

# STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR REFORESTATION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## RESOLUTION

*The 44th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations,*

*Affirming* that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, developed and adopted by the General Assembly in 2015, seek to address critical issues, among which are life below water and life on land,

*Welcoming* the remarks by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2025: "While progress has been uneven, notable achievements across regions and countries demonstrate that change is possible [...] Despite these important gains, the convergence of conflicts, climate chaos, geopolitical tensions, and economic shocks continues to obstruct progress at the pace and scale needed to meet our 2030 commitments. We face a global development emergency, with unprecedented challenges across multiple fronts,"

*Recognizing* that Small Island Developing States and flat low-lying and delta exposed topography with high density populations, face disproportionate and in some cases existential impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, ocean warming and acidification, saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss and climate-related displacement, despite contributing comparatively little to global greenhouse-gas emissions,

*Recalling* that the United Nations Charter does not explicitly mention "environmental protection," but it creates the legal and institutional basis for it. Article 1(3) promotes international cooperation in solving "international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character," which now includes environmental protection; Article 55 calls for solutions to international economic and social issues and respect for human rights, which has been interpreted to include environmental quality; Article 56 requires all Member States to take joint and separate action to achieve Article 55 goals; Article 73 addresses stewardship of non-self-governing territories, including protection of natural resources,

*Recognizing* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land,

*Recalling* major global environmental treaties, agreements and frameworks related to climate, land and sea that have established frameworks to address environmental protection, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992), the Paris Agreement (2015), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1994), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971), and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982); the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) (2024); and the landmark COSIS Agreement (2021),



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*Recognizing* that climate change and deforestation contribute to biodiversity loss, soil erosion, food insecurity, flooding, increased health issues, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters, and that this crisis disproportionately affects developing nations by threatening durable peace and development,

*Deeply concerned* that some nations have not ratified all the treaties and that the achievement of Agenda 2030 goals will not be met regarding environmental protection,

*Recognizing* that the environment and health of developing nations are more disproportionately affected than those of other nations, and that international support is critical to the progress of all nations because all are directly or indirectly affected by the crisis,

*Guided by* the Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. Calls on:

- A. UNAs to encourage their governments to ratify and adopt critical treaties and agreements regarding the environment and recommit to all elements of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- B. UNAs to encourage their governments and civil society organizations to protect, restore, and sustainably manage natural environmental protections, including forests, mangroves, wetlands, coral reefs, watersheds, and other critical ecosystems, specifically addressing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), by:
  - a. Preventing the destruction and degradation of natural habitats through stronger environmental laws and enforcement,
  - b. Supporting ecosystem restoration projects that improve biodiversity, reduce soil erosion, strengthen climate resilience, and protect freshwater resources,
  - c. Encouraging nature-based solutions that reduce the impacts of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and other natural disasters, flooding, droughts, tropical cyclones, storm surges and other climate-related hazards, while strengthening community resilience and sustainable blue economies,
  - d. Encouraging nature-based solutions that reduce the impacts of floods, droughts, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, as well as increasing the blue economy of civil communities,
  - e. Promoting sustainable land-use planning that balances economic development with environmental conservation,
  - f. Collaborating with local communities in the spirit of localization, in consideration of Indigenous Peoples' sovereignty, scientists, and environmental organizations, decision-making, implementation, to ensure the long-term protection and restoration of ecosystems,
  - g. Encouraging international public-private partnerships to assist in providing financial, technical, and scientific support for ecosystem restoration and blue and green economies in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund already exist as the primary UN-linked vehicles for the assistance being requested,

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- h. Recognizing the ocean-climate nexus and supporting the protection and restoration of mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs and other coastal ecosystems as essential natural infrastructure for climate resilience, food security, biodiversity and coastal protection, incorporating scientific evidence, Indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge,
- C. UNAs to collaborate with governments and civil society organizations to expand education programs that teach capacity-building, sustainable farming, agroforestry, food security technologies, and environmental conservation to local communities; develop partnerships between governments, universities, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities to improve conservation and restoration through scientific research and traditional ecological knowledge,
- D. UNAs and their Member States to request the Secretary-General to encourage periodic reporting on national progress toward environmental goals, specifically noting forestation and marine ecology, consistent with existing UN reporting mechanisms,
- E. UNAs to encourage their Member States to increase international partnerships for public-private partnerships to encourage the development of investment programs in climate-resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding increasingly severe weather events; the development of early warning systems and disaster preparedness programs to protect vulnerable populations; and the development of emerging technologies,
- F. UNAs to encourage their Member States and civil society organizations to increase financial and technical assistance from developed countries, international financial institutions, and relevant United Nations agencies to assist developing countries in implementing climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and sea-level rise mitigation projects while respecting national priorities and sovereignty,
- G. Recognizes the growing impacts of sea-level rise and climate change on human mobility and encourages rights-based, culturally appropriate and community-led approaches to climate-related displacement for moving populations and planned relocation, where adaptation in place is no longer possible.