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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Eighty-first session
Agenda item 3
Theme: "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific"

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 25 April 2025

81/2. Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 on the New Urban Agenda, and noting Assembly resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024 on the Pact for the Future,

Recalling also its resolutions 78/1 of 27 May 2022 entitled "Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific", and 79/7 of 19 May 2023 on advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing its role in fostering regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable urban development in the light of the megatrend of urbanization and its implications for the Asia-Pacific region, including demographic changes, shifting urban, peri-urban and rural dynamics, a rising demand for resources and persisting gaps in the provision and quality of basic services, and the increasing vulnerability of urban areas to natural disasters and environmental challenges, which requires enhanced efforts for sustainable and resilient urban development,

Acknowledging the importance of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals to make progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the contributions of national, subnational and local authorities and city networks to the sharing of best practices and urban solutions, including through regional, subregional and national urban forums,

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1. *Encourages* all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to promote resilient and sustainable urban development and foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in accordance with their priorities and circumstances, by:

(a) Sharing information and promoting policy dialogues on urban sectoral policies, including but not limited to policies pertaining to environmental management, social protection, energy transition, urban mobility and transport, transit-oriented development, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, digitalization, finance, and sustainable consumption and production;

(b) Promoting dialogue and cooperation to accelerate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of Goal 11, which is aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

(c) Developing or enhancing urban policies, in coordination with local authorities and with the involvement of stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance local action and foster investment in sustainable urban development;

(d) Empowering subnational and local authorities to plan, finance and implement sustainable urban solutions that are aligned with their urban policies and development strategies;

2. *Recognizes* the need for innovative urban solutions to be tailored to national, subnational and local contexts to improve quality of life, reduce environmental impacts, spur inclusive and sustainable economic growth and enable people to live healthy, productive, prosperous and fulfilling lives;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members to utilize technologies that provide equitable access to urban services, including for vulnerable and marginalized populations, increase gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, improve the efficiency and resilience of city operations and create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship;

4. *Recognizes* the need for urban and territorial planning systems to manage growth and development in a manner that balances objectives such as conserving biodiversity and natural resources, safeguarding food systems, enhancing urban-rural dynamics and generating benefits for urban and rural populations;

5. *Also recognizes* the need to integrate climate action and disaster risk reduction into urban planning, promote nature-based solutions and develop climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure to build sustainable, adaptable and resilient cities and human settlements capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change, in line with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Further recognizes* the role of local and subnational authorities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and notes the role of voluntary local and subnational reviews in contributing to the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing mandates and resources, supplemented by voluntary contributions as necessary:

(a) To continue to facilitate regional and subregional cooperation among members and associate members to promote resilient and sustainable

urban development, including through regional and subregional multi-stakeholder dialogues and urban forums;

(b) To strengthen the support provided to members and associate members, including local authorities, upon request and in accordance with their needs and priorities and in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and partners, to build their capacities to localize the Sustainable Development Goals for resilient and sustainable urban development;

(c) To provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity-building support to members and associate members, including local authorities, in accordance with their needs and priorities, on enabling frameworks aimed at enhancing and accelerating local actions and supporting voluntary initiatives to strengthen resilient urban content in their climate and sustainable development strategies;

(d) To promote the sharing of best practices and resources on localization through the Asia-Pacific SDG Localization Platform and to enhance partnerships in support of localization efforts;

(e) To continue to engage with local authorities, cities and human settlements, including megacities, as appropriate, with a view to promoting resilient and sustainable urban development and facilitating the sharing of knowledge, innovative approaches, solutions and best practices;

(f) To report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting
25 April 2025