



United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second session
Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 9 June 2023

2/5. Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development; and noting that the objective of promoting sustainable infrastructure is reflected in the other goals and targets,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 endorsing the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), including the commitments in paragraph 45 of the Agenda to developing vibrant, sustainable and inclusive urban economies, building on resource-efficient and resilient infrastructure, and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, and the recognition in paragraph 64 of the Agenda that urban centres worldwide, especially in developing countries, often have characteristics that make them and their inhabitants especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which recognized that investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transport, energy, water and sanitation for all, was a prerequisite for achieving many goals, and expressed a commitment by countries to facilitating the development of sustainable, accessible and resilient quality infrastructure in developing countries through enhanced financial and technical support,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027),¹ which stressed the potential of inclusive and sustainable development through structural transformation for job creation and poverty eradication,

¹ A/73/298.

Taking note with concern of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which recognizes that in urban areas, observed climate change has caused adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure, and that extreme events have intensified in cities,

Taking note of the finding in *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*,² the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that urban CO₂-equivalent emissions based on consumption-based accounting were estimated to be 25 gigatons of CO₂ equivalents, or 62 per cent of the global total, in 2015 and increased to an estimated 29 gigatons of CO₂ equivalents in 2022, representing about 67 to 72 per cent of global emissions,

Expressing concern regarding the fact that climate change, coupled with poorly planned and unplanned urbanization, has rendered many human settlements and populations vulnerable to natural and human-made disasters, disproportionately affecting the poor, women, children, older people, people with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, and deeply concerned that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Recognizing the important role of local authorities in tackling climate risks, confronting the ramifications of climate challenges, and pursuing sustainable development policies, practices and investments,

Underlining the importance of multilevel and cooperative action as an essential element of implementing the objective and achieving the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the Paris Agreement,⁴ and of the efforts of subnational authorities to implement local-level policies for adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects and to build urban and rural resilience,

Acknowledging the importance of developing urban human settlements and infrastructure in a way that strengthens mitigation efforts, adaptation strategies and resilience in facing climate challenges, including by acknowledging the interlinkage between climate change and sustainable urban development and related capital investment across urban sectors, in line with the relevant international frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Acknowledging that local authorities should take immediate action to address climate change challenges by adopting climate and urban sustainability actions that implement specific goals and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and support climate resilience, based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ and the Paris Agreement,⁶

Recalling paragraph 5 of decision 2022/2 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, in which the Executive Director of UN-Habitat was encouraged to explore with the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the possibility of convening a housing and urban development ministerial meeting on cities and climate change, to be held in the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to highlight the importance of climate action in urban areas in the development and achievement of nationally determined contributions, and taking note of the report of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held in the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the launch of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative of the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and with facilitation by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), with the vision to build on effective multilevel governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive and resilient,

² https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf, p. 885.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁶ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

Welcoming decision 2/CMA.4 of the Paris Agreement entitled “Funding arrangement for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including the focus on addressing loss and damage”,

Taking note of the initiatives launched at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are relevant to cities and urbanization,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Egypt for agreeing to host the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo in 2024 in collaboration with UN-Habitat, and for agreeing to host the tenth Africities summit in 2025 in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments of Africa,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, and in coordination with the Member States, the Executive Board and stakeholders, to further enhance the linkage between urbanization and climate change in the work of UN-Habitat in order to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁷ and the Paris Agreement;⁸

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to engage with Member States and relevant stakeholders, including international and national associations of local authorities recognized by the United Nations, to continue the practice of organizing meetings, including ministerial meetings as appropriate, following the organization of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held in the margins of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

3. *Welcomes* the Executive Director’s efforts to launch the SURGe initiative during the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to inform the Executive Board, and subsequently develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement for the Executive Board to consider;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to support initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacity of communities to face and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and related loss and damage;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to scale up the RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor flagship programme;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant partners, to continue efforts to mobilize resources; disseminate information on innovations, good practices and policies relating to climate action; and support Member States in this regard;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide updates to the Executive Board at its regular sessions, starting with the first session of 2024, on the implementation of the present resolution, including any challenges encountered, and to propose further measures as needed;

8. *Encourages* Member States to expand cooperation between different levels of government (multilevel climate action) in order to enhance inclusion of local-level contributions in new and updated nationally determined contributions and support the implementation of nationally determined contributions at the local level.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁸ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.