

**FORUM:** Environmental Commission (EC)

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to reduce the danger of rising sea levels in cities

**SUBMITTED BY:** Togolese Republic

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Slovakia, Antigua and Barbuda, Serbia, Republic of Korea, Albania, El Salvador, Georgia, ECE, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Monaco, Libya, Columbia, Vanuatu, Trinidad and Tobago, Israel, Uganda, Mali, Tuvalu, Yemen, Russian Federation

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

*Bearing in mind* that some Pacific island nations have started to sink and face major problems regarding the issue of rising water levels,

*Emphasizing* the importance of abiding to clauses declared in the Paris agreement which is an agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), tackling the issue of greenhouse-gas-emissions reduction, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016,

*Fully aware* of the previous attempts to find a solution to the issue of global warming caused by the excess amount of greenhouse gas emissions such as the Kyoto Protocol adopted in Kyoto,

Japan, on 11 December 1997 which encourages state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

*Noting with approval* that Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the UN which aims to present objective, scientific information concerning the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced climate change, its natural, political, economic effects, and possible ways of tackling this situation to the world,

*Taking into consideration* that Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) were constructed by developed and developing countries and are enforced with multilateral development banks (MDBs) to close the financing and learning gap between now and the next international climate change agreement and consists of two specific funds which are the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund,

*Further recalling* the fact that the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is a program that coordinates the organization's environmental activities and guides developing countries in enforcing environmentally accurate policies and practices,

*Fully alarmed* by the consequences of the issue due to the fact that not keeping the global temperature increase under 2 degrees Celsius causes the detrimental effects on the states that have coasts,

*Deeply concerned* by the possible upcoming and already occurring disasters caused by rising sea levels such as floods, dangerous hurricanes and typhoons, loss of ecological balance and a possible global migration crisis,

1. Urges all member states to finalize, resource, and implement a national Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture & Forestry, promoting action plans that appropriately define roles and responsibilities across government agencies and facilitates natural resources to promote jobs and food security in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a) developing a City Region Food System (CRFS) indicator framework in the context of a joint program on a CRFS assessment and planning to:
    - i. follow a whole-system approach, analyze the current status and the performance of a city region food system
    - ii. specify priority areas in order to take action with clear desired outcomes and measure progress
    - iii. define baselines and observe changes resulting from future policy and program application

- b) expanding integrated multidisciplinary studies on urban agriculture on household, community and city level, applying participatory and gender-sensitive methods that give attention to measuring the less tangible effects of urban agriculture such as effects on community development, living climate, landscape, and climate change
  - c) fully implementing the protocol for requesting infrastructure to support urban agriculture which includes:
    - i. multi-using buildings in order to achieve goals such as processing agricultural products
    - ii. training and group meetings
    - iii. providing equipment for collecting and accumulating water (cisterns, pump motors)
    - iv. improving or expanding irrigation systems
    - v. making available sheds for marketing the products;
2. Calls upon all member states to gather in an annual summit called Actions to Prevent Rising Sea Levels (APRSL), to discuss topics such as but not limited to:
- a) sharing new information found based on the scientific research conducted
  - b) creating action plans to increase the usage of renewable energy sources
  - c) limiting the yearly amount of greenhouse gases emitted by factories Limiting the yearly carbon emission amount of factories
  - d) establishing measures to help Pacific island nations and other coastal areas that are vulnerable to rising sea levels
  - e) creating yearly action plans for cities that are at risk due to rising sea levels and urging these cities to form regional groups that work in cooperation to find the most effective action plans according to their respective natural habitats;
3. Further requests to work together with Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to help member states limit their usage of fossil fuels and promote the usage of renewable energy sources by:
- a) helping states improve their public transportation systems as a helpful means of increasing utility and encouraging the public to substitute high carbon emitters such as planes with other forms of transportation that have a smaller carbon footprint by:
    - i. using advertisements and other forms of promotion to encourage people to use transport with smaller carbon footprint and educate the public on the severity and urgency of the problem
    - ii. improving both the quality and the number of transports with smaller carbon footprints in order to make them more desirable for the public
  - b) supporting research and investments on finding more efficient ways to use renewable energy sources
  - c) cooperating with governments to close thermic power stations that use coal, natural gas and other fossil fuels to generate energy since they have many negative impacts on the environment such as but not limited to causing acid rains that damaged forests
  - d) increasing the usage and production of and supporting the research and investments in insulating materials in order to use the already generated energy as effectively as possible, however making sure that these insulating materials do not emit harmful gases and have a negative impact on the environment
  - e) working together with governments to install renewable energy devices such as but not limited to solar panels and wind turbines by:
    - i. making research and investigations to build these devices in the suitable places
    - ii. supporting companies that produce these devices
    - iii. encouraging the public to use these devices more
    - iv. distributing free samples of these devices to the public in order to increase the usage of these devices
    - v. supporting the technological improvement of such devices
  - f) financially supporting LEDCs and working together with local governments to take action

