



Topic: Poverty and the Environment

Submitted by: United Nations Environment Program

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ECOSOC PLENARY**

- 1 APPRECIATING the progress of the international community in moving towards
2 achieving environmental sustainability and poverty eradication,
3
4 GUIDED BY the United Nations Environment Program’s (UNEP) mission statement,
5
6 COGNIZANT of the need for regionally specific environmental education,
7
8 REAFFIRMING the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the
9 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the outcomes of the 2005
10 World Summit on Sustainable Development,
11
12 DEEPLY CONCERNED with the lack of basic environmental education, which has
13 negatively affected the progress of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically
14 MDGs 1 and 7,
15
16 FULLY AWARE of the economic benefits to households that have access to clean water
17 and sanitation services,
18
19 REALIZING that access to clean water is one of the most basic human rights,
20
21 GUIDED BY the success of previous grassroots efforts such as the AIDS program, the
22 African Mid-wife program and the Estrategia de Combate a Pobreza in Angola (ECP),
23
24 RECOGNIZING the integrity of state sovereignty,
25
26 UPHOLDING the principle and the purpose of the UN charter in protecting human
27 rights, and the spirit of the MDGs,
28
29 1. CALLS for the creation of a community educational initiative that will serve as
30 an educational basis for communities in the developing world;
31
32 2. ESTABLISHES that the community education initiative will serve to:
33 a. Raise awareness and inform local and regional communities of water
34 resource issues and concerns through a grassroots framework and cross-
35 generational education,
36 b. Provide specialized knowledge on regional water and sanitation issues,
37 c. Promote local workshops focusing on interactive learning which will allow
38 local innovation to be shared,

- 39 d. Work towards a long term goal of providing communities with greater
40 means to utilize water resources;
41
- 42 3. DESIGNATES the creation of regional and state-based centers for organizing
43 and training community leaders to teach members of their community in hopes of
44 inspiring sustainable environmental practices, particularly focusing on water
45 sanitation and thus water sustainability;
46
- 47 4. RECOMMENDS that regional and State-based centers conduct research on
48 local water resources and best approaches to water sustainability and education
49 with the consent of local governments;
50
- 51 5. RECOMMENDS utilizing existing UN infrastructure for developing regional
52 education initiative centers;
53
- 54 6. FURTHER RESOLVES to provide a catalyst for sustainable development by
55 creating regional education centers in the most crucial regions without neglecting
56 other developing nations with intent to create some subsidiary State-based
57 centers in these regions by 2015;
58
- 59 7. URGES the developed States to uphold their commitment of investing .7% of
60 their GDP for Official Development Assistance, as established in the Doha
61 Declaration for Financing Development;
62
- 63 8. ENCOURAGES the international community to uphold other financial
64 commitments previously made to the UN.