



American Model United Nations
United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEA/II/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Poverty-environment nexus

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

1 *Reaffirming* the importance of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2015 Climate
2 Change Summit and the targets set by the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26),

3 1. *Acknowledging* the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the global system and its effect in hindering the
4 global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

5 2. *Emphasizing* the increase in global income inequality between developed and developing Member States
6 attributed to the effects of climate change, with effects exacerbated amongst marginalized groups including women
7 and children;

8 3. *Recognizing* the importance of allowing growth within developing Member States who at times do not
9 have the same financial means to help contribute to the global effort of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

10 4. *Bearing in mind* the importance of state sovereignty and each Member State's right to their own unique
11 actions in regard to their position in the environmental crisis at hand;

12 5. *Aware* of the differing sustainability goals in this committee including ensuring clean water and air for all,
13 building sustainable infrastructure, promoting renewable energy, preserving ecosystems, promoting gender equality,
14 et cetera;

15 6. *Recognizing* the debt traps caused by unilateral aid and the obstacles to progress and sovereignty of low
16 and middle income countries caused by some private investment;

17 7. *Celebrating* the successes of World Bank-funded sustainability initiatives, including the United Nations
18 Development Programme (UNDP) - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Poverty-Environment Initia-
19 tive, The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Philippines
20 Rural Development project;

21 8. *Recognizing* that combating the Poverty environment nexus is a global effort;

22 9. *Aware* of the effects of climate related disasters on particularly developing Member States;

23 10. *Promotes* high-income countries to contribute resources to the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment
24 initiative, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support sustainable development projects in low
25 and middle income countries;

26 11. *Further promotes* the World Bank and IMF to focus funding on sustainable development projects;

27 12. *Encourages* the implementation of microfinancing to aid developing states that rely on the environment
28 the most for their income yet also suffer from a multitude of environmental catastrophes through:

29 (a) Empowering small businesses to create sustainable private sector growth in low and middle
30 income countries;

31 (b) Working alongside NGO's to improve standards of living and encourage economic growth;

32 (c) Investing in projects that move towards sustainable development, always being carbon conscious
33 and trying to build resilience to adapt to climate change;

34 13. *Encourages* contributions to the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), hoping to empower
35 it to complete more projects across the world by:

36 (a) Requesting the UNDP-UNEP PEI empowers an oversight body to observe use of resources for
37 investment into sustainable infrastructure to reduce the harmful impacts of climate change in developing countries,
38 and provides consistent reports to monitor if resources are being used as planned and the progress of applicant states
39 towards fulfilling their goals with such aid;

40 (i) Encourages the body to collaborate with the World Bank in increasing the amount of resources
41 available;

42 (ii) Further encourages Member States to provide resources to the PEI;

43 (b) Further advises that the UNEP PEI also establish a program wherein developing countries can
44 apply for funding for specific projects, and can collaborate with interested donors to develop clear goals for projects;

45 14. *Promotes* the adoption of a coordinated collaborative approach to sustainable economic development,
46 carbon reduction and green infrastructure through resource and skill sharing between Member States and the public
47 and private sectors to improve the quality of life of those in poverty:

48 (a) Encourage the development of clean energy sources in developing Member States through col-
49 laboration with UN agencies and the PEI to increase access to electricity in rural contexts, such as but not limited
50 to;

51 (i) Programs developed in collaboration with local governments designed to subsidize the expansion
52 of electric grids;

53 (ii) The distribution of solar panels, in conjunction with batteries, to regions without access to
54 electricity;

55 (b) Further encourage the coordination of agencies in every country to coordinate efforts to increase
56 access to renewable energy and more sustainable practices in low-income areas, and to collaborate with the UN in
57 establishing specific programs to do so;

58 (i) Advises sharing of technical support to companies seeking to adopt more sustainable techniques
59 or decarbonize;

60 (ii) Work with business leaders in establishing clear goals for the improvement of decarbonization
61 and more efficient resource use;

62 (iii) Determine the most critical issues and allocate resources accordingly, to maximize the return
63 on investment;

64 (c) Revitalizing climate-change mitigating ecosystems;

65 (d) Developing high capacity public transportation infrastructure;

66 (e) Maximizing the efficiency of food production and invest in rural infrastructure;

67 (i) Focus upon updating to modern technologies to improve productivity, including adapting irriga-
68 tion systems make low and middle income Member States more resilient to climate change;

69 (ii) Incorporate women into the workforce in rural communities;

70 (iii) Ensure consistent food supply for low and middle income Member States;

71 (iv) Protect biodiversity across the world;

72 (v) Improve rural transportation, ensuring accessibility to healthcare and improving the food supply
73 chains in low and middle income countries;

74 (f) Aiding developing Member States that want to develop their agricultural sector with sustainable
75 technologies and establishing a stronger presence in the market;

76 (g) Requests that as Member States make an effort to develop their infrastructure and economies,
77 that they simultaneously make an effort to decarbonize in both the public and private sector;

78 15. *Encourages* Member States to accelerate the adoption of more climate-resistant agricultural technologies
79 and techniques among low-income farmers in developing Member States:

80 (a) Developing pilot programs in conjunction with the United Nations to establish which agricultural
81 techniques and technologies are most effective in the specific local context of the Member States, and then identify
82 which techniques and technologies can best be scaled across the Member States;

83 (i) Encourages measures to reduce the risks posed to farmers by extreme weather changes through
84 the diversification of crops and the adoption of climate-resilient crops;

85 (ii) Further encourages the increase of water and resource efficiency, so as to increase potential crop
86 yields, through the adoption of improved irrigation systems;

87 (b) Establishing close collaboration between local and national governments in the development of
88 regional programs designed to bring about the adoption of techniques which offer greater climate resilience and
89 economic growth;

90 (i) Encourages this collaboration between governments to fund projects to introduce climate change
91 resistant agriculture to villages;

92 (ii) Further encourages the continual analysis of the programs to determine the most effective use
93 of resources as well as to report on the economic benefits derived by farmers;

94 16. *Endorses* the use of Green Growth Strategies, which involves ensuring that natural assets can achieve
95 their full economic potential on a sustainable basis including the provision of critical life support sources, as the
96 economies of developing Member States continue to grow:

97 (a) Encourages Members States take this perspective while developing, considering the effect devel-
98 opment has on their natural resources, environment and citizens;

99 (b) Asks that the PEI provide resources to aid Member States in implementing these strategies;

100 (c) Affirms the need for each individual Member State to decide how these strategies are implemented
101 to best suit the needs of their citizens;

102 17. *Recognizes* the right of Member States to decline resources from any source for any reason;

103 18. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation between Member States of varying socioeconomic and envi-
104 ronmental development in enacting current and future sustainable initiatives;

105 19. *Recommends* a more integrated international response towards natural disasters from international
106 organizations committed to mitigating the effects from natural disasters and making vulnerable Member States more
107 resilient against them:

108 (a) Recommends Member States contribute resources to the United Nations Disaster Assessment
109 and Coordination to create a better international response when sudden disasters happen in vulnerable Member
110 States;

111 (b) Encourages the construction of infrastructure built with resilience towards climate-related dis-
112 asters in mind;

113 (c) Calls for Member States to carry out climate vulnerability surveys to determine which regions
114 are most at risk;

115 (d) Encourages the increase of resources towards national and regional meteorological agencies to
116 improve the accuracy and precision of predictions, as well as the development of systems to rapidly distribute the
117 information to citizens, be it through radio, digital media or television;

118 (e) Encourages the establishment of systems for the rapid deployment of resources and aid to those
119 most at risk to be seriously affected by climate change related natural disasters to help alleviate potential harm
120 posed by such disasters.

Passed, Yes: 50 / No: 1 / Abstain: 10