

Forum: General Assembly's Third Committee

Question of: Developing Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development

Submitted by: Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Co-submitted by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Columbia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Swaziland, Uganda, Ukraine

- 1 The Third Committee of the General Assembly,
- 2
- 3 *Guided by* the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
- 4 Development, adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historical UN Summit, and came into
- 5 force on 1 January 2016,
- 6
- 7 *Bearing in mind* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations
- 8 General Assembly on 10 December 1948, and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and
- 9 Fundamental Freedoms (1950, ETS No.5),
- 10
- 11 *Recalling* resolution 57/254., proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable
- 12 Development,
- 13
- 14 *Recalling* resolution S-25/2., the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New
- 15 Millennium,
- 16
- 17 *Recalling* resolution 55/2., the United Nations Millennium Declaration,
- 18
- 19 *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 2997 (XIV) of 15 December 1972, which established the
- 20 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- 21
- 22 *Recalling* the A/68/25 UNEP report,
- 23
- 24 *Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was conceived as a practical tool for
- 25 translating the principles of the Agenda 21 of United Nations Conference on Environment and
- 26 Development (UNCED) into reality,
- 27
- 28 *Recalling* the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2015/33 titled
- 29 International Arrangement on Forests Beyond 2015,
- 30
- 31 *Recalling* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, contained in General Assembly
- 32 resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993,
- 33

34 *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 31/72, which adopted the 1977 Environmental Modification
35 Convention,
36
37 *Recalling* the General Assembly Resolution 61/295, which established the Declaration on the Rights of
38 Indigenous Peoples,
39
40 *Recalling* the ECOSOC resolution 2016/8, titled “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the
41 contemporary world”, adopted on the 2nd of June 2016,
42
43 *Recalling* the General Assembly Resolution 63/278, which established the International Mother Earth
44 Day,
45
46 *Bearing in mind* the Article 13, sub-clause 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads
47 as “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.”,
48
49 *Fully aware* of the multiculturalism of most of the big cities,
50
51 *Deeply conscious* about the fact that today 54 per cent of the world’s population lives in urban areas, a
52 proportion that is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050,
53
54 *Welcoming* the help of the UNEP and other environmental UN organisations,
55
56 *Believing*, that sustainable urban development can only be achieved if we improve cities in social,
57 economic and environmental aspects,
58
59 *Recognizing* the important role of charities and organizations in the process of improving the
60 sustainability of the cities,
61
62 *Alarmed* by the cities’ huge impact on the environment,
63
64 *Emphasizing* the importance of social equality in the multicultural cities, and the integration of people
65 who are arriving in those cities to find work,
66
67 *Recognising* that without sacrifices made by the governments to reduce pollution the cities may crucially
68 harm the environment,
69
70 *Further welcoming* the help of humanitarian actors in those urban areas, where the governments are
71 unable to combat hunger, diseases and homelessness,
72
73 *Realizing* that most of the refugees are being settled in cities, therefore welcoming the help of the
74 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
75
76 *Expecting* the help of the developed countries and the G20 nations to replace the use of non-renewable
77 energy with renewable energy in developing countries as well,
78
79 *Recognising* that as the number of people living in urban areas is increasing, the number of people
80 working in the agriculture is decreasing,
81

82 *Noting with deep concern* that the governments must encourage people to work in agriculture,

83

84 *Having received* the previous reports of the UNEP and other UN organisations,

85

86 *Noting* that establishing more green areas within the big cities would be important and should be done
87 by the governments with the help of UN organisations if needed,

88

89 *Expecting* the collaboration of the governments of the cities,

90

91 *Guided by* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

92

93 1. **Urges** the governments to adopt new policies on this issue, by taking into consideration the Goal 11
94 Targets of the Sustainable development 2030 Agenda of the United Nations;

95

96 2. **Encourages** the local governments of cities to take measures in order to reduce the pollution caused
97 by the cities by using the following guidelines:

98

99 a. Introducing sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP) in major Cities, to provide high quality and
100 sustainable mobility and transport to, through and within urban areas,

101

102 b. Implementing selective waste collection systems in civil homes and public places, so that the
103 companies and other governmental respective organisations will be able to reuse the waste,

104

105 c. Using less plastic and more recyclable products for packaging,

106

107 d. Starting the implementation of Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) on all levels in order to
108 make use of water more efficient, thus improving our water resources,

109

110 e. Using renewable energy where possible, since the use of renewable energy is getting cheaper
111 and more affordable, and encouraging the citizens to do that as well by applying the measures
112 listed in operative clause 3,

113

114 f. Establishing advanced waste disposals near the cities, so that the delivery of the waste would
115 not use so much fuel, while keeping in mind the fact that a minimal distance from the residential
116 areas is needed, because the smell of the waste, which is under destruction should not reach
117 the people,

118

119 g. Encouraging people to buy products which are made in the region and giving them the
120 possibility to do so, by:

121

122 i. Imposing lower taxes on the products made in the region,

123

124 ii. Providing a huge variety of products accessible on the market, which are made in the
125 region, by asking the local producers to reduce their export rate on their products, if
126 needed,

127

128 iii. However always keeping in mind that this is a dilemma, whether we should respect free
trade or sustainability more;

129

130 3. **Suggests** the governments to educate their people about the importance of the protection of the
131 environment, by including environmental studies in the curriculum of public schools, as the
132 following:

133

134 a. By urging the building of elementary schools in developing countries,

135

136 b. At least one 'Environment Lesson' per week in elementary school, where children can learn
137 about their environment, including plants, animals, places, ecosystems, pollution, etcetera,

138

139 c. Compulsory and facultative presentations in high schools about the issues such as, but not
140 limited to:

