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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
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Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**
Fourth session
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**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

4/5. Sustainable infrastructure

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which recognized the importance of investing in and developing sound, effective and efficient economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities that support sustainable development and create jobs,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which recognized that investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transport, energy, water and sanitation for all, was a prerequisite for achieving many goals, and expressed a commitment by countries to facilitate development of sustainable, accessible and resilient quality infrastructure in developing countries through enhanced financial and technical support,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 endorsing the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled “New Urban Agenda”, and highlighting the commitment in paragraph 45 of that document to develop sustainable and inclusive urban economies, building on resource-efficient and resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, and noting that the objective of promoting sustainable infrastructure is reflected in the other Goals and targets,

Recalling also its resolution 2/5 on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encouraged the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, within the mandate, programme of work and budget of the Programme, to take action to enhance coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging that infrastructure development and operations can have an impact on the environment, ecosystem integrity and quality, human health, and efforts to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Acknowledging also that action is needed to generate investment and increase research and development and application of sound technologies related to sustainable infrastructure while addressing the potential social and environmental impacts of infrastructure development,

Stressing the importance of spatial planning taking into account all dimensions of sustainable development in future urban development, including through creating greener spaces,

Stressing also the need to bridge gaps in infrastructure and capacity, and highlighting opportunities for sustainable investment, particularly in cities,

Recognizing the linkages between sustainable consumption and production and infrastructure, noting in particular that fundamental changes in the ways in which our societies produce and consume goods and services would be positively influenced by a more sustainable infrastructure, and stressing that the whole life cycle of infrastructure planning, construction, maintenance, demolition and replacement should be sustainable,

Stressing the need to develop and maintain infrastructure within a sustainability framework, taking into account, as appropriate, strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments, as appropriate, in accordance with national legislation,

Recalling its resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, in which it requested the Executive Director to facilitate coordinated efforts in all regions to ensure sustainable consumption and production, invited Member States to further develop and implement sustainable urban development policies that promoted resource efficiency and resilience and respectively align sectoral policies such as transport, energy, waste and wastewater management and sustainable buildings and construction, and encouraged all countries to promote public procurement practices that were sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities,

Stressing the importance of sustainable infrastructure for improving resource efficiency and sustainability in consumption and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and fostering resilience to climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events,

Acknowledging that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the involvement of all stakeholders, including policymakers, the private sector, civil society and experts,

Welcoming efforts at various levels to promote sustainable infrastructure through partnerships, forums and other initiatives,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take the steps necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 9 and related targets in other Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account national capabilities and priorities, and recognizing the objective of moving towards sustainable consumption and production patterns;

2. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to apply appropriate sustainability criteria to all infrastructure as a means of ensuring sustainable consumption and production and maintaining connectivity of the natural environment, and to collaborate to:

(a) Promote the mobilization, and realignment where applicable, of investments, including through promoting domestic policies to create an enabling environment, for the achievement of sustainable infrastructure projects;

(b) Continue to support developing countries in partnership to strengthen scientific, technological and innovative capacity for the implementation of the present resolution in line with the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) Develop and strengthen national and regional systems-level strategic approaches to infrastructure planning, in line with national legislation, including needs assessments, using the best available tools, guidelines and safeguards and the use of best practices such as environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, and development that incorporates inclusiveness, resilience and environmental sustainability across different sectors, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(d) Promote nature-based solutions as key components of systems-level strategic approaches to infrastructure planning and development;

(e) Build further on existing public-private partnerships and develop innovative approaches and mutual exchange of expertise with regard to sustainable infrastructure;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, with its pertinent initiatives, including the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,¹ its Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative and its Sustainable Public Procurement Programme, continues and strengthens its work of facilitating coordinated efforts in all regions to promote the development and use of appropriate sustainability criteria for infrastructure as a means of attaining sustainable consumption and production while maintaining an intact natural environment and implementing the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the following:

(a) Promoting existing guidelines and best practices, including social and environmental safeguards, which have been gathered under biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and multilateral development banks;

(b) Creating and supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms that contribute to open and transparent deliberative processes for generating and sharing knowledge about sustainable infrastructure to ensure that accurate, timely and relevant information is publicly available and reaches key stakeholders at all levels;

(c) Building on and strengthening existing partnerships for sharing and implementing best practice to increase the resilience and social and environmental sustainability of infrastructure development;

(d) Developing, within the scope of available resources, the capacity of government policymakers and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors to use data, knowledge, tools, approaches and other mechanisms to incorporate sustainable infrastructure into development and business strategies;

(e) Building on existing initiatives and forging strengthened public-private partnerships to facilitate private investment in sustainable infrastructure, subject to the availability of resources;

4. *Encourages* Member States and stakeholders to share and apply relevant national and international best practice, including in relation to avoiding or, if that is not possible, mitigating the impact of infrastructure developments;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a compilation of best practice, building on the work of the United Nations regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, drawing on existing initiatives and identifying knowledge gaps, to assist Member States in promoting and strengthening the sustainability of their infrastructure, and to submit that report to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session;

6. *Encourages* Member States and stakeholders, engaging both public- and private-sector interests, to collaborate with a view to further supporting existing partnerships and alliances and initiating new partnerships for the promotion of scientific research and the development of clean technology to support developing countries in their transition to a more sustainable infrastructure, and to seek innovative ways of promoting sustainable infrastructure in order to achieve resource efficiency.

¹ A/CONF.216/5, annex.