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**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**

4/4. Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a global framework for national, regional and international efforts towards sustainable development,

Recognizing the commitment made under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development² to invest in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development to effectively address major challenges, such as growth and jobs, resources and energy efficiency, pollution and climate change, knowledge sharing, innovation and social inclusion,

Recognizing also the commitment made under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to craft policies that incentivize the creation of new technologies, that incentivize research and that support innovation in developing countries,

Having considered the importance of fostering and enabling diverse local industries that create productive employment and strengthen local communities through sustainable livelihoods and the empowerment of women,

Acknowledging that sustainable business can increase productivity and technical capacity, attract investment, increase profitability along the value chain and be an innovative solution through which to address environmental challenges,

Noting that sustainable business development can enhance environmental sustainability while contributing to economic viability and social inclusion,

Mindful of the fact that enterprises can, through sustainable business practices, including the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, help to achieve sustainable development,

Recognizing that women and youth play a particular role in the development of sustainable business, and recognizing the need to foster incentives, planning and policymaking that address their specific needs and challenges, in particular to support employment and business opportunities, as well

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

as equal access to finance for women, including in areas such as renewable energy and sustainable agriculture,

Recognizing also that sustainable business can enhance resource efficiency, create employment opportunities and promote sustainable manufacturing, while reducing emissions and improving air quality and health,

Stressing that innovative sustainable business approaches, including but not limited to green business practices, as appropriate, can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, play a role in promoting sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing global, regional and national initiatives promoting sustainable business, including but not limited to green business practices, such as the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, SWITCH Africa Green, SwitchMed and SWITCH-Asia programmes,

1. *Invites* Member States to develop enabling macroeconomic and sectoral policies that contribute to sustainable development, including environmental policies and the use of life-cycle approaches, considering the administrative burden for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to stimulate investment in sustainable business practices;
2. *Invites* Member States, the international community, the private sector and other stakeholders to promote the development and strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, to promote the inclusion of sustainability in business for the uptake and upscaling of sustainable business approaches, including but not limited to green business practices, as appropriate;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and United Nations partners, to continue to support the development of skills, especially for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, to promote sustainable production patterns, including cleaner production and industrial symbiosis, in order to enhance their profitability, resource efficiency and productivity;
4. *Invites* Member States to create enabling conditions for policy reforms, as appropriate, innovative practices and technologies, economic instruments, investments and regional cooperation to encourage efficiency, reduce carbon footprints and enhance sustainable manufacturing;
5. *Encourages* Member States, partners, the private sector, research institutions, academia and other stakeholders to intensify research and development and knowledge-sharing for the uptake, upscaling and replication of sustainable business practices moving towards sustainable consumption and production, such as resource efficiency, the circular economy, sustainable materials management and the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle);
6. *Requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, partners, stakeholders and the private sector, to continue supporting countries, especially least developed countries, in the collection and dissemination of evidence and information about good practice to enable informed decision-making, awareness, networking and knowledge-sharing concerning green business development;
7. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, partners, stakeholders and the private sector, to promote cooperation, including partnerships, and to support incubation programmes for conserving ecologically unique and biodiverse habitats while promoting sustainable livelihoods;
8. *Further requests* the Executive Director to develop and implement programmes that catalyse replication, upscale existing innovative solutions and technologies, and promote the uptake of sustainable business approaches, including but not limited to green business practices, as appropriate;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop guidance, tools and mechanisms for promoting capacity-building and awareness-raising to support Member States in advancing sustainable business practices, including but not only through collaboration with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;³
10. *Invites* the international community, regional bodies, the private sector and civil society to develop, adopt and implement effective measures to stimulate demand for sustainable products;

³ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on progress towards implementation of the present resolution.
