



Distr.: General
28 March 2019

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019**

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

4/18. Poverty-environment nexus

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing the firm commitment by all States Members of the United Nations to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a global framework for national, regional and international action,

Recalling the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,² as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Recalling also Environment Assembly resolution 2/13, on sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication, which recalls that Member States have developed different approaches, visions, models and tools in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Affirming the strong and complex linkages between poverty, socioeconomic development, the environment and natural resource management, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that addressing environmental degradation, sustainably managing natural resources, including climate change and other environmental challenges, and achieving social and economic development are necessary to protect the planet, support the needs of present and future generations and contribute to poverty eradication,

Aware that World Bank indicators suggest that natural capital is a major contributor to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Considering that soils, forests, fisheries, water and biomass, among others, are principal sources of income, livelihood, food security, social protection and employment, particularly for women and youth living in poverty,

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Aware that a significant number of people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods,

Aware also that a significant number of people globally depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and that sustainable agriculture is key for achieving economic and social development, especially for farmers and local communities,

Aware further that access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy is a fundamental factor that links economic growth, human development and environmental sustainability, while also contributing to poverty eradication and combating pollution,

Acknowledging that climate change, environmental degradation, desertification, natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, pollution and other environmental changes can contribute to increased levels of poverty, which in turn can contribute to human migration, displacement and additional pressures on the natural resource base of the recipient country,

Aware that improved transparency, integrity and accountability and socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable production in the extractives sector enhance human health and well-being and improve economic returns for local populations,

Acknowledging that innovative solutions and inclusive approaches to enhancing sustainable management of the environment and natural resources contribute to poverty eradication,

Noting that Member States that are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are considering issues related to poverty eradication in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Taking note of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018,

Concerned about the low level of women's participation in decision-making and policy processes in various sectors and in the labour force, including in the energy sector,

Fully aware that women and children, especially in developing countries, bear a disproportionate share of the burden of energy poverty and face significant health and safety risks from household air pollution, carrying heavy loads of fuel, and lack of lighting,

Inviting Member States, in line with their commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,³ to continue to support the efforts of developing countries to strengthen, in partnership, their scientific, technological and innovative capacity to implement the present resolution,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda, with a particular focus on eradicating poverty, which will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/224 of 20 December 2017, on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, which reiterates the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind, reaffirms the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Sustainable Development Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and reaffirms a commitment to endeavouring to reach the furthest behind first,

Mindful of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁴

Recognizing that different sectors, including the private sector, have a role to play and can contribute to the fight to eradicate poverty and create decent, sustainable jobs,

Noting with appreciation existing partnerships, including the joint United Nations Development Programme–United Nations Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals initiative, and noting the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework,

³ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

1. *Urges* Member States to apply integrated, innovative and coherent approaches in developing and implementing policies, laws, plans and budgets for poverty eradication through sustainable environment and natural resource management, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Invites* Member States, the international community and the private sector to continue to develop innovative sustainable financing mechanisms and policies that help to promote and reallocate public and private finance and investment resources for environmental sustainability and poverty eradication;
3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen institutional capacity, such as national statistical offices, to monitor and collect data on economic indicators and those linked to poverty and the environment to enable the tracking of progress towards the eradication of poverty and the management of natural resources and the environment;
4. *Calls upon* the international community and other stakeholders to promote the development and application of multidimensional poverty measurements that include links to environmental and natural resource sustainability to inform national data collection and decision-making in line with the follow-up and review process set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
5. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to continue to facilitate pro-poor environmental sustainability by ensuring, where relevant, the inclusion of such objectives in local, national and regional policies, budgets and investment frameworks;
6. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations bodies, the international community and other stakeholders to carry out research to generate socioeconomic evidence regarding trade-offs and synergies in sustainable natural resource management to inform innovative policies relating to poverty and the environment;
7. *Encourages* Member States, the international community and stakeholders, where appropriate, to support people-centred, innovative solutions, such as traditional knowledge, norms, values and education, where appropriate, to empower and engage women and youth when promoting sustainable development, so as to achieve multiple benefits;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, within the scope of the existing programme of work and budget and in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and partners, to strengthen initiatives to address the linkages between poverty and the environment;
9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consider how the United Nations Environment Programme can, including through its country and regional offices, contribute to the eradication of poverty;

Sustainable agriculture

10. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the framework of the programme of work and budget, to collaborate with Member States, other United Nations bodies and other partners that are promoting innovations in sustainable agriculture, such as the uptake of climate-resilient agriculture by smallholder farmers and women farmers to eradicate extreme poverty, improve livelihoods and food security, and reduce negative impacts on the environment;
11. *Encourages* Member States to incorporate sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture into their domestic agricultural policy and programme agendas to maximize sustainable and equitable resource management while minimizing negative impacts on the environment;

Sustainable forest management

12. *Invites* Member States to invest in innovative sustainable forest management practices to conserve and sustainably use forest ecosystems and benefit rural households that depend on forest resources for forest-related economic activities to generate income and meet their energy needs;

Sustainable fisheries

13. *Calls upon* Member States to support and promote sustainable fisheries, innovative sustainable aquaculture practices, and the conservation and sustainable management of the marine environment to support food security, income generation and employment for communities living along coastal, lacustrine and riverine areas, including through the sharing of best practice;

Sustainable management of extractives

14. *Invites* Member States to consider instituting policy reforms, including reforms to enhance transparency, that will ensure that communities living in and around areas rich in minerals and other extractives benefit socially and economically from the environmentally sustainable production of extractives;

Environmental factors affecting migration and displacement

15. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the framework of the existing programme of work and budget and in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and other partners, to continue to support Member States that seek assistance in their adaptation and resilience-building efforts to address the adverse impact of climate change, desertification, natural disasters, environmental degradation and other environmental changes that can contribute to human displacement;

Sustainable energy solutions

16. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the framework of the existing programme of work and budget and in collaboration with Member States, other relevant United Nations bodies and other stakeholders, to promote sustainable energy solutions that support poverty eradication and sustainable development, enable access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, take into account social and cultural factors, and empower women and youth; such solutions include integrated energy and environment policies, on-grid and off-grid investments and sustainable biomass use;

17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.
