



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

World Cleanup Day

Submission by Bahrain, Botswana, Estonia and Pakistan

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as well as all relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14 of the aforementioned annex, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 entitled “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which proclaims 30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Recognizing that environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to effectively enjoy all human rights,

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the New Urban Agenda and other major global agendas enshrined in the outcome documents of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields, which are fully complementary and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of the report of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, held in 2019,¹

¹ A/74/8.

Reiterating that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the political declaration² of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held on 3 and 4 March 2022, and recognizing the urgent need and shared objective of reinforcing and advancing the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment for present and future generations, as it is crucial to urgently reverse the current trends of environmental decline, which are impeding progress towards sustainable development, while recognizing differing national circumstances and noting the cross-cutting nature of waste management with its strong linkages to global challenges, such as ecosystem degradation, human health, climate change, pollution, poverty eradication, food security, and sustainable consumption and production,

Noting that cleanup activities held at the city level across the globe, mobilizing millions of volunteers, raising awareness, and working towards a waste-free environment, have proven to be an effective instrument of public engagement in urban settlements and have contributed substantially to the UN-Habitat Waste-wise Cities Programme,

Recognizing the significant contribution made by workers in informal and cooperative settings to the collecting, sorting and recycling of plastics in many countries,

1. *Recommends* that the General Assembly proclaim the date of 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually from 2024 onwards;
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe World Cleanup Day, in an appropriate manner, through activities aimed at raising awareness and its contribution to achieving sustainable development;
3. *Welcomes* the contribution of World Cleanup Day activities to date to addressing the environmental challenges associated with waste management by mobilizing people globally to participate in coordinated voluntary action, empowering collaboration, and raising broad awareness of the need to reduce waste pollution tangibly;
4. *Reiterates* the need for collective efforts and resources to promote sustainable development and for scaling up efforts aimed at halting the degradation of ecosystems;
5. *Notes* that the inclusion of World Cleanup Day on the United Nations calendar of events will give the issue of waste pollution greater visibility and enhance involvement in efforts around the world to address the issue;
6. *Invites* UN-Habitat, mindful of the criteria set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the observance of World Cleanup Day;
7. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, for appropriate observance.

² UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.