The United Nations Environment Programme

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, specifically Article 55, which established that the United Nations shall promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development, of which sustainable development is a key component,

Further guided by the principles established in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including principle 2 and the need for global natural resources to be used in a way that positively impacts the social welfare of all peoples,

Further guided by principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which emphasizes that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens and establishes the importance of inclusivity and diversity of social involvement,

Recognizing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, specifically Agenda 21 and the need for sustainable practices at all levels, including at the local and regional levels in the construction of infrastructure and related activities,

Reaffirming the Stockholm Declaration, Article 3, emphasizing the importance of the human environment and ensuring access to vital resources and infrastructure, which requires adequate levels of finance and investment,

Realizing the importance of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation outlined in the Yamoussoukro Consensus of the Group of 77, which also highlighted the urgent need to strengthen multilateral and bilateral partnerships between developed and developing Member States,
Additionally observing that Member States have variable levels of development and capacity and must pursue sustainable infrastructure development and investment in accordance with their national development plans as called for in the Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the need for infrastructure that promotes resource efficiency in urban areas and connected rural areas as stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and the role that resource efficiency can play in maximizing developmental gains,

Fully aware of the need to uphold state Sovereignty in line with the Charter of the United Nations and that States should maintain permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, a principle established by A/RES/1803, but should also act in an environmentally sustainable manner,

Recalling A/RES/69/223 and the Cancun Agreements that called for increased financial assistance to the Green Climate Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

Keeping in mind the importance of special purpose entities (SPEs) to the promotion of private sector investment in sustainable development projects within emerging economies by providing risk mitigation capabilities to multinational corporations as noted in ECE/CES/GE.2010/13,

Acknowledging goals eleven and twelve of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as proposed in the Synthesis Report of the Secretary General on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which focuses on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,

Recalling the A/RES/64/292, The Human Right to Water and Sanitation, that illustrates access to water and sanitation as a human right, which continues to be an issue within developing countries, especially those suffering from a lack of water and sanitation access, especially as lack of access to sanitation is detrimental to sustainability in urban environments,

Noting the sentiments within the Water and Cities: Solutions and Challenges initiative through Conservation International, which establishes multilateral city partnerships in the Latin American region, for the development of water and waste management within city planning, which is currently an issue in regards to resource efficiency,

Recognizing the progress that has been made in waste management outlined in the Report of the Secretary-General on third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (A/66/282), and the potential of 2016 conference to further address issues related to waste management in urban settings,

Reaffirming the importance of clean drinking water as a human right, especially pertaining to developing countries that are suffering from slum like sanitation issues, with specific emphasis on drinking water, as stated in The Future We Want, the outcome document of the Rio +20,

Guided by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which was the outcome document of the 2002 Earth Summit, which reiterates international commitment to capacity building within sustainable development in urban areas,

Recalling the goals of Agenda 21, specifically in terms of waste management and water sanitation, and the importance of these issues in the international community as well as in urban development,

Noting that many states are reliant on imports of non-renewable energy products and the need for countries, especially developing countries, to strive to achieve energy independence,

Reaffirming A/RES/64/207, which calls upon Member States to support local entities in increasing access to basic urban services while curbing procedural vulnerabilities;

Reaffirming the concrete policy, finance and technology best practice guidance on addressing the heating and cooling sectors in cities through energy-efficiency improvements and the integration of renewable energy technology provided by UNEP in 2015.
1. **Encourages** actors at all levels to work to incorporate the civil society, national governments, concerned local communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the formation and execution of developmental projects, and to ensure that the sustainability and developmental goals of all stakeholders are considered in the creation of any such projects;

2. **Endorses** the UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative and its emphasis on the connections between resource efficiency for improving environmental conditions and eradicating the prevalence of poverty in urban areas;

3. **Draws** attention to the importance of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) and Strongly encourages all member states to use the Global Environment Facility as an uniting platform to integrate developed and developing countries in development projects and respect the GEF as the coordinating body for national urban planning projects;

