American Model United Nations
United Nations Environment Assembly

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Whereas the Paris Accord, COP 26 Conference, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Policy 2067 have properly outlined the absolute need to reduce carbon emissions to be carbon neutral by 2050,

Acknowledging lack of progress from the international community on decarbonization in the 21st century,

Further acknowledging the need for climate solutions to be viewed in both the short and long term, both decreasing emissions and building resiliency,

Recognizing the negative effects consumerism and irresponsible economic growth, have on emissions,

Further recognizing that economic incentives do not account for the cost carbon emissions present to the global community,

Understanding the value of research, with technological development being a required precursor to realistic sustainable development,

Fully aware of the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the economy and environment, especially on developing countries,

Deeply concerned that the use of GDP does not properly represent the needs of Member States as they relate to sustainability,

Appreciating the need for sovereignty, especially for low and middle income Member States in deciding their paths towards development and becoming sustainable,

1. Recommends Member States decouple of GDP from measurements of citizens’ and states wellbeing;

2. Further recommends Member States define the primary standard for the success of a Member State using the Development of Jurisdictional Advancement Index (DOJA), in terms of material and social wellbeing of citizens and their communities:

   (a) GDP is an insufficient measure of well-being due to its reflection of markets and rich individuals at the expense of a country’s poor;

   (b) The DOJA Index would incentivise Member States to make innovations in sustainable development by determining success with an incentive towards sustainable practices;

   (c) The DOJA Index would be a calculated measure of the well-being of a Member States people, based on the following criteria and should be used specifically when these criterion are in effect:

      (i) comparing its health, economic and otherwise, to the past;

      (ii) considering economic policy;

      (iii) considering environmental policy;

      (iv) reporting governmental success to the public;

      (v) determining designations such as “developing” and “developed” countries;

   (d) Emphasizes the right of every Member State to develop on its own terms and while maintaining its sovereignty;
(i) Further emphasizes the need for developed Member States to provide resources to aid in the
development of low and middle income countries;
(ii) Declares the right of every Member States to have every opportunity for development regardless
of colonial or marginalized history;
(e) Recommends the adoption of degrowth policy on a global scale by committing to;
   (i) Scaling back overfishing, overpollution, and overconsumption to make room for beneficial envi-
   ronmental practices;
   (ii) The idea that technology should be used to uplift and empower citizens, especially the poorest
citizens;
   (iii) prioritizing DOJA over GDP;

3. Encourages developed Member States to refrain from bilateral aid infringing upon the rights of developing
countries by exploiting their resources or preventing their development:
   (a) Emphasizes that agreements between Member States must be mutually beneficial and take into
   consideration the material conditions of all citizens;
   (i) Affirms the benefits of mutual cooperation between developing countries to ensure their economic
growth and security;
   (ii) Underlines that resources within developing countries are owned by the developing countries and
that resources within that country should be used to their benefit;

4. Recommends that Member States implement a substantive carbon tax:
   (a) A global standard carbon tax floor will uphold the Member States right to develop on their own
terms by allowing for global markets to properly account for the cost of carbon to the world, and will incentivize the
movement toward decarbonization;
   (b) The committee recommends the funds accrued from a carbon tax should be allocated in the
following ways;
      (i) Subsidization of green innovation and research;
      (ii) Green energy infrastructure to reduce reliance on fossil fuels;
      (iii) Returns to taxpayers;
      (iv) General efforts to decarbonize state economies;
   (c) The efficacy of such a tax should be revisited on an annual basis, and investigating or creating
incentives for states to implement the tax as needed;

5. Requests Member States enact sustainable fishing practices to prevent overfishing in order to increase the
DOJA index in Member States while still recognizing a Member State’s sovereignty:
   (a) Reaffirms the statements made in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to limit
overfishing, understanding the potential for economic decline;
   (b) Implementing comprehensive biannual assessments of marine life, giving special consideration to
the health of big fish in the ecosystem;
   (c) Encouraging Member States to commit to the following actions to prevent overfishing:
      (i) Consideration of catch limits on marine life;
      (ii) Seasonal closures to shorten fishing season and allow for population regrowth;
      (iii) The space-based domains to discourage the operation of multiple fisheries in similar areas;
      (iv) Subsidize sustainable fisheries;
   (v) Promote education and resources to help those who rely on fishing for their livelihoods to
transition to more sustainable fishing practices;
Further request that resources and information be provided that measures the health of aquatic environments and fish populations in order to ensure that aquatic environments continue to be available for future generations;

(d) Performing research and subsequently establishing standards for said actions and domains;

6. **Proposes** a dual approach to both institute sustainable technologies while simultaneously preparing vulnerable locations for worsening natural disasters with emphasis on flooding by:

(a) Providing resources to vulnerable countries to rebuild and establish sustainable, preemptive infrastructure to help both in the short and long term;

(b) Asks Member States to work together and share resources on global efforts to prepare regions that stand to lose significantly as we continue to see the worsening effects of climate change;

(c) Implementing sustainable energy technologies that can withstand their environment;

7. **Recommends** that Member States provide resources for the development of healthier production methods in effort to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change:

(a) Encourages Member States to advocate for their energy needs in the most sustainable fashion;

(b) Calls for the development of low carbon construction methods that can be cheaply adopted by all states;

(c) Expresses hope that carbon capture technology can be developed to the point where it is cheap and effective enough to be applied worldwide;

(d) Recommends the development of electric vehicles for transportation;

(i) Transportation is a major source of carbon emissions;

(ii) Electrifying industries like transportation will allow high-income Member States to more easily reduce carbon in their economies;

(e) Emphasizing the need for the development of permanent and resilient technologies to produce renewable energy;

(i) Supporting the funding of disaster-resilient renewable energy technology in developing countries that are more susceptible to natural and environmental disasters;

(ii) Encouraging programs that help to repair and improve existing renewable energy sources that face risk of harm due to environmental factors;

8. **Recommends** high income countries support low and middle income countries in their pursuit of sustainable development and renewable energy:

(a) Acknowledges that many small and developing countries lack the resources and incentive to develop these technologies;

(i) Suggests that developing countries are provided resources in their pursuit of sustainable development;

(ii) Encourages incentivising developed countries to provide resources and technical support to less developed countries;

(iii) Recommends that Member States support environmentally friendly supply chains and encourage private sector cooperation;

9. **Encourages** resources to be devoted to help Member States, especially those most at risk for climate related disasters, to prepare to be able to withstand such disasters and maintain the quality of life for their people:

(a) Urges for the implementation of energy grids to better withstand extreme weather conditions;

(b) Provide individuals with the resources to make conscious decisions on where they settle, and support individuals in making their residences more resilient to natural disasters in order to prevent individuals from entering houslessness;
10. **Strongly encourages** Member States to take action now to meet carbon reduction guidelines outlined in The Paris Accord before the impact of climate change fundamentally changes life on this planet:

(a) Reaffirms the need to prevent a global temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent irreversible effects of climate change;

(b) Further requesting that Member States uphold their commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12: Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

11. **Strongly encourages** Member States to invest in research of technologies to make the process of decarbonization easier focusing on the following technologies including:

(a) Battery and storage of electricity;

(b) Safety of nuclear power and nuclear waste disposal;

(c) Electric cars and electric versions of other carbon intensive modes of transportation, especially by attempting to lower costs and increase accessibility for low and middle income countries through the use of smart grid and energy conservation technologies.

Passed, Yes: 20 / No: 14 / Abstain: 6