



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2022

Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 18 (a)

Sustainable development: towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2022

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/77/443/Add.1](#), para. 13)]

77/161. Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [75/224](#) of 21 December 2020, entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, [76/202](#) of 17 December 2021, entitled “Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21”, [76/205](#) of 17 December 2021, entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind”, [76/207](#) of 17 December 2021, entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development”, and [76/208](#) of 17 December 2021, entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in particular those paragraphs relevant to the sustainable management of waste and those on sustainable consumption and production,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a

¹ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement,³ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁴ the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁵ the New Urban Agenda⁶ and other major internationally agreed United Nations outcome documents in the economic, social and environmental fields, which are fully complementary and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and its vision for cities and human settlements that protect, conserve, restore and promote their ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity, minimize their environmental impact and change to sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Recognizing the importance of the recent major conferences and their outcomes, including the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, recognizing also the importance of the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as the extension by the Assembly, in its resolution [76/202](#) of 17 December 2021, of the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to 2030, and welcoming the approval of the new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030 by the Board of the 10-Year Framework, on 19 October 2022,

² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

³ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁴ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁶ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

Reaffirming the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, given its role within the United Nations system as focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Reaffirming also the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Aware that the use of chemicals and the amount of waste generated will grow substantially in the coming years, and expressing great concern with regard to the unsound management of chemicals and waste and its negative impacts on human health and the environment,

Recognizing that women often take the lead in promoting environmental protection and conservation, reducing resource use and reusing and recycling resources to minimize waste and excessive consumption, and that women can have a particularly powerful role in influencing sustainable consumption decisions,

Stressing the urgency of taking immediate actions towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution in marine environments, including through promoting national action plans to work towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of marine litter and plastic pollution from all sources, and promoting sustainable consumption and production approaches, including resources efficiency and life-cycle approaches, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste is avoided or minimized,

Welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an internationally legally binding instrument”,⁷ to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

Welcoming also United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/7, entitled “Sound management of chemicals and waste”,⁸ 5/8, entitled “Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”,⁹ and 5/11, entitled “Enhancing circular economy as contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production”,¹⁰ adopted on 2 March 2022,

Recognizing the need to promote sustainable and environmentally sound management of waste as part of contributing to progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal¹¹ and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12, taking into account national circumstances,

Reiterating calls for Member States, especially developed countries that are in a position to do so, international organizations and international financial institutions

⁷ UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

⁸ UNEP/EA.5/Res.7.

⁹ UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

¹⁰ UNEP/EA.5/Res.11.

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

to provide developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular those experiencing conflict, with financial assistance, capacity-building support, and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the environmentally sound management of waste,

Noting with concern the findings in the contribution of Working Group III to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sixth assessment report, including that the waste sector remains a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in urban settings,

Recognizing the important role of cities and rural areas in sustainable and the environmentally sound management of waste, including by the application of local and national zero-waste initiatives, which can contribute to reducing pollution, including plastic pollution in marine and other environments, climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and the services provided by ecosystems, the protection of the marine environment, enhancing food security and improving human health,

Acknowledging the success stories of Member States in developing and implementing innovative solid waste management solutions and technologies and engaging local communities, including innovative projects and programmes such as local and national zero-waste initiatives to foster the environmentally sound management of waste, in particular the minimization and, where feasible, prevention of waste,

Recognizing that local and national zero-waste initiatives can contribute to achieving sustainable consumption and production, in line, inter alia, with resolution 5/11 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons, based on voluntary contributions, selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience and expertise and with due regard to gender balance and equitable geographic representation, in consultation with Member States, for a period of three years, to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives through, inter alia, the dissemination of best practices and success stories, based on the work of, and without duplication with, relevant existing regional and global platforms, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), within their respective mandates;

2. *Recommends* the continuation of the discussion on zero-waste initiatives within the relevant United Nations entities, on the basis of verified data on sustainable and environmentally sound waste management, among other considerations, within their work on sustainable consumption and production;

3. *Encourages* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to implement zero-waste initiatives at all levels, so as to promote environmentally sound management of waste and sustainable development;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme to include, within existing resources, in the next iteration of the *Global Waste Management Outlook*, a dedicated section on zero-waste initiatives, including on activities and experiences of such initiatives;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, through voluntary contributions and without duplication of effort, including activities organized by the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, to convene a one-day high-level meeting, in collaboration with the United

Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat, in New York, in 2023, during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including innovative projects and programmes such as local and national zero-waste initiatives to foster the environmentally sound management of waste in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹² the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the New Urban Agenda and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

6. *Decides* to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually;

7. *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 the International Day of Zero Waste, in an appropriate manner, through activities aimed at raising awareness of national, subnational, regional and local zero-waste initiatives and their contribution to achieving sustainable development;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, to facilitate the observance of the International Day of Zero Waste;

9. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

10. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of the International Day;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, for appropriate observance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform Member States about the implementation of the present resolution, through the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eightieth session under the sub-item entitled “Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

*53rd plenary meeting
14 December 2022*

¹² Resolution 70/1.