



Seventy-Sixth Session
Agenda item 20/176: Sustainable Development
Sponsors: Austria, Germany, Indonesia, and Japan

Resolution #2

Specific Actions to Address the Global Climate Crisis post COP 26

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that human activity (particularly the release of carbon emissions into the Earth's atmosphere) has caused:

- (1) a 50 percent increase in greenhouse gases in the last 150 years¹,
- (2) a 1.2C increase in atmospheric temperatures, with the rate of increase accelerating in the last 30 years², and
- (3) an 8-inch rise in sea levels in the last century;³

Further recognizing that these conditions have brought about increasingly severe extreme weather events (including flooding, droughts and hurricanes) and other circumstances that are devastating our environment and the lives of many people around the world, that will have even more substantial impacts on future generations world-wide and that those impacts will be irreversible if immediate and significant action is not taken by the international community to mitigate and eradicate the manmade causes of these conditions,

Recalling its resolution 75/217 of 29 December 2020, and other resolutions and decisions related to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Reaffirming the Human Rights Council resolution HRC/RES/48/13⁴ of 8 October 2021, "The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment," jointly sponsored by Costa Rica and Germany, among other countries,

Noting with regret the lack of substantive achievements from the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) in November 2021,

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>; <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/greenhouse-effect-101>

² <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/GlobalWarming/page2.php>

³ <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103082>

Noting with optimism the relatively recent precedent achieved by the 1987 Montreal Protocol⁵ to confront the ozone layer depletion crisis, signed and ratified by all UN member states (Member States),

Noting with approval calls from religious leaders⁶ and leading medical groups⁷ to urgently address the climate crisis and keep temperature rise to no more than 1.5 C above preindustrial average,

Pointing out that the major sources of climate change are power generation and industrial activity that rely on fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), agricultural activity (the use of fertilizers and the raising of cattle), deforestation resulting from logging or to facilitate the growing of crops and the release of methane gases resulting from mining activities and landfill operations,

Emphasizing that certain wealthy countries (particularly those countries that make up the G20⁸) have played a primary role in exacerbating these climate-changing conditions by virtue of their adoption of policies (or failure to adopt policies) that have facilitated the uncontrolled release of the carbon emissions, that these countries have historically reaped the economic advantage of such policies and that these countries have refused to take meaningful action to mitigate (and ultimately eliminate) the conditions resulting from such policies (or lack thereof),

Deploring the widespread dissemination of misinformation denying the existence and/or extent of climate change through the traditional and social media platforms despite the unequivocal evidence to the contrary and that, as a result of inadequate regulation, businesses and organizations are increasingly engaging in greenwashing and youthwashing (i.e., deceptively marketing their products, aims and/or policies as environmentally friendly) to improve public perception about them,

Underscoring that climate change has had, and will continue to have, particular impacts on world inhabitants (human and animal) that have not reaped such benefits, that have not engaged in the activity causing those conditions and that have the least economic ability to protect themselves from those impacts,

Also acknowledging that reducing carbon emissions is the only long-term solution for avoiding the most devastating impacts of climate change,

1. *Requires* that any “Rich Country” (defined as G20 countries and members, and all Member States that have a gross domestic product based on purchasing power parity (GDP (PPP)) of at least 100 billion USD or a per capita GDP (PPP)⁹ of at least 20,000 USD, as reported by the World Bank) commit to a net zero carbon dioxide emissions no later than 2050 pledge of annual targets (“Net Zero Pledge”), and agree to be held accountable for achieving their annual targets or pay a fine into the UN Green Climate Fund (the “Green Fund”)¹⁰;
2. *Mandates* that each Rich Country submit its respective Net Zero Pledge to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹¹ by December 31, 2022, and report and submit to the IPCC annually thereafter evidence as to its CO2 emissions and its related environmentally-friendly

⁵ <https://www.unep.org/ozonaction/who-we-are/about-montreal-protocol>

⁶ Joint Appeal October 4, 2021, from global religious leaders from almost 40 different faiths – “We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children.” <https://unfccc.int/news/world-religious-leaders-and-scientists-make-pre-cop26-appeal>

⁷ New England Journal of Medicine – call for emergency action
https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2113200?query=featured_home

⁸ <https://www.g20.org/about-the-g20.html>

⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD>

¹⁰ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about>

¹¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

projects and adjustments during the previous year and whether it has met its Net Zero Pledge for that year;

3. *Authorizes* the IPCC to levy and enforce fines against any Rich Country that fails to meet its Net Zero Pledge, which fines must be deposited into the Green Fund by such Rich Country within sixty (60) days after receiving the IPCC's notice of such fine;
4. *Recommends* that funds collected in the Green Fund for Net Zero Pledge violations and for carbon fee payments under Operative Clause 7 below be allocated according to the Green Fund's funding guidelines¹², with emphasis on projects proposed by least developed countries (LDCs) and indigenous peoples' communities¹³;
5. *Encourages* all Rich Countries to incentivize or require their respective "Large Corporations"¹⁴ (and encourage all corporations) (a) to obtain internationally-recognized certifications B Corp¹⁵ or Climate Neutral Certification, and (b) to sign the Climate Pledge, and to thereby agree to be held accountable for achieving pledged annual targets related to climate action; whereby failure to meet these pledges will require respective Large Corporations to pay into the Green Fund a fine equivalent to 0.10% of the company's Total Revenues as reported in their most recent annual audited statements, and the fines are due to be payable within 3 months of the respective corporation's most recent fiscal year end;
6. *Mandates* that effective immediately, the price of carbon be set at 150 USD per metric ton of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)¹⁶, and is to be initiated worldwide at the national and subnational level, and by 31 December 2022 initial payments are to be made by all Large Corporations and Rich Countries; that the mechanisms for calculating, administering and enforcing payments be conducted by specialized teams within the IPCC, to be modeled after Microsoft's Global Carbon Fee program,¹⁷ operating with full disclosure and transparency, and that all fee payments be made periodically but no less than annually, into the Green Fund¹⁸;
7. *Requires* all Member States to work urgently and rapidly to stop methane emissions¹⁹ from mining leaks and landfill decompositions, and agree to allow teams of international professionals, as determined by the IPCC, to inspect, monitor, recommend and/or implement methods to stop these methane leaks and contain landfill emissions;
8. *Urges* Member States to promote youth empowerment, since climate issues will impact the younger generation over the long term much more than other generations, by lowering the voting age to 16 years old, and to initiate this legislative process in their respective countries by 31 December 2022;

¹² <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects>

¹³ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html>

¹⁴ "Large Corporation" is defined as: a corporation or corporate group that has a total or combined market capitalization of over \$5 billion or combined revenues of over \$1 billion. For example, each of the Fortune 500 companies listed in 2021 will qualify as a "Large Corporation."

¹⁵ <https://bcorporation.net/about-b-corps>, <https://www.climateneutral.org/standards>, <https://www.theclimatepledge.com/>

¹⁶ <https://carbonpricingdashboard.worldbank.org/>

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/financing-for-climate-friendly/microsoft-global-carbon-fee>

¹⁸ <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/06/18/sp061821-launch-of-imf-staff-climate-note>

¹⁹ <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane>

9. *Calls upon* all countries to create regulations and laws, and enforce fines, against disingenuous attempts at greenwashing and youthwashing by corporations operating within respective countries;
10. *Resolves* to remain actively seized of the matter.