



United Nations Environment Programme

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Resolution 2026/0001

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme on 18 June 2026

Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Global Waste Management Systems to Combat Environmental Degradation

The United Nations Environment Programme,

Guided by the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations,

Deeply concerned that mismanaged waste in deltaic and coastal regions exacerbates the impacts of climate change, flooding, and sea-level rise, threatening the very existence of low-lying nations,

Acknowledging that sustainable and functional waste disposal infrastructure presents a disproportionately severe challenge to Less Developed Countries (LDCs) due to financial constraints, infrastructural gaps, and rapid urbanization,

Recalling that industrialised nations are responsible for the greatest amount of global pollution, both in the past and in the present,

Believing that developing countries require greater support in building sustainable waste management systems, as they depend on the use of natural resources and agriculture the most,

Recognising the importance of national independence and sovereignty for a just waste management system,

Observing that environmental ecosystems transcend national borders, rendering international cooperation an absolute necessity for effective waste management and pollution control,

1. **Encourages** the integration of formal and informal waste workers into national waste management systems through:
 - (a) the legal recognition of their work,
 - (b) training and skill development programs,
 - (c) the provision of safer working conditions, like:
 - (i) working gear,
 - (ii) fair payment,
 - (d) the inclusion of waste workers in decision making processes;
2. **Recommends** the establishment of a “Management for Environmental Recycling and Zero-Waste Efficiency, Coordination, Knowledge and Ecological International Environmental Recovery” (“MERZWECKEIER”), which:

- (a) is hosted every two years in a different region affected by environmental stress and open to hosting demonstration projects,
 - (b) aims at connecting governments, investors and companies in order to pragmatically support water efficiency and recycling through pilot projects and increasing of technical capacity and knowledge exchange,
 - (c) has the right to adapt and veto changes to the policy of the “MERZWECKEIER”,
 - (d) is designed to not become a space of optimised publicity by companies,
 - (e) adopts a rotating steering committee, which publishes periodic reviews about:
 - (i) the state of environmental health and conditions in different countries,
 - (ii) everything of public interest related to 2b) and 2c),
 - (f) is financed by assessed contributions, based off of GDP, unless crises, such as, but not limited to, a pandemic, take a considerable toll on global finances;
3. **Calls for** the involvement of local communities as they often suffer from waste-related problems;
4. **Recommends** collaboration among the countries in order to find practical solutions to the issue without regional disagreements harming the resulting international agreements;
5. **Strongly urges** to closing open dumpsides and replacing them with safer and more sustainable disposal facilities and implementing nation-wide equally distributed downstream measures, such as:
- (a) waste collection systems,
 - (b) waste transportation,
 - (c) waste storage capacities,
 - (d) waste sorting systems,
 - (e) recycling or waste disposal facilities;
6. **Further invites** all membered states to form cooperations in waste management, with the goal to form a global waste management system, where the autonomy of the nations is not compromised and where is especially talked about:
- (a) organising educational programs on waste recycling and reducing in schools and communities through:
 - (i) workshops,
 - (ii) classes,
 - (iii) visits to suffering ecosystems/communities,
 - (b) waste sorting;
7. **Recognizes** that the export of certain types of waste may be permitted only under the following strict conditions, provided that:
- (a) The importing country demonstrates adequate infrastructure or safe storage,
 - (b) A binding agreement between the exporting and importing countries is in place, including a third party monitoring liability for environmental damage or non-compliance,
 - (c) The waste is going to be recycled or reused according to specifications;
8. **Requests** Member States, especially developed countries, and international organisations to provide developing countries as well as certain emerging nations, with financial and technological assistance for the purpose of implementing the present resolution,
- (a) Promoting regional training programs and technology sharing partnerships to assist developing countries building waste management and infrastructure and technical expertise;

9. **Asks for** increased efforts to protect marine ecosystems and coastal communities, for example by:
 - (a) Implementing policies that prevent the improper disposal of waste into rivers and oceans,
 - (b) Investing in sustainable and inclusive technologies for fishery and other marine industries to secure the livelihood of all coastal communities especially in LDC;
10. **Encourages** Member States to gradually reduce the unnecessary single-use-plastic products and establish a circular economy, in which products and materials are designed to be reused, repaired and recycled rather than discarded;
11. **Decides to** remain actively seized on the matter.

Vote result	Adopted
	<i>In favour:</i> 63
	<i>Against:</i> 1
	<i>Abstentions:</i> 1
Date of vote	18 June 2026
Final editor	Laura Petra Blümel