

Version 1 – 5 May 2023

Technical note by the Secretariat

Resolution on Promoting World Cleanup Day

This technical note has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to facilitate discussion of the Executive Board on the draft resolution on Promoting World Cleanup Day, as requested by Estonia. The note may be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, based on additional information that may become available during consultations.

Overview of resolution

The main elements of the draft resolution on World Clean-up Day are:

- To proclaim third Saturday of September from 2024 onwards, as the World Clean-up Day, to be observed annually.
- To invite all Member States, UN organizations and other stakeholders to observe the World Clean-up Day.

Requests for UN-Habitat

The suggested operative elements request UN-Habitat to:

1. Facilitate the observance of the World Clean-up Day
2. Bring the resolution to the attention of all Member States, UN organizations and other relevant stakeholders
3. Mobilize people to join World Clean-up Day

This will impact Member States in the following ways:

- Would encourage all Member States to take action to address the issue of pollution and waste management.
- Would serve as a global call to action, promoting awareness and engagement on environmental issues among individuals, businesses, and governments, specifically contributing to the ongoing global negotiation towards the Plastic Treaty and the Global Methane Pledge.
- Member States would be expected to organize clean-up campaigns and implement waste management policies and practices that align with the objectives of the World Clean Up Day.
- Would encourage Member States to collaborate on international efforts to address environmental issues, such as sharing best practices and technologies related to waste management, pollution reduction, and environmental sustainability.
- The establishment of a World Cleanup Day through a resolution would have a positive impact on Member States by promoting environmental awareness, encouraging action on waste management, and facilitating international cooperation on environmental issues.

Relation to work programme and added value of the proposed resolution

UN-Habitat is mandated to address waste management challenges in cities as per below:

- **Habitat Agenda** (A/CONF.165/14), endorsed by United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/51/177) included waste management as ‘basic infrastructure and services’ at the community level which is a key component of adequate shelter for all (para 84).

- The resolution on the **Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium A/RES/S-25/2 (Istanbul+5)** which emphasized the facilitation of the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport that is integrated and accessible to all, including people with disabilities.
- International Guidelines on Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Authorities and the **International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for All**, adopted by the A/RES/71/256 at the 16/29 Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) which include waste management as part one of basic services among water supply, sanitation, and sustainable transport.
- **Governing Council resolution 25/4** requested the Executive Director to continue the work of UN-Habitat on provision of urban basic services including waste management.
- **Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals** mandated UN-Habitat as a custodian agency for **SDG indicator 11.6.1**: “proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated, by cities”, responsible for monitoring this indicator and supporting Member States in the implementation of this specific SDG goal.
- The GA resolution A/RES/71/256 which endorsed the **New Urban Agenda** adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) commits to contributing to the working poor in the informal economy (no.59), strengthening the sustainable management of resources with particular attention to the environmentally sound management and minimization of all waste (no.71) and promoting environmentally sound waste management and reducing waste generation by reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimizing landfills as well as reducing marine pollution through improved waste and wastewater management in coastal areas (no.74).
- **United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Zero Waste (A/RES/77/161)** requested the Secretary General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons for the dissemination of best practices and success stories based on the work of UN-Habitat and invited UN-Habitat to facilitate the observance of the International Day of Zero Waste on 30 March annually.
- The proposed resolution will also contribute to the work of UNEP on waste management such as the 10 year framework for sustainable production and consumption, marine and ocean ecosystem conservation.

Relation to UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and Programme of Work

The overall objective and operative parts of the resolution are related to SP1 and SP3 Domains of Change of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and Programme of Work:

- *Domain of Change 1: Reduced Spatial Inequality and Poverty*: Increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space.
- *Domain of Change 2: Strengthened Climate Action and Improved Urban Environment*: Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality.

Value addition of the resolution

The World Cleanup Day Movement, supported by the Let’s Do It World Foundation in Estonia managed to mobilize 60 million volunteers in 191 countries to collect 303k of waste during the one day dedicated to clean-ups in September 2022. This is one of the biggest civic actions/movements raising awareness and working towards a waste-free world which could contribute substantially to the UN-Habitat Waste Wise Cities (WWC) and the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP). The World Clean Up Day could fill the function of mobilizing communities and contribute to the raising awareness component of WWC and ACCP.

There could also be value in linking the proposed World Cleanup Day with the International Day of Zero Waste which takes place on 30 March, as with World Habitat Day and World Cities Day which have created Urban October (**Member States to decide**). Linking World Cleanup Day with the International Day on Zero Waste can bring several benefits and create synergies between the two initiatives. World Cleanup Day focuses on cleaning up existing waste, while the International Day on Zero Waste emphasizes preventing waste from being generated, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and a circular economy where waste is treated as a resource and reused and recycled. Linking the two days can create a comprehensive approach to waste management that addresses both the existing waste and the root causes of waste generation.

Option 1. Merge World Cleanup Day into International Day of Zero Waste.

Option 2. Propose that World Cleanup Day takes place on the 30 April after the International Day of Zero Waste which takes place on 30 March, creating a solid waste management and circular economy month in April.

Option 3. International Day of Zero Waste takes place on 30 March and World Cleanup Day in September, following the model of UN Water facilitated World Water Day held in March and World Toilet Day held in November.

Programme budget implication

The organization of an “International day” as well as continuous monitoring of the implementation of resolutions requires below predictable funding.

Subprogramme	Budget Category	Grade/Desc.	Count	Location	Duration (years)	Total resources	Existing resources	Net Total
SP1 and SP3 (50% of each subprogramme)	Staff costs					450,700	-	450,700
		P-2 (SWM expert)	1	Nairobi	1	152,000	-	152,000
		P-2 (Communication)	1	Nairobi	1	152,000	-	152,000
		G-7	1	Nairobi	1	50,700	-	50,700
		Consultant (Graphic designer)	1	Nairobi	1	48,000	-	48,000
		Consultant (Web developer)	1	Nairobi	1	48,000	-	48,000
	Non-staff costs					290,000	-	290,000
		Online platform				20,000	-	20,000
		Ads and search engine optimization				20,000	-	20,000
		Public-service announcement				40,000	-	40,000
		Short videos and clips				15,000	-	15,000
		Translation services				20,000	-	20,000
		Regional and country event support				150,000	-	150,000
		Monitoring and reporting				25,000	-	25,000
	Sub-total					740,700	-	740,700
PSC (13%)					96,291	-	96,291	
Coordination Levy (1%)					8,370	-	8,370	
Grand Total					845,361	-	845,361	