

**FORUM:** GA2(Economic and Financial)

**QUESTION OF:** The Question of the Importance of long-term investment in infrastructure

**SUBMITTED BY:** Egypt

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Mauritania, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Cuba, Somalia, UN Habitat, Timor-Leste, Gambia, Algeria, Kiribati, Trinidad & Tobago, Sri Lanka, Congo, Iran, Czech Republic, Bangladesh, Maldives, Panama, Luxembourg

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Defines* infrastructure as an allocation for living citizens,

*-Alarmed* that 2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, 2.6 billion people do not have stable access to electricity, and that poor transportation infrastructure can reduce the productivity of low-income countries by up to 40%,

*Noting* that basic infrastructure (including transport, water, communication, sanitation, and energy) improve health and education, and therefore raise the quality of life and promote social equality and mobility,

*Fully aware* that as the world's population is projected to increase by 2 billion before 2050, long-term investment in infrastructure continues to be a pressing matter for governments around the world,

*Noting further* that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in places with absolute water scarcity, which includes Egypt,

*Acknowledging* that infrastructure also provides many economic benefits, such as creating jobs, increasing access to jobs, and improving a nation's competitiveness in the global economy by facilitating the transportation of goods,

*Keeping in mind* that between 3 and 5 trillion USD are needed each year to meet infrastructure needs around the world, and that according to a United Nations backed study, 75% of the infrastructure that will exist in 2050 have not yet been built,

*Guided by* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which includes a commitment to bridging the infrastructure gap through sustainable development and also stresses the importance of cooperation between the private and public sectors to secure investment in infrastructure,

*Expressing its appreciation* for United Nation members' commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, as well as for the work done by the annual Global Infrastructure Forum, which was established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

1. Suggests the creation of a new UN body known as the United Nations Infrastructure Development Programme (UNIDP) to aid in the development of infrastructure by means such as but not limited to:
  - a) Coordinating and aiding in the construction, renewal, and expansion of basic infrastructure system such as water, transport, energy, communication, and waste management
  - b) Performing a needs analysis for member nations by:
    - i. submitting reports that monitor the current infrastructure and prioritises projects according to a range of metrics, such as readiness for execution and wider socioeconomic benefits
    - ii. encouraging member nations to refurbish infrastructure that serves similar purposes to new infrastructure projects
    - iii. Ensuring that member nations understand which sector and infrastructural projects will allow for the maximum effectiveness of the funds

- iv. Studying population density and distribution to maximize infrastructure systems
  - c) Providing advisory and regulatory bodies to each participating member nation to help secure funding and maximize efficiency
  - d) Promoting technology exchange in order to lower the cost of infrastructure, and to make it more sustainable long term, in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
2. Recommends that member nations strengthen global trade infrastructure which would facilitate the flow of information, technology, and infrastructure through measures including but not limited to:
    - a) Utilizing the World Trade Organization (WTO)
    - b) Establishing chambers of commerce and industry associations to act as a link between governments, companies, and investors by
      - i. Maintaining regular contact within industries across member nations
      - ii. Holding international workshops to facilitate the exchange of ideas and technology regarding basic infrastructure;
  3. Calls upon United Nations Water to work with member nations to invest more resources into improving water infrastructure to conserve water through means such as:
    - a) Encouraging the private sector to build desalination and wastewater management plants
    - b) Assessing each nation's domestic water infrastructure system and investing in research to improve water efficiency;
  4. Strongly recommends that infrastructural projects work with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as but not limited to the Oxfam and Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety to focus on the construction or renovation of roads and transport systems to ensure that:
    - a) Pollution from vehicle emissions is reduced
    - b) Roads are regularly maintained every 5-10 years based on the frequency of usage
    - c) The roads built are safe for both the transportation of people and materials;
  5. Urges member nations to increase their economic productivity and give their citizens better access to job opportunities through the improvement transportation infrastructure by:
    - a) Developing affordable and efficient systems of public transportation, such as buses, subways, and trains, by first consulting with the local population to tailor the transportation systems to fit their needs and population density
    - b) Offering economic incentives to private bicycle, scooter, and car sharing companies to expand in major cities with high population density
    - c) Integrating new systems of transportation, (for example, by developing a smart card transportation system) so that transferring between modes of transport becomes more efficient
    - d) Considering privatization reform to expand freight rail transport to rural areas;
  6. Wishes for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to guide member states to increase agriculture productivity and efficiency to provide for the growing population, which can be achieved by:
    - a) Streamlining agricultural transport, processing, and storage by first mapping each zone to identify potential points of improvement and possible sites for transport and processing hubs
    - b) Attracting private investment by developing technology and information tools to provide data about crops, soil quality, water availability, and more;
  7. Further recommends that the UNDP, member nations, and multilateral development banks (MDBs) cooperate to improve transparency and trade infrastructure through measures including but not limited to:
    - a) Commissioning the World Bank to expand commercial policy databases to create a clear

index which would provide a way to measure and promote the transparency of commercial policy in each nation

- b) Coordinating with the World Bank and other MDBs to innovate fiscal policies and financial tools that would lower the risks of long-term investment;

8. Further suggests that member nations prioritize the construction of efficient energy production facilities in order to create more jobs and avoid long-term unemployment and the middle income trap by ways such as but not limited to:

- a) Investing in solar and nuclear energy which are cheap forms of renewable energy
- b) Reducing the amount of gas flares and improving refineries to maximize efficiency.