4. **Recommends** that Member States implement urban planning as a viable method of enforcing resource efficiency and sustainability in urban development that promotes:
   a. Organization and verticalization as the means to slow the detriment of urban sprawl of cities to reduce deforestation, land loss, and in order to shorten distances within;
   b. Modified utility engineering standards for new and remodeled structures for more efficient housing and business sectors;
   c. The establishment vertical public housing programs, like Proyecto Nacional de Vivienda Popular to reduce slums in the peripheral area of cities and slow urban sprawl, while repurposing former slums;
   d. Open green areas to foster communities within urban centers and peripheral areas;
   e. Urban farming/agriculture programs by partnering with the Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization;

5. **Invites** Member States to establish national plans for sustainable consumption and production in line with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production that include long-term frameworks and guidelines for the management of natural resources, including with support from UNEP’s Resource Efficiency Programme;

6. **Emphasises** the need for the Sustainable Cities Programme, which works under the UN-HABITAT and the UNEP, to provide environmental planning and management processes for city policies, to expand their program to more developing countries and regions, which will help resource efficiency in urban development;

7. **Urges** sustainable and efficient use of natural resources to develop alternate green energy urban spaces by implementing projects at the national level through partnerships with the UNDP to reduce the negative environmental impact associated with urban areas;

8. **Further suggests** local and municipal governments to work towards the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level, specifically by working with local stakeholders, including the private sector, to establish sustainable municipal infrastructure, including bike paths and pedestrian walkways that allow for the use of sustainable transportation;

9. **Asks** regional development banks to increasingly prioritize the financing of modern and efficient intra-regional transportation infrastructure, which will allow for an increase in intra-regional trade that requires less use of resources for shipping and thus increases the sustainability of trade;

10. **Requests** the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its relevant trust funds to focus on country-level initiatives to connect urban and peri-urban areas with sustainable transportation infrastructure;

11. **Further invites** Member States to work with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition’s Urban Health Initiative to establish rideshare systems, prevent traffic deaths, ease congestion, and increase the overall sustainable use of transportation infrastructure;
12. Suggests regional groups to work to establish intra-regional energy networks as demonstrated by the Economic Community of West African States’ West African Power Pool, which pools energy resources and allows them to be used efficiently at the regional level;

13. Recommends that the Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative expand its focus to promoting renewable energy development on a grassroots level including but not limited to micro-hydro plants, biogas, and community based solar and wind initiatives in both peri-urban and rural areas especially where it increases access to energy for the impoverished;

14. Requests the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) to expand to other regions and act as a framework for sustainable mechanisms, which will help developing countries adapt to climate change by targeting water resource management and developing mechanisms, as well as providing the communities with the education and information to keep these mechanisms intact and sustainable;

15. Encourages willing and able Member states to take steps to ratify applicable environmental treaties that allows them to increase support for relevant funds, including the Adaptation Fund, and work to bolster clean development mechanisms and update their environmental standards;

16. Encourages the development of stable and reliable national resources to promote sustainable energy practices and the existence of climate funding options through the World Bank such as the Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF) and the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF);

17. Recommends the Conservation International organization, expand the Water and Cities: Solutions and Challenges initiative to other regional organizations and multilateral partnerships, and to serve as a framework for urban water and waste management;

18. Calls upon UN-HABITAT to implement initiatives in accordance with region-specific needs that allow them to maintain a presence in countries after they have completed a program of work in order to ensure that projects are sustainable and long-lasting;

19. Urges the UNEP-DHI Center for Water and Environment to use the existing staff that is trained to expand their work into more developing countries who are suffering from poor water and sanitation, and to partner with UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to help further address these issues;

20. Recommends UN bodies, such as UN-HABITAT and the UNDP, increasingly utilize the SODIS Method, as endorsed by the World Health Organization and United Nation Children’s Fund, as it uses solar radiation to disinfect and purify drinking water and helps to provide increased access to fresh drinking water;

21. Suggests UNEP Resource Efficiency Program to build government capacity for promoting sustainability in all aspects of consumption, especially in water treatment and access to sanitation facilities;

22. Further urges The UNEP Urban Environment Unit to include the 3Rs Programme “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” in its focus points, in order to reduce and remove the waste buildup in cities, to help further resource efficiency development in urban areas;

23. Further encourages all Member States to establish national policies to set limitation on production of factories’ harmful waste, and for the disposal of waste properly with an attempt to reuse and recycle water;

24. Recommends the Global Partnership on Waste Management and its goals, like the collaboration between governments, international organizations and NGOs, in order to overcome environmental, social, and economic issues inflicted by waste and its impacts;

