



FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Follow up to the UNHA Resolutions Action plan and Roadmap to 2025

Resolution on World Cleanup Day ([HSP/HA.2/Res.3](#))

Version 1 - [27/09/2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution on World Cleanup Day (HSP/HA.2/Res.3), adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 09 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by Bahrain, Botswana, Estonia, and Pakistan and adopted by acclamation. This Action Plan will be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, during the course of implementation of the resolution.

Overview of resolution

In principle, the resolution recommends that the General Assembly proclaim the date of 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually from 2024 onwards. It invites Member States, the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to observe the World Cleanup Day.

Requests for UN-Habitat

The resolution:

- Invites UN-Habitat, mindful of the criteria set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the observance of World Cleanup Day.
- Stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.
- Requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, for appropriate observance.

Requests for Member States and other actors

1. Recommends that the General Assembly proclaim the date of 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually from 2024 onwards;
2. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe World Cleanup Day, in an appropriate manner, through activities aimed at raising awareness of its contribution to achieving sustainable development;
3. Notes that the inclusion of World Cleanup Day on the United Nations calendar of events will give the issue of waste pollution greater visibility and enhance involvement in efforts around the world to address the issue;

Relationship with prior and existing mandates, resolutions (Governing Council, GA, UNHA, etc)

The resolution on World Cleanup Day builds on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.

It also refers to the General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries.

The resolution is closely related to the General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 entitled “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which proclaims 30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually.

In addition, the General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, recognizing that environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and unsustainable development has a bearing on the proposed resolution.

The resolution reaffirms the commitment of Member States to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the New Urban Agenda¹.

The resolution is also related to the New Urban Agenda that includes the following:

- “To strengthening the **sustainable management of resources**, including land, water (oceans, seas and freshwater), energy, materials, forests and foods, with particular attention to the environmentally sound management and minimization of all waste, [...] in a way [...] that strives to transition to a circular economy.” (no. 71)
- “To promoting **environmentally sound waste management** and to substantially **reducing waste generation** by reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimizing landfills and converting waste to energy when waste cannot be recycled or when this choice delivers the best environmental outcome. We further commit ourselves to reducing marine pollution through improved waste and wastewater management in coastal areas.” (no. 74)

The resolution also takes note of the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, recognizing the urgent need of reinforcing and advancing the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment for present and future generations, as it is crucial to urgently reverse the current trends of environmental decline, noting the cross-cutting nature of waste management with its strong linkages to global challenges such as ecosystem degradation, human health, climate change, pollution, poverty eradication, food security, and sustainable consumption and production.

Finally, the World Cleanup Day will contribute to the follow-up of the **Ministerial Declaration** of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as a good vehicle for advocating for sustainable consumption and production patterns and engaging national and local governments, communities and other key stakeholders in raising awareness about the importance of reducing waste and pollution (paragraph 13).

Implementing the resolution through the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-25

The resolution aims at raising international awareness of environmental challenges associated with waste management and visions for sustainable urban development, promoting international cooperation and contributing to global efforts to build equitable, prosperous, sustainable inclusive cities that provide their communities with better living environments and quality of life.

As such, the resolution will specifically contribute to the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-25 through the below outcome areas:

- Domain of Change 1 – Outcome 1.1: Increased equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space.
- Domain of Change 3 – Outcome 3.1: Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality.
- Domain of Change 3 – Outcome 3.2: Improved resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets.
- Domain of Change 4 – Outcome 4.3: Enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure.

¹ <https://unhabitat.org/about-us/new-urban-agenda>

In addition, the UN-Habitat Waste Wise Cities network of 311 local government members and the African Clean Cities Platform with a membership of 172 cities in 46 countries, which reaches billions of people in improving their solid waste management services, can be utilized for outreach in mobilising communities to clean-up their neighbourhoods in observance of the proposed day.

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

As per the resolution, the proposed World Cleanup Day invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe World Cleanup Day, in an appropriate manner, through activities aimed at raising awareness and addressing the environmental challenges associated with waste management by mobilizing people globally to participate in coordinated voluntary action, empowering collaboration, and raising broad awareness of the need to reduce waste pollution.

Accordingly, and as per the proposed facilitation role of UN-Habitat, the communication objective of World Cleanup Day will be to build awareness and provide a platform to promote sustainable and environmentally sound practices of managing waste in a closed, circular system. The main communication objective will be to bring global attention, recognition and understanding of the day to Member States and relevant stakeholders.

As with the World Habitat Day and World Cities Day, UN-Habitat will facilitate the proposed World Cleanup Day through an open expression of interest to host the World Cleanup Day, as costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

The main challenge would be if the UN General Assembly does not approve the resolution to designate the 20 September as the World Cleanup Day.

If the UN General Assembly approves the resolution to designate the 20 September as the World Cleanup Day, the challenge may be to mobilize voluntary contributions in support of the annual observance.

Roadmap for implementation of the Resolution including timelines (indicate if time-bound or open-ended)

- A procedural resolution has been drafted giving an overview of the adoption of the resolution HSP/HA.2/RES.3 at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly with paragraphs on proclaiming 20 September as the World Clean Up Day, inviting Member States, the United Nations system, etc. to observe the day and mobilising people globally and finally inviting UN-Habitat to facilitate the observance of the Day as per the ECOSOC resolution 1980/67.
- Discussions are on-going with the office of the General Assembly regarding submission of the Resolution. The Government of Estonia has been advised only to submit the procedural resolution on 27 December 2023 or during the first plenary in January 2024 for approval.
- In the meantime, Estonia is planning two cross-regional core group meetings which will take place end of September. At the moment Colombia, Fiji, Italy, Poland, Rwanda and Türkiye are members of this core group.

Proposed timeline for informal consultations on draft resolution 'World Cleanup Day':

6 October 2023 - Resolution will be circulated to all Member States.

13 October – Presentation of the draft resolution and delegations are invited to present general comments. UN-Habitat NY office will make a presentation in support of the Resolution, giving an overview of the process of approving the resolution at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

20 October – First reading of the draft resolution and deadline to provide new language proposals.

27 October – Second and final reading of the draft resolution.

Once the resolution is passed, then preparation for the observance will start with the launch of the Expression of Interest to host the World Cleanup Day 2024.

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Annex – Programme Budget Implications Summary (as of after UNHA2)

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (50%) and SP3 (50%)	Post Costs	181,433	-	181,433
	<i>2x P-2/P-1 (PT)*</i>	154,900	-	154,900
	<i>1x G / LL</i>	26,533	-	26,533
	Non-Post Costs	417,710	-	417,710
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	258,000	-	258,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	103,600	-	103,600
	<i>Travel</i>	40,500	-	40,500
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	15,610	-	15,610
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements	599,143	-	599,143
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (50%) and SP3 (50%)	Post Costs	-	-	-
	Non-Post Costs	32,400	-	32,400
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	20,000	-	20,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	12,400	-	12,400
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements	32,400	-	32,400
Grand Total		631,543	-	631,543

(PT)* denotes that at least one of the positions in this Post Level are designated part-time