

Technical note by the Secretariat

Technical Note on Draft Resolution on Biodiverse and Resilient Cities: Zero Draft

This technical note has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to facilitate discussion of the Executive Board on the draft resolution on Biodiverse and Resilient Cities. 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 resolution aims to:

- Preserve and restore critical natural habitat in and around cities;
- Embed biodiversity in the urban fabric;
- Make nature a competitive advantage in cities;
- Promote better governance agreements on ecosystem management;
- Encourage a shift in urban planning towards a nature-based mindset.

It will achieve this through:

- Development of international guidelines and principles on biodiverse and resilient cities;
- Compilation of innovative methodologies for spatial planning and management along a preserve- conserve-restore-create spectrum that responds to varying states of natural habitat within and around cities;
- Capacity-building through technical assistance on biodiversity management in urban planning;
- Identification of options for and multilateral sources of financing for biodiverse and resilient cities.

Relevant previous resolutions UN-Habitat

- [HSP/GC23/Res.17:](#)

5: Also encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to urban planning, mobility, climate change and biodiversity issues:

(a) To consider seriously increasing urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and resulting land use patterns;

(e) To undertake coordinated action to promote cities and biodiversity, including urban forestry and urban wetlands and ecosystems services, as an integral part of their sustainable urban development strategies, and to cooperate with developing countries and their local authorities to strengthen their capacities in promoting, measuring, monitoring and protecting urban biodiversity and developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans;

- [HSP/GC16/Res.16](#) (OPs 1-5 regarding ecological value and ecosystem carrying capacity)

- [HSP/GC23/Res.4](#) (OP 1 regarding protection of natural heritage and use of urban public space)
- [HSP/GC25/Res.1](#) (OP 3 regarding ensuring green space and containing urban sprawl)

Pending and non-UNHA Resolutions and Decisions

- [A/RES/77/167](#)

Reaffirms ‘the New Urban Agenda...and its vision for cities and human settlements that protect, conserve, restore and promote their ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity and minimize their environmental impact’ and calls upon ‘United Nations entities...to ensure [the Global Biodiversity Framework’s] early, inclusive and effective implementation’.

- [CBD/COP/15/L.25](#)

The Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022 by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at COP15 enshrines a target (#12) dedicated to the improving the quantity and quality (connectivity of, access to, and benefits from) of green and blue spaces in urban areas by both conservation and planning. Moreover, at COP15 the CBD endorsed the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021-2030), which provides a critical roadmap for achieving multilevel governance for nature.

Requests for UN-Habitat

So far UN-Habitat has been asked to draft initial technical inputs, review and comment on a concept note, analyze past UN-Habitat resolutions and distill relevant excerpts, help conceptualize and invite experts to outreach workshops, draft the programme budget implication (PBI), and review and comment on zero draft resolution.

Relation to work programme

UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan

UN-Habitat’s Subprogramme Area 3 on climate change and urban environment dedicates one outcome (3.2) to improved resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets, with associated sub-dimensions of planning, increasing green areas, water ecosystems, and biodiversity. In this regard, the agency’s performance is gauged against the number of partner cities that, inter alia, (1) implement nature-based solutions, (2) implement green-blue corridors, and (3) expand green infrastructure.

Programme budget implication

The development of guidelines, collection of best practices and case studies, capacity building, as well as continuous monitoring of the implementation of the resolution requires predictable funding.

The following resources would be required to implement, monitor and report on the Resolution:

Subprogramme	Budget Category	Grade/Desc.	Count	Location	Duration (years)	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total	
SP1, SP2, SP3 and SP4 (25% to each subprogramme)	Staff costs	P-3	1	Nairobi	1	199,000	-	199,000	
		P-2	1	Nairobi	1	152,000	-	152,000	
		G-7	1	Nairobi	1	50,700	-	50,700	
		G-6	1	Nairobi	1	50,700	-	50,700	
	Sub-total						452,400	-	452,400
	Non-staff costs	Document production					150,000	-	150,000
		Other operating costs					37,400	-	37,400
	Sub-total						187,400	-	187,400
	Grand Total						639,800	-	639,800