. Implementing Nature-based solutions such as:
    - i. Certified woods, low-carbon concrete, and bio-based products into infrastructure decision making;
    - ii. Permeable pavement that decreases flooding risks;
    - iii. Recycled and locally sourced materials such as asphalt, concrete, and clay;
  - b. Further implementing resilience Impact Bonds (RIB) that which help leverage private capital funds for building green infrastructure;
28. *Invites* a four pillar plan facilitated by the UNDRR to fully implement sustainable infrastructure projects while keeping in mind indigenous practices, Member State needs, and evolving climate issues such as natural disasters and sea level rise through:
- a. Developing an evaluation plan by building upon the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to conduct a risk analysis on Member States vulnerability to infrastructure destruction due to natural disasters and climate issues;
  - b. Evaluating the resource needs of Member States as well as the strength and resilience of their critical infrastructure, and introducing the idea of stress tests to identify areas where existing infrastructure can be made more resilient;
  - c. Creating a voluntary United Infrastructure Trading Hub, allowing Member States to diversify supply chains by contributing and receiving resources from a digital trading platform to obtain necessary resources for sustainable infrastructure projects;
  - d. Inviting international funders such as the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, regional alliances, NGOs, medium and small enterprises, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and Office of Development Assistance to assist with funding projects.