**COMMITTEE**: General Assembly 2

**QUESTION OF:** Developing strategies to sustainably manage natural resources for economic growth in mountainous regions of LEDCs

**SUBMITTED BY:** Hungary

THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Affirming* the importance of sustainable natural resource management as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 15, emphasizing protection, restoration, and promotion of sustainable use for terrestrial ecosystems,

*Aware* of the fact that over 1.2 billion people globally rely on mountainous regions for water, energy, and biodiversity, many of whom are residing in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), where economic growth remains a critical challenge,

*Recalling* previous efforts including the Mountain Partnership launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2002, seeking to improve the livelihoods of mountain communities and maintain mountain ecosystems,

*Deeply* *concerned* by data from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicating that unsustainable resource extraction in mountainous regions results in significant environmental degradation, including deforestation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss, affecting long-term economic development,

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful implementation of community-led resource management programs in regions including the Andes and the Himalayas, which have shown insightful promise in combining economic development with ecological preservation,

*