

## **Draft resolution for UN-Habitat Assembly on proclaiming World Cleanup Day Concept Note**

World Cleanup Day, which started in Estonia and emerged into a global environmental organization, has already engaged more than 71 million people from up to 191 countries to clean up litter and mismanaged waste from communities, urban environment, beaches, rivers and forests. Waste management has been a longstanding public concern due to its impact on human health, the environment, and socio-economic development.

Global one-day action World Cleanup Day takes place every year on third Saturday of September. It brings together people, organizations, and countries, empowering collaboration, and catalyzing change in societies, to connect and empower people and organizations around the world to change our waste problems, build community resilience, and transform the capacity to monitor, assess and tackle solid waste pollution effectively.

Preventing and removing waste from the environment is an important first step, as that stops the accumulation of pollution. Sharing a concern for the health of our planet and people, World Cleanup Day aims to raise global awareness of the problems related to waste escaping the waste management system and tackle a commonly shared problem all around the world.

Collective efforts are catalyzing strong cross-sectoral cooperation to find the solutions and to sustain the needed changes in societies, as the World Cleanup Day results has been proven in some countries already. It is pivotal to accelerate the World Cleanup Day involvement through the better visibility and acknowledgement being marked at the UN Calendar.

International days are there to provide an opportunity to educate people on issues of concern and to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems in order to bring about a lasting change. Therefore, we propose to proclaim third Saturday of September as World Cleanup Day. This would be an important step towards global awareness and a platform on which to build further initiatives.

### **Background**

The Let's Do It World movement started in Estonia and has been growing into a global environmental organization. Let's Do It World Headquarters is located in Tallinn, Estonia. Let's Do It World has member organizations and teams in 164 countries. In 14 years of activities, Let's Do It World leaders have become a force that binds together groups, individuals, and organizations that would otherwise never dream of working together.

Previous World Cleanup Days has been organized with outstanding results and altogether over 73 million people have picked up over 339 000 tons of waste:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>People (millions)</b>
2018	157	17,6
2019	180	21,2
2020	166	11
2021	191	8,5
2022	190	15

In 81% of countries, cleanups took place in cooperation with governments. Most successful country in terms of percentage of population over the years - from Europe Slovenia 14%, from Asia Cambodia 5% and Indonesia 3.5%, from Carribean Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 5%

The largest cleanups have been in 2019 when World Cleanup Day engaged 9.5 million people in Indonesia, 2.5 million in Pakistan, 1.5 million in India, 1.7 million in the United States and 0.8 million in Cambodia.