25. Further urges Member States to utilize the Information Platform, which promotes, shares, and exchanges information on solid waste, when creating and implementing waste management policies;
26. **Encourages** the OmniProcessor, which is currently being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which effectively recycles solid waste by extracting and recycling water vapor and reusing it as clean drinking water, to be expanded to developing and least developed countries, to further recycling and waste management in urban areas;

27. **Calls upon** willing and able developed Member States to increasingly support the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, which allows developing countries to increase technology and the sharing of best practices, which will not only improve their sustainability, but also their capacity to use technology;

28. **Strongly suggests** that those Member States that have not yet done so work to reach the commitments made in the Cancun Agreements to provide an per annum 100 billion USD collectively to the Green Climate Fund by the year 2020;

29. **Calls for** the assignment of a Special Rapporteur within UNEP that will work within the UN Global Compact Advisory Board to assist developing countries in establishing partnerships and corporate social responsibility plans for multinational corporations operating within their territory;

30. **Recommends** all Member States to implement the **Natural and Social Investment Return (NSIR)** plan, working together with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and funded by the World Bank in order to intensify enterprises’ concerns about their social and environmental performance linked with scientific priorities, and increase their competitiveness in the market by creating incentives, including but not limited to tax reductions for enterprises based on their resource efficiency and actions taken to uphold their corporate social and environmental responsibility;

31. **Encourages** Member States to, establish environmental standards for investing corporations when establishing or negotiating bilateral investment treaties, as well and methods by which corporations can be held accountable should they not uphold their corporate social responsibility;

32. **Suggests** that Member States leverage relationships with the private sector, including by working with the Public-Private Partnership Alliance programme to develop infrastructure, in order to more easily establish such partnerships for road and infrastructure construction as well as development, especially to rural areas where commercial activities are evolving, while reducing the resources use impact of such activities;

33. **Further calls upon** developing countries to work with and build up their national Investment Promotion Agencies and work with the International Association of Investment Promotion Agencies to strengthen their capacity to attract and allow corporations to sustainably invest in their country;

34. **Urges** Member States to utilize the methods established in the Accra Agenda on Aid Effectiveness to ensure that the provision and use of aid is transparent and that aid is increased on a results-oriented basis and with consideration for country-specific development goals and challenges;

35. **Invites** willing and able developed Member States to establish plans of actions or frameworks as called for by In Larger Freedom and to attempt to meet their official development assistance commitments in a reasonable and realistic timeframe, which will allow developing countries to have the financial resources necessary to ensure sustainable urban development;

36. **Reaffirms** the need for new methods of access to and increased levels of financing for sustainable development, including new development banks, such as the BRICS Development Bank;

37. **Urges** regional economic communities such as the Asian infrastructure investment development bank, African development bank, the Inter-American Development Bank to contribute to the promotion of resource efficiency by investing in non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations working toward establishing resource efficient initiatives;
38. Suggests the need for the creation of public-private partnerships for the development of sustainable urban infrastructure, especially through increased use of relevant programmes from the International Finance Corporation and the Financial Intermediary Fund of the World Bank Group;

39. Endorses efforts by developing countries to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) including by partnering with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to create pro-business policies, including by utilizing the Marrakech Process which incorporates private sector investment and sustainable resource use;

40. Suggests the expansion of International Trade Center’s technical support program that assists developing countries in promoting the sustainable use of resources when they are working to attract foreign direct investment and negotiating with multinational corporations;

41. Recommends that the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency expand its program of work to focus on resource-efficient projects in urban environments in order to incentivize the private sector to sustainably invest in developing countries;

42. Further encourages that Member States work to incentivize and encourage the use of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) or subsidiary companies that isolate the risks to and limits the losses of firms that invest in resource-efficient projects in developing countries;

43. Further asks the United Nations Capital Development Fund to expand its microfinance and microinsurance initiatives such that they provide increased access to financial resources and risk management for small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that seek to conduct sustainable and/or resource-efficient projects;

44. Further suggests that the United Nations Development Account and the GPA Clearing House Mechanism expand their operations to other developing regions such that it can provide higher levels of capacity building support that will allow developing countries to maximize the developmental gains from the use of their limited resources.