to decrease the amount of fossil fuel consumption in these countries

- g) encouraging the public to prefer public transportation instead of using private vehicles by:
  - i. investing in and funding companies that aim to improve public transportation systems to make them more eco-friendly
  - ii. increasing the number and improving the quality of vehicles such as trains, underground trains, buses, etc.
  - iii. especially supporting LEDCs since its harder for them to improve these systems
  - iv. improving bicycle roads and bicycle renting systems to encourage the public to use vehicles that have lower carbon emission;
4. Strongly encourages all member states and especially MEDCs to work together with NGOs and UN organizations such as but not limited to UNEP to send aid to areas that currently face major issues due to rising sea levels by:
  - a) providing shelter or building an asylum for people who have lost their homes due to floods
  - b) sending food aid to countries that have damaged agriculture as a result of rising sea levels
  - c) providing water to countries whose underground water resources has been mixed with sea waters;
5. Suggests to work in cooperation with the IPCC and local governments to take precautions against floods in coastal cities by:
  - a) investing in the improvement of infrastructure in these areas
  - b) managing plans for coastal realignment
  - c) forming a pool funded by NGOs which can be used in ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. helping LEDCs improve their infrastructure
    - ii. sending aid to countries if a natural disaster occurs
  - d) creating special sea defense systems especially for cities that are in high risk
  - e) preparing civil defense emergency plans
  - f) relocating citizens that live in coastal cities;
6. Further encourages all member states to work together with UN organizations, regional organizations, governments to reduce the negative impacts of waste materials on the environment by:
  - a) recycling waste materials that remain stored in collecting areas which have a high contribution to the global carbon emission rates
  - b) collecting waste materials that have been thrown into the forests, seas, oceans, etc.
  - c) supporting research that aims to find more efficient ways to recycle materials such as but not limited to plastic, paper, metal and organic waste
  - d) placing recycling bins in all public areas and encouraging the public to use these
  - e) educating the public on the importance of recycling by methods such as but not limited to:
    - i. displaying advertisements on TV, the internet, billboards, etc
    - ii. organizing public events that encourage people to work together and collect the rubbish on their neighbourhoods, the streets and other public areas;
7. Further suggests to help all member states but especially the ones that have very high carbon emission rates as a result of industrialization by:
  - a) controlling factories on a regular basis and making sure that they do not exceed the limit of carbon emission defined in the UN Global Climate Summit
  - b) allowing member states to create financial incentives for industries/corporations to switch to cleaner, more ecological solutions such as:
    - i. tax breaks for converting to cleaner, more advanced sources of energy as mentioned above, or for reducing carbon footprints to negligible amounts
    - ii. reduction in government intervention in markets in return for reduced carbon emission
  - c) permitting member states to inform high taxes/penalties for industry/corporation that

hinders the freedom of the above development and research

- d) encouraging member states to take measures to reduce deforestation in their own regions in order to increase the earth's carbon consumption capacity by:
  - i. following suit of Brazil's federal state-level legislation known as Action Plan and Control for Deforestation in the Amazon (PPDAM)
  - ii. ensuring that the PPDAM focuses on 3 aspects, namely, territorial land use, environmental control and planning, and fostering sustainable productive activities;
- e) working together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), regional organizations and governments to improve factories to make them more environmentally friendly by using methods such as but not limited to:
  - i. putting filters on the chimneys of the factories
  - ii. checking if factories pour their waste materials in oceans, rivers, seas or other natural habitats and applying sanctions and imposing fines on these factories
  - iii. encouraging factories to recycle their wastes;

8. Urges all members to educate their citizens on the issue of climate change and rising water levels by:

- a) encouraging states to make changes in their education curriculums in order to raise a generation with a better understanding of the topic and spread a general awareness to include topics such as but not limited to:
  - i. climate change
  - ii. global warming
  - iii. the greenhouse effect
- b) using media platforms such as TV, newspapers, magazines, social media, etc. to raise awareness on the consequences of climate change and precautions that can be taken against climate change such as but not limited to:
  - i. the impact of climate change on natural habitats of animals
  - ii. the importance of limiting the usage of fossil fuel
  - iii. the importance of preventing deforestation
  - iv. the negative impact of planes on the environment
- c) working together with IPCC and making seminars that aim to educate the public on these issues and share measures to help tackle these issues such as but not limited to:
  - i. minimizing the plastic usage of the public
  - ii. reusing and recycling products in order to decrease the amount of consumption
  - iii. using public transportation, forming carpools or riding bicycles instead of private vehicles such as cars and taxis
  - iv. raising awareness of eco-friendly products and their positive impact on the environment
  - v. encouraging the public to prefer busses, trains, etc. instead of flying with planes
  - vi. encouraging the public to investigate the activities of companies before they produce products from or invest in them and avoid companies that have high carbon and greenhouse gas emission or harm the environment;

9. Strongly urges all member states to remain actively seized of the matter.