



American Model United Nations
United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEA/II/6

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

1 *Guided by* the principle that conflict prevention intrinsically protects the environment from damages during
2 conflict,

3 *Recognizing* the negative impacts of armed conflict on the environment and that environmental damage
4 increases the cost of conflict in terms of human health, economic prosperity and development,

5 *Deeply concerned* that environmental exploitation such as illicit mining, poaching, resource extraction and
6 unsustainable agriculture is a significant funding source for non-state armed groups and insurgent forces across the
7 globe which perpetuates the environmental damages sustained during armed conflict,

8 *Further concerned* that the environmental exploitation done by armed groups fuels conflict and poses a
9 significant threat to the environment and human populations,

10 *Guided by* the international communities standard of non-state actors that are individuals or organizations
11 that are not Member States or Observer States, have a politicized interest, but are not tied to the Member State or
12 Observer State,

13 *Noting with regret* that peacekeeping mandates do not include environmental protections to armed groups
14 from exploiting the environment as a means of funding their campaigns, mainly due to the lack of international
15 agreements on the issue,

16 *Observing* the intentions of both United Nations General Assembly Resolution 53/242, 10 August 1999 and
17 57/337, 3 July 2003, and subsequently believes that the United Nations Environmental Assembly must not attempt
18 to directly legislate on conflict prevention or resolution, which may be delegated to the General Assembly First
19 Committee or Security Council,

20 *Believing* it is in the best interest of the international community to support Member States in which armed
21 conflict is perpetuated by environmental exploitation,

22 *Notes* the need for accountability for non-state actors, specifically individuals, concerning the well being of
23 the environment on conflict crossing borders,

24 *Keeping in mind* that non-state actors are their own body and despite state governments trying to hold ac-
25 countable these groups to the best of their capability, conflict still arises,

26 *Reaffirming* the need of assistance for the government to manage non-state actor groups within their nation,

27 *Acknowledging* the prevalence of the detrimental effects to the environment and the people who inhabit these
28 areas of armed conflict,

29 *Guided by* the international communitys standard of non-state actors that entails an individual or organiza-
30 tion that has significant political interest, but does not have ties to the government of the country,

31 *Recognizing* the capability each Member State has to authorize its own environmental zones within their-
32 country,

33 *Hoping* that said environmental zones are preserved from non-state actor groups, who should be condemned
34 if they violate those zones,

35 1. *Recommends* that Member States or Observer States hold accountable non-state actor groups for the
36 environmental damage said groups cause;

37 2. *Further requests* the General Assembly First Committee, the Security Council and the Department of
38 Peacekeeping Operations consider the role of environmental exploitation in causing and fueling armed conflict;

39 3. *Suggests* the Security Council to recommend the Department of Peacekeeping Operations review the
40 environmental dimension of armed conflict in the fourteen active peacekeeping missions and make recommendations
41 to the Security Council concerning this dimension;

42 4. *Encourages* the General Assembly to consider strengthening the rule of law within Member States to
43 improve their capacity to protect the environment during armed conflict;

44 5. *Suggests* United Nations organs and Member States to support Member States in which environmental
45 exploitation perpetuates armed conflict;

46 6. *Recommends* that governments hold accountable non-state actor groups for the environmental damage
47 they cause:

48 (a) This can be done by protecting the civilians of the region affected by non-state actor group-
49 through humanitarian non-governmental organizations, however the government of the country has the final au-
50 thority if non-government organizations assist the country; therefore maintaining state sovereignty as stated in the
51 United Nations Charter 2.4 and 2.7;

52 (i) Additionally, providing peaceful sanctuary to those civilians personally affected by armed conflict;

53 (b) Should there be damage to the environment, participating states should have the responsibility
54 of helping the environment and people affected by the armed conflict done by non-state actors by providing substantial
55 resources;

56 (c) Furthermore, should provide aid that was lost during the strife;

57 7. *Requests* assistance from outside governments, in order to keep civilians from fleeing the country due to
58 armed conflict brought about by non-state actor groups. This can be pursued through:

59 (a) Monetary aid through the discretion of participating states;

60 (b) The Organization of Economic Co-operation and development (OECD);

61 (c) Free-trade programs that would strengthen the economy of countries combating armed conflict;

62 8. *Reminds* all Member States of their commitments to peace and cooperation concerning the environment,
63 displaced people due to armed conflict and protection of environmental zones within a country.

Passed, Yes: 34 / No: 5 / Abstain: 6