

Enhancing the Linkage between Urbanization and Climate Change

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its relevant goals in particular its dedicated goal on human settlements (SDG 11, and its relevant targets) that sets out to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 17 on global partnerships for the realization of the goals,

Recalling also the New Urban Agenda that recognizes 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,

Noting with concern the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which stipulates that in urban areas, observed climate change has caused adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure, and that hot extremes have intensified in cities,

Noting also that cities account for 67-76% of global energy use and for 71-76% of man-made CO₂ emissions can also offer the most sustainable form of human settlement,

Expressing its concern that climate change, coupled with poorly planned urbanization, has rendered many settlements and populations vulnerable to natural and human-made disasters, disproportionately affecting the poor, women, children, and the elderly,

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

Underlining the importance of multilevel and cooperative action as an essential element of implementing the international climate agenda objectives, and the efforts of subnational authorities in implementing

policies at the local level to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and build urban and rural resilience,

Acknowledging the importance of developing urban settlements in a way to strengthen resilience in facing climate challenges, which requires urban plans to acknowledge the interlinkage between climate change and sustainable urban development,

Acknowledging also that local authorities should take immediate action to address climate change challenges at the local level by adopting climate and urban sustainability actions that outline specific goals and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilience,

Recalling Decision 2022/B (a-4) of the Executive Board at its first session of 2022 that encourages the Executive Director 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 on 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 first Ministerial meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27),

Taking note of the launch of the COP27 Presidency Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the facilitation of the 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,

Welcoming the initiatives launched at the UNFCCC COP27 relevant to cities and urbanization,

Expressing appreciation to the Egyptian Government in hosting the 12th session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo in 2024 in collaboration with UN-Habitat, and hosting “Africities” in 2025 in collaboration with UCLG-Africa,

1. *Requests* from the Executive Director in coordination with the Member States and other stakeholders to further enhance the linkage between Urbanization and Climate Change in the programme’s work;
2. *Encourages* the Executive Director with Member States and relevant stakeholders in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFCCC COP Presidencies, Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC and International and National Associations of Local Authorities recognized and accredited by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue the practice of organizing meetings including Ministerial meetings as appropriate, as a regular agenda item of UNFCCC COPs, following the organization of the first UNFCCC COP Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held at COP27;
3. *Calls on* the Executive Director to operationalize the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement to ensure engagement and visibility of local authorities on cities and climate change, and invites Member States and invites Member States and international financial institutions to consider joining and supporting it;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to support relevant initiatives that aims at enhancing resilience of communities to face the adverse impacts of climate change and the losses and damages related to climate impacts, in particular the COP27 initiative Decent life for Africa and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), launched at COP27;
5. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders to fully cooperate with UN-Habitat to ensure the effective implementation of this resolution;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the UN-Habitat Assembly on its regular sessions on the implementation of this resolution, including any challenges encountered, and to propose further measures as needed.