141

- 129 i. Global warming,
130 ii. The negative effects of environmental pollution on human health,
131 iii. Air-, water- and ground pollution and the impact on animals and plants of these,
132 iv. Endangered species,
133 v. Waste islands and waste disposability,
134 vi. The benefits of using renewable energy,
135 vii. What people can do in everyday-life in order to reduce the previously listed issues,
136 d. Organising school events on the International Mother Earth Day, established by the General
137 Assembly Resolution 63/278, including, such as, but not limited to:
138 i. Special lessons about environment protection,
139 ii. Museum visits,
140 iii. Students taking part in activities for the benefit of 'Mother Earth', such as, but not limited
141 to:
142 1) Waste collection in public places, for example in parks and in the streets,
143 2) Planting plants in parks or in the school garden under the permission of the local
144 government,
145 3) Making presentations and plays for the others about the issues specified in sub-clause b;
146
147 4. **Calls upon** the UNEP and the IEA to assist governments in implementing the measures defined in
148 the sub-clauses of the two previous operative clauses and calls upon the Economic and Financial
149 Committee (ECOFIN) of the United Nations General Assembly to work out the financial background
150 of the previous operative clause;
151
152 5. **Suggests** the governments of cities to promote investments in the countryside, if the countryside is
153 unable to supply their cities, since as the number of people living in cities is increasing, the number
154 of people working in the agriculture is decreasing, by doing the following:
155 a. Offering favourable jobs for the people, by offering relatively good salaries in the public sector,
156 b. Make it more beneficial for the companies to invest there, by promoting investments through
157 the private- or the public sector, and taking into consideration the advantages and the
158 disadvantages of either of the approaches:
159 i. If the government chooses to promote investments through the public sector, the respective
160 government organization may be unable to gain skills that are required if the activity is to
161 be managed properly, which private sector may be able to do so and it will be difficult to
162 attract to the public sector, especially with the salary constraints typical of civil services,
163 therefore, if the government decides to manage the activity, it may also, through various
164 methods, have to take steps to gain the needed skills from the private sector,
165 ii. If the government chooses to delegate the management of investment promotion activities
166 to the private sector, then it often has the disadvantage that the private sector will not
167 handle well some parts of the task that are more like traditional government tasks, such as
168 servicing investors by acquiring permits and approvals from other government
169 departments,
170 iii. Picking a third possibility, which is to handle the management of promotion to so called
171 'quasi-government organisations', which:
172 1) Are reporting to the government,
173 2) Are not within the conventional government and civil-service structure,

- 174 3) Have an advantage over private organizations in conducting the tasks of investment
175 promotion that require close contact with the government, while not having the
176 strongly limited possibility of the public sector,
177 c. Establishing high schools and universities where people can learn about agriculture,
178 d. Providing affordable housing in that area, by establishing affordable housing programmes under
179 government authorities, and inviting Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) to build cheap
180 houses in the area and also implement the needed improvements in the local infrastructure as
181 new citizens are willing to live there,
182 e. Encouraging local communities to work towards establishing a circular economy to reduce the
183 dependency of rural communities on cities;
184
- 185 6. **Calls upon** the ECOFIN to help the governments in implementing the measures mentioned in the
186 previous sub-clause, and inviting the financial help of the G20s and the willing NGOs;
187
- 188 7. **Recommends** the establishment of a group called National Urban Developing Fund Management
189 Agency (NUDFMA), which:
190 a. Supervises national, urban developing funds,
191 b. Coordinates the development of a UN Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the
192 private trans-national sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces in
193 marginalized areas,
194 c. Is financed by the G20s and all those nations wishing to;
195
- 196 8. **Proposes** the implementation of the Global Urban Developing Fund-Management Agency
197 (GUDFMA), which coordinates and controls NUDFMAs and their collaborations;
198
- 199 9. **Asks** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to start and continue taking actions in
200 cities to create more and more green areas, and supports its Global Programme of Action for the
201 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) to reduce ocean pollution
202 caused by cities, furthermore requests nations to invite these actors;
203
- 204 10. **Further asks** for humanitarian assistance from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of
205 Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in those cities, where the governments are unable to combat
206 homelessness, diseases and hunger, and encourages the developed countries and the G20s to
207 financially support this organization;
208
- 209 11. **Further requests** the governments to integrate the arriving refugees in the cities by taking measures
210 such as but not limited to:
211 a. Starting negotiations with the employers of the region to provide workplaces for them, in a way
212 which is affordable for the companies as well,
213 b. Providing education for those who are arriving from another country, if needed, by inviting UN
214 bodies and organisations with the following guidelines:
215 i. Giving them intensive language courses,
216 ii. Integrating children into the public schools of the city,
217 iii. Informing them about the culture and the laws of the city,
218 c. Promoting the importance of social acceptance towards the refugees, which already got the
219 permission from the government to be in the country, by taking the following measures:
220 i. Organising cultural events where people can meet and learn about their culture,

- 221 ii. Promoting the importance of solidarity and acceptance towards the refugees,
222 d. Implementing all the above mentioned with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner
223 for Refugees (UNHCR);
224
- 225 12. **Calls for** the establishment of a group of experts, named Working Group on Urban Pollution
226 (WGUP), which would work out reports on things that have a great impact on the environment in
227 each city, with the following guidelines: a. The group would work under the UNEP,
228 a. The group would work out yearly reports about the pollution of the 100 cities with the biggest
229 population,
230 b. The UNEP should provide experts to work for this group,
231 c. The reports would be sent to the UNEP and then the UNEP would give advises to these cities, in
232 case measures should be taken;
233
- 234 13. **Desires** the establishment of a connection between countries in form of trade routes, therefore the
235 economies of developing countries could boost up, by linking up with other countries;
236
- 237 14. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.