

Commission: Special Political and Decolonisation Committee
Session : National MUN - 2024
Sponsor : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Botswana, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Iran(Islamic

QUESTION OF: **ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF URBANISATION AND POPULATION GROWTH**

The General Assembly,

Noting with deep concern the pressures urbanization places on infrastructure, housing, health care, education, and the environment, exacerbating social inequalities and poverty,

Recognizing the importance of the World Bank-funded Urban Development and Poor Neighbourhood Upgrading project, mindful of integrating urban resilience to enhance capacity to withstand disaster risks and protect communities,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to address the multifaceted issues of urbanization and population growth,

Stressing the need for sustainable urban planning and management strategies to address housing shortages and improve living conditions, ensuring equitable access to basic services for all urban residents,

Recalling relevant international frameworks, including the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities), and the Paris Agreement on climate change,

Recognizing the impact of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, advocating for responsible economic reforms to protect vulnerable populations during transitions, and proposing the streamlining of bureaucracy to facilitate investment and promote sustainable development,

Believing that sustainable urban development is crucial for achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa,

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1. Requests the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide technical and financial assistance to address challenges related to rapid population growth, including but not limited to:
 - (a) implementing comprehensive family planning, including contraceptive measures and reproductive health programs;
 - (b) enhancing public education on the benefits of population control and sustainable development;
 - (c) supporting the development of policies aimed at controlling birth rates and promoting gender equality;
2. Urges Member States to support in developing and implementing comprehensive urban development strategies that promote sustainable and resilient cities, ensuring access to adequate housing, infrastructure, and basic services for all urban residents;
3. Calls for the integration of climate resilience and environmental sustainability into urban planning and development in countries, to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote green urban spaces;
4. Encourages the incorporation of gender-responsive strategies in urban planning, recognizing women's vital role in fostering inclusive community development, as emphasized by the Paris Agreement;
5. Recommends the development of programs to create employment opportunities and support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in urban areas, reducing unemployment and informal labor markets particularly, women and youth, through training, inputs, and credit schemes;
6. Reaffirms the importance of cultural heritage in urban identity, urging the integration of cultural elements in urban design to foster community pride and cohesion, aligned with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda;

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7. Encourages the involvement of community members in urban planning processes to ensure that the needs of all demographic groups, including women, children and marginalized communities are considered;
8. Calls for the implementation of affordable housing programs to accommodate growing urban population, with a focus on providing quality housing for low-and middle-income families;
9. Emphasizes the provision of essential social services such as healthcare and sanitation in urban areas, particularly in underserved communities to promote equitable development;
10. Recommends the governments to diversify their economic sectors in different areas, including rural places, according more importance to the tertiary sectors with fields like tourism, financial services and information technology which will increase the job opportunities;
11. Requests nation and community leaders to spread awareness about the importance of education and female empowerment while offering strategies to overcome hurdles of life while changing certain cultural norms or way of thinking, channelling them towards a progressive mindset;
12. Asking the governments to diversify their economic sectors in different areas including rural places according more importance to the tertiary sectors with fields like tourism, financial services and information technology;
13. Considers the creation of a United Nations task force to assist countries in developing and implementing policies that address the challenges of urbanization and population growth, providing technical assistance and capacity-building support;
14. Emphasises the importance of environmental sustainability in urban planning, advocating for green spaces, public transportation, and renewable energy sources to reduce the environmental impact of urbanization.