

TECHNICAL NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Submitted by India on 18th December 2023

This technical note has been prepared by the UNEP Secretariat as background information in support of upcoming consultations and negotiations on the draft resolution. It outlines *inter alia* the following information: 1) relation to UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and to existing UNEA resolutions/decisions as applicable, 2) an initial legal assessment and 3) a preliminary budget implications outlining for implementing the draft.

This resolution recognizes the importance of amplifying the role of individuals, local communities, private sector, and local and regional governments and their traditional knowledge and practices in supporting Sustainable Lifestyles. It encourages Member States, as well as other stakeholders and international organizations to develop citizen-centric actions, as appropriate, to address behavioural nudges towards the adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles by individuals, collective organizations, communities, etc. It also urges the international community to develop a common understanding of Sustainable Lifestyles focused on behavioural nudges for Sustainable Lifestyles including voluntary approaches.

The resolution requests UNEP Executive Director, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, to undertake the following actions:

- a) Support Member States, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional action plans for promoting Sustainable Lifestyles,
- b) Facilitate and coordinate knowledge sharing and transfer of means of implementation between countries, especially to developing countries that request such support,
- c) Make available information on action already taken by Member States to address environmental degradation and the impact of Sustainable Lifestyles and also provide a common platform for sharing knowledge and best practices in this area,
- d) To promote circular economy aimed at reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, redesign, and remanufacture which are all aimed at protecting and conserving environment and moderating consumption, including enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility,
- e) Promote research and development related to behavioural science and to promote campaigns aimed at promoting Sustainable lifestyles,
- f) Develop a repository of traditional knowledge, skills, and environmentally friendly lifestyles which can be shared with other Member Countries.

i) Relation to UNEPs Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work:

The content of the resolution is relevant to and reflects the focus of UNEP's subprogrammes and priorities in the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025, the Programme of Work 2022-2023 and some of its seven subprogrammes. The draft resolution is related to Paragraph 48 of the MTS (The seven UNEP subprogrammes will support, accelerate, and scale up a shift to sustainable

consumption and production patterns to achieve planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity.)

More specifically, it relates to the Programme of Work under the Nature action subprogramme to the direct outcome 2.15 Consumer awareness and behaviours have shifted towards products and services with lower environmental and nature footprints through digital nudging, green filtering, product labelling, certification schemes and value-chain indices. Direct outcome 1.8 of the **Climate action subprogramme** intends to promote societal choices shifts towards lower carbon products and services and sustainable lifestyles. Under the Chemicals and pollution action subprogramme, the strategic objective **A Pollution-free Planet** envisages that markets, supply chains, trade and consumers behaviour is shifted towards reduced pollution, incentivized through transparency enabled by digital technologies. The **Finance and Economic Transformations subprogramme** assists countries in drawing up and implementing effective and enabling frameworks for sustainable consumption and production, including sustainable lifestyles, and reflecting them in relevant national plans and policies. The **Digital transformations subprogramme** explores digital technologies to support sustainable consumption and sustainable lifestyles including through the application of behavioural economics.

ii) Legal aspects:

The draft resolution is related to UNEA 2/8 and UNEA 4/1. UNEA Resolution 2/8 affirmed sustainable lifestyles as a means of accelerating and supporting efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns¹ while UNEA 4/1 invited Member States and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to design and implement public policies, plans and programmes that support education and raise awareness of sustainable lifestyles². The Ministerial outcome document of the first session of UNEA reaffirmed its commitment to accelerate and support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency.

The draft Resolution is related to the UNGA Resolutions on Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and on Education for democracy⁴. Both reaffirmed the commitment to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including through sustainable lifestyles. The Sustainable Development Goal 12, target 12.8 call upon: “By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

”The draft Resolution is also related to the Political declaration of the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and which was endorsed by the General Assembly through Resolution A/ RES/78/1. The declaration by

¹ See preambular paragraph 4 of UNEA 2/8

² See operative paragraph 10 of UNEA 4/1

³ A/RES/76/209

⁴ A/RES/77/268

the HLPF commits to conserving and sustainably using the planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable lifestyles⁵.

The 27th session of the conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC has also noted the importance of transitioning to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in efforts to address climate change⁶.

There is a possibility of some overlaps between the draft resolution and the UNEA and UNGA resolutions mentioned above.

In the context of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, all Member States have collectively committed to undertaking robust actions to enable the adoption of the principles of Lifestyles for Sustainable Development and work towards embracing sustainable patterns of production and consumption. *Paragraph 36. "Based on the G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development, we commit to robust collective actions that will enable the world to embrace sustainable production and consumption patterns and mainstream Lifestyles for Sustainable Development. Relevant studies on it show that it could contribute to significant emission reduction by 2030 for a global net-zero future. We support the creation of an enabling policy environment to promote sustainable lifestyles for climate action.*

The concept of sustainable lifestyles has received acknowledgement across various fora, ownership from various Heads of States and multinational coalitions, and support from global mass movement for the adoption of healthy and sustainable Lifestyles as being the key to combating climate change. Among these, the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production, endorsed by the 10YFP Board (October 2022). It recognizes the role of sustainable lifestyles in transitioning towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Moreover, the 10YFP has a dedicated Global Programme on Sustainable Lifestyles which gathers experts around the globe promoting sustainable lifestyles, developing tools and research. Likewise, the initiative "GO4SDGs" has set up a global "Sustainable Lifestyles Academy for Youth" and a community of practices with various members state and stakeholders from all different regions. UNEP has developed online training and modules on sustainable lifestyles in different languages.

Finally, there are possible synergies between this draft resolution on "Sustainable Lifestyles" and the draft proposal on "Stepping up efforts for accelerating a circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally" submitted by the European Union. Synergies and savings may be achieved by combining elements of these two resolutions.

iii) Budget implications:

Taking into consideration the available existing resources, the overall extrabudgetary financial requirements for implementing this resolution during the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) period of

⁵ Refer to paragraph 19 of the Annex to UNGA Resolution A/RES/78/1

⁶ Refer to preambular paragraph 7 of decision 1/CP.27 titled "Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan"

2024-2025 is estimated to **USD 2.5 m**. This amount provides for **USD 0.9 m** in staff positions and **USD 1.16 m** non-staff resources including activities covering travel, consultancies, operational costs, contractual services, etc. The table below provides the breakdown of estimated costs by budget group. Initial requirement for the first six months: USD 230,000.

Estimated resource requirements - summary					
Budget Category	Financial requirements	PSC rate @ 13%	Sub-total	Existing Resources	Net Requirement
Staff	1,383,472.00	179,851.36	1,563,323.36	651,236.00	912,087.36
Non staff	1,530,130.00	198,916.90	1,729,046.90	140,000.00	1,589,046.90
Total	2,913,602.00	378,768.26	3,292,370.26	791,236.00	2,501,134.26

Secretariat focal points for this resolution are:

- Elisa Tonda, Chief, Resources and Markets Branch, Industry and Economy Division; and
- Adriana Zacarias, Head of Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals and Deputy Head, 10YFP Secretariat.