

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. Management and Reduction of Waste in Urban Areas
- II. Development of Eco-friendly Technology for the Protection of Oceans and Seas

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEA/1/1	Management and Reduction of Waste in Urban Areas	Adopted without a vote

Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Management and Reduction of Waste in Urban Areas

1 *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

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3 *Acknowledging with deep gratitude* the commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to the
4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically regarding SDG 11 on sustainable cities and its target 6, as well
5 as SDG 12 on eco-friendly production, waste reduction, and waste management,

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7 *Considering* that UNEA operates under the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

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9 *Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The
10 future we want” (2012) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which states
11 that cities are crucial to the achievement of sustainable reduction and management of waste since they currently
12 contain 54% of the world’s population, which will grow to nine billion by 2050,

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14 *Recognizing* SDG 12, which states the value of public and private sector cooperation regarding waste management
15 and reduction, as well as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) as a whole, contained in General
16 Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, which intends to implement sustainable and inclusive economic
17 development,

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19 *Taking into consideration Agenda 21* (1992) and its definition of solid waste, which comprises “domestic refuse and
20 non-hazardous wastes such as commercial and institutional wastes, street sweepings, and construction debris”,

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22 *Recalling* chapters 20 and 21 of *Agenda 21*, which address solid and hazardous waste management in response to
23 General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, which affirmed that “environmentally sound
24 management of wastes was among the environmental issues of major concern in maintaining the quality of the
25 Earth’s environment”,

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27 *Reiterating* the concept of waste as a resource as set out in the *Guidelines for National Waste Management*
28 *Strategies: Moving from Challenges to Opportunities* (2013), published by UNEP and the United Nations Institute
29 for Training and Research (UNITAR), which highlight the impact of composting on economic, social, sustainable,
30 and developmental prosperity,

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32 *Having devoted attention* to the role of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in emphasizing the power of
33 information as a vessel for the promotion of developmental progress and universal awareness of waste-related
34 issues,

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36 *Noting* the importance of education and civic engagement for instilling green values and best practices in mitigating
37 the impact of waste and its contribution to climate change, including via the Environmental Education and Training
38 (EET) activities of UNEP,

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40 1. *Decides* to create a global movement against waste, which will be aided through an international information-
41 sharing database and international participation;

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43 2. *Proposes* the creation of an information-sharing database called World Accountability on Sustainable
44 Technology Exchange (WASTE Database) that will:

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46 a. Allow Member States to compile and share information on “reduce, reuse, and recycle” (3 Rs)
47 techniques that contribute to sound management of solid and hazardous waste;

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- 49 b. Be administered by the UNEP Secretariat, which will:
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- 51 i. Manage and address actions involving Member States who participate in the database;
- 52 ii. Release, in conjunction with the WASTE Database and appropriate representatives from
- 53 Member States, a biannual report detailing current initiatives in the sector of urban waste
- 54 management;
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- 56 c. Address issues such as:
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- 58 i. Private participation in reduction and management of waste;
- 59 ii. Civic engagement with recycling programs and education;
- 60 iii. Management of solid and hazardous waste;
- 61 iv. International awareness-raising of the database through an international “WASTE Week”;
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- 63 3. *Recommends* that Member States facilitate the transfer of information to share waste management techniques
- 64 and analyze global environmental trends via the database, especially regarding the private sector, to persuade
- 65 companies and other corporate institutions to participate in the waste reduction process through the use of:
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- 67 a. Government measures such as small grants programs, subsidies, match funding, and tax credits;
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- 69 b. Recommendations to deter private sector entities from producing non-biodegradable products and to
- 70 urge corporations to “go green”;
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- 72 c. Encouragement for companies to consider adopting a second life program, which aims to take back
- 73 reusable items with the benefit of a discount for the company regarding future purchases;
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- 75 d. Anti-plastic campaigns that will lead to cutting back on the use of plastic packaging and extending the
- 76 life of products;
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- 78 4. *Suggests* that Member States implement national programs shared through the WASTE Database that promote
- 79 pedagogical practices and civic engagement through reducing, reusing, and recycling waste by:
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- 81 a. Engaging with citizens in urban programs that incentivize citizens to increase recycling and proper
- 82 waste management through awareness campaigns, social media activism, and “WASTE Week”;
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- 84 b. Persuading Member States to develop a green curriculum in education systems for primary and
- 85 secondary schools that will:
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- 87 i. Help students understand the negative consequences of uncontrolled urban waste and high
- 88 consumption levels on their immediate environment and on the world at large;
- 89 ii. Engage students in conducting community service projects and transferring their knowledge
- 90 back to their communities;
- 91 iii. Facilitate scientific knowledge through higher education institutions to support environmental
- 92 research regarding waste reduction and sustainable development;
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- 94 5. *Asks* Member States to improve on waste management processes, and to share improvements via the WASTE
- 95 Database, including with respect to management, prevention, reduction, and disposal of hazardous and solid
- 96 waste, by:
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- 98 a. Prioritizing the prevention, reporting, and transportation of hazardous waste that has proven to be toxic
- 99 towards the health of world citizens;
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- 101 b. Exploring stricter regulations and inspection of imported and exported waste;
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- 103 c. Encouraging municipalities to assume the responsibilities of improving the recycling systems that
- 104 would require the separation of solid waste and to give contracts to private companies;

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- d. Integrating existing and emerging technologies and expanding access and transfer of existing technology to rural areas;
 - e. Establishing agreements between the agricultural sector and cities to manage citizen-generated organic waste through the creation of composting programs, which would:
 - i. Incentivize citizens to participate in composting programs with fair compensation, while providing domestic compost fertilizers at discounted rates to private agribusinesses;
 - ii. Contribute data to the WASTE Database to measure economic impacts, reduction of waste, and participation rates;
6. *Emphasizes* that the concern of illegal waste transportation should be reported to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the recommendation to be reported to the Security Council;
7. *Expresses its hope* to launch and promote the WASTE Database through an international annual awareness campaign called “WASTE Week” that will focus on:
- a. Engaging civil society and municipal governments to refer to the WASTE Database as a model for policy and programs in urban areas;
 - b. Spreading awareness on social media and public forums;
 - c. Promoting the seven themes of Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, Composting, Consumption, Creating, and Cooperating, each of which will correspond with one day of the international “WASTE Week”;
8. *Highlights* that the activities taking place during “WASTE Week” will be left to the discretion of the hosting Member State, provided that it reflects the purpose of programs within the WASTE Database, and that the first host will be China, followed in alphabetical order by other Member States;
9. *Calls upon* all Member States to participate in and support waste reduction efforts.