

Economic and Social
Council

ECOSOC

TOPIC B:

“Promoting Sustainable
Development in Urban
Areas”

NC
MUN
2018





“We must work closely together to make this year a year of global action, one that will be remembered as the dawn of a new era of sustainable development.”

-Ban Ki-moon

Andrea Austria González
Undersecretary of ECOSOC

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Topic B:

Promoting Sustainable Development in Urban Areas

The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Humanity is eating into the natural capital of the planet and eroding its resilience when it should be living off the income it regenerates so one thing is clear: Sustainable development is not enough anymore, this is because, the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, is already compromised, a new urban agenda is necessary in ensuring that cities not only become resource-efficient and low carbon-emitting, but go beyond that to positively enhance the ecosystems which provide them with goods and services. Urbanization will be the defining trend over the next several decades especially in East Asia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where the bulk of extreme poverty is concentrated. Cities, in these and other regions, will play a central role in the ability of nations to achieve sustainable development.

The cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science,

productivity social, human and economic development. Urban planning, transport systems, water, sanitation, waste management, disaster risk reduction, access to information, education and capacity-building are all relevant issues to sustainable urban development.

The solution lies in thinking beyond the vague and ambitious notion of sustainability and, instead, actively working towards regenerating soils, forests and watercourses. The aim is to improve rather than merely sustaining their currently degraded condition.

- 1) Promoting sustainable human settlements development, calls for:
- 2) Providing adequate shelter for all
- 3) Improving human settlements management
- 4) Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management
- 5) Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management
- 6) Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements
- 7) Promoting human settlements planning and management in disaster-prone areas
- 8) Promoting sustainable construction industry activities
- 9) Promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlements development.

An urban goal and its targets must be carefully framed to address key issues. It must be universally applicable, while permitting an adaptable set of indicators to accommodate differing development stages in all parts of the world.

Points to address:

- How can developing countries manage to make sustainable their urban areas?
- What projects is your country planning to make urban areas sustainable?
- How can the UN help on planning and building sustainable areas?

SOURCES

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