



*American Model United Nations*

**Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific**

**Report to the Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific on Towards a  
sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban future  
for Asia and the Pacific**

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2 The Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has compiled a final report covering  
3 its deliberations on the topic of working towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban future for Asia and the  
4 Pacific for consideration by the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC). The following report covers specifically  
5 the socioeconomic repercussions of urban growth, evenly address the concerns of all Members.

6 Chapter 1 features other recommendations for action, specifically focusing on efforts to educate populations  
7 on the benefits of living in a manner that is environmentally friendly and beneficial to the future of urban centers.  
8 Representatives promoted the use of nonmotorized transport while also promoting local accessibility.

9 Chapter 2 includes deliberations of representatives' concerns with the the environmental repercussions of  
10 urbanization, and a number of Members emphasized the importance of the transition to green energy. Other concerns  
11 included the benefits of data compilation, waste management and the problem of overpopulation.

12 **2 MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION**

13 **2.1 Other recommendations for action**

14 ESCAP encourages re-educating local populations internally on how to engage with green sustainability in  
15 both rural and urban settings. This would encourage representative members to adopt green initiatives in a strive  
16 to transition to a more "Green City". These green cities would incorporate community gardens and city parks as a  
17 means of increasing clean and healthy living for all citizens.

18 ESCAP would like to bring attention to the deliberations and discussions on the implementation of nuclear  
19 energy as both transitional and long term energy solutions. This discussion touched on the topics of nuclear energy  
20 ethics, as well as logistical planning such as testing sites, funding, nuclear waste and waste disposal, and different  
21 energy production techniques.

22 ESCAP would like to recommend that ECOSOC further consider smart cities as a viable and long term  
23 method through which urban spaces can holistically engage with environmentally friendly practices in densely pop-  
24 ulated areas.

25 ESCAP would also like to note the polarizing conversation on development in space as a means of addressing  
26 urban sprawl.

27 ESCAP would like to encourage ECOSOC to consider the viability and debatable necessity of nonmotorized  
28 transportation systems, as well as universal biking lanes and pedestrian street paths. Additionally, there have been  
29 ideas discussed on monitoring clean and environmentally sustainable housing production and accessibility.

30 ESCAP further recommends that ECOSOC consider the importance and potential widespread usage of  
31 offshore windmills as a method of providing clean power to individual homes and centers.

## 32 3 CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS

### 33 3.1 Deliberations

34 During deliberations, some Members of ESCAP acknowledge the repercussions of urbanization and the effects  
35 of such in the economies of all respective nations. ESCAP considered the approach of utilizing more developed  
36 countries? historical and current tactics on the topic. However, many delegations voiced concerns regarding the  
37 definition of succeeding in urbanization and stressed the importance of listening to the ideas of all present bodies.  
38 With this in mind, Members of ESCAP seemed to support the idea of creating a database of guidelines and policy of  
39 different Member States surrounding the topic of urbanization. They also brought up the idea of coordinating and  
40 bringing together national bodies of the region in order to further the urbanization of all Member States.

41 The increased influx of people to urban centers and the overpopulation that subsequently occurred and  
42 continues to occur was discussed by the Representatives as a topic of great importance. Delegations covered the  
43 threat of overpopulation, an issue that threatens to exacerbate other problems faced by large cities, including;  
44 inequality, chronic housing shortages, community health, slums, and pollution. The necessity to create housing and  
45 educational opportunities, as well as sanitation measures that meet the needs of the growing populations of urban  
46 and urbanizing areas was addressed. The importance of encouraging home ownership was also discussed. This  
47 body acknowledges that successful urban sustainability stems from recognizing the stark difference in prosperity and  
48 livelihood between rural and urban areas. In an effort to combat this class-based divide, Representatives encourage  
49 the conduction of field research on how nonprofit organizations, think tanks, and research firms can play a role in  
50 bolstering an inclusive urban future for all. They suggested that Member States promote a fast track for developing  
51 transportation, health, education, land management, and infrastructure as well as a review of the infrastructure  
52 in pre-existing neighborhoods. The problem of urban sprawl was included in formal session as increasing both the  
53 public and private costs of infrastructure development. The body also recognizes that urbanization and city planning  
54 must be done with observation on the effects this can have on rural areas, such as disrupted economies and forced  
55 relocation. While expressing fear for this issue if left untreated, Representatives were nonetheless optimistic about  
56 enacting policies as a result of collaborative discussion within robust frameworks for sustainable urbanization and  
57 development.

58 The relevance of investing in green energy and sustainable infrastructure for urban areas was raised by  
59 a number of Representatives. Deliberation on this topic extended to various pollutants such as fossil fuels and  
60 the effects of such pollution on the health of civilian populations. Delegations expressed interest in utilizing green  
61 infrastructure to reduce the ecological toll on urbanization. Green credits and buildings, as well as the development  
62 of smart cities were further suggested and emphasized. Some Representatives favored the avoidance of fossil fuels;  
63 however, others voiced opposition citing that rural development depended heavily on fossil fuels. The use of nuclear  
64 power as a form of green energy was a topic of debate. Some representatives felt nuclear power could be a long-  
65 term solution others expressed concern over the misuse of this power and its safety. Representatives incorporated  
66 a number of solutions to the growing problem of pollution and its relation to perpetuating climate change and by  
67 extension, the prevalence of natural disasters. Disastrous implications of river pollution and the inefficiency of dams  
68 was a shared concern for downstream communities, especially with regard to the Mekong, Yangtze, and Yellow rivers.  
69 Further worries regarding the precarious position of island Member States were then expressed by the body, as well  
70 as others susceptible to natural disasters. Many Representatives voiced their concerns about the economic capacity  
71 of urban and rural communities in the wake of such disasters and suggested building disaster-mitigating structures  
72 and creating evacuation and relief plans.

73 Representatives discussed waste management issues as products of the concentration of people into urban  
74 centers that lack waste management strategies. Member States expressed concern about the role of feeble waste  
75 management systems in allowing the contamination of a number of resources. This includes the contamination of  
76 soil and water by direct exposure or leachate, as well as air pollution resulting from the incineration of waste. It was  
77 also suggested by the delegates that drainage systems could reduce flooding in island Member States. A number of  
78 Member States expressed solutions already being enacted in their represented communities.

79 The importance of investing in agriculture as a means to diversify the economy was underscored. Delibera-  
80 tions outlined the importance of investment in vertical agriculture, with glowing endorsement of the proliferation of  
81 green towers and urban job programs.

82 During deliberations, Members encouraged the diversification of the economy through a concerted effort to

83 expand unique job opportunities. The body advocated a proactive approach to address extremism economically  
84 rather than militarily, as well as to improve infrastructure in large urban centers.

85 Further deliberations discussed the large population of the poor in rural areas and their limited access to  
86 markets; in this vein the commission spoke of the importance of rural and urban connectivity through structural  
87 development to allow economic integration of different communities. This would specifically be in the interest of  
88 those impoverished in rural communities and is vital to stem the tide of brain drain and excessive rural flight to  
89 urban centers.

90 To better facilitate increased movement and connections between rural and urban areas, ESCAP Member  
91 States discussed improving public transportation. Improved transit and travel was discussed as a means of ame-  
92 liorating issues often associated with increased urbanization. By strengthening and building transportation hubs,  
93 implementing diversified transportation options, and outfitting major urban centers with improved public transit ca-  
94 pacities, Member States encouraged others to create numerous social and economic opportunities as well as efficiently  
95 expanding their economic output. The importance of non-motorized transport as a means to both lower pollution  
96 levels and increase safety was discussed. Constructing bike lanes, encouraging pedestrian commutes, or enhancing  
97 subways are three examples that Member States presented on, that ease transit and also protect the environment.

98 Delegations underscored the role of foreign direct investment as a means of realizing many of these goals.  
99 Developed Member States and those with experiential expertise to share in different fields conveyed their eagerness  
100 to extend financing options and support to those who stand to benefit. Regional financing organizations were noted  
101 as sources of financing as well as forums for mutual support. Many delegations stressed the importance of global  
102 collaboration, as well as offered support to those representatives seeking international backing.

103 Member States discussed the importance of increasing partnerships with organizations such as Asian Devel-  
104 opment Bank (ADB), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and Cities Development Initiative for  
105 Asia (CDIA). These organizations work with Members to provide local institutional capacity strengthening related  
106 to urban infrastructure investment planning and programming. Additionally, the World Bank has several initia-  
107 tives aimed at strengthening urban development. For instance, the City Resilience Program (CRP) aims to provide  
108 local level governments with the technical tools and capital resources needed to pursue ambitious infrastructural  
109 investments that will allow cities to build greater resilience to climate change and disaster risks.

110 Delegations raised the notion of exploring space urbanization as a means of opening a new frontier of com-  
111 merce and accessing vital mineral resources. Deliberations discussed the benefits of developing advanced agricultural  
112 practices that may be applicable to concerns introduced by rapid urbanization. The economic benefits of developing  
113 colonies in space were discussed, which included the reduction of unemployment rates in overpopulated urban areas.

114 **4 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

115 At its meeting on 21 Novemeber 2017 the draft report of the Commission was mad available for consideration.  
116 The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report with 26 in favor and 1 opposed.

Passed, Yes: 26 / No: 1 / Abstain: 0