SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Poverty-environment nexus

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Encourages contributions to the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), hoping to empower it to complete more projects across the world by:
(a) Requesting the UNDP-UNEP PEI empowers an oversight body to observe use of resources for investment into sustainable infrastructure to reduce the harmful impacts of climate change in developing countries, and provides consistent reports to monitor if resources are being used as planned and the progress of applicant states towards fulfilling their goals with such aid;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Revitalizing climate-change mitigating ecosystems;

(d) Developing high capacity public transportation infrastructure;

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

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

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

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

(iv) Protect biodiversity across the world;

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

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

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

15. Encourages Member States to accelerate the adoption of more climate-resistant agricultural technologies and techniques among low-income farmers in developing Member States:
(a) Developing pilot programs in conjunction with the United Nations to establish which agricultural
techniques and technologies are most effective in the specific local context of the Member States, and then identify
which techniques and technologies can best be scaled across the Member States;

(i) Encourages measures to reduce the risks posed to farmers by extreme weather changes through
the diversification of crops and the adoption of climate-resilient crops;
(ii) Further encourages the increase of water and resource efficiency, so as to increase potential crop
yields, through the adoption of improved irrigation systems;

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

(i) Encourages this collaboration between governments to fund projects to introduce climate change
resistant agriculture to villages;
(ii) Further encourages the continual analysis of the programs to determine the most effective use
of resources as well as to report on the economic benefits derived by farmers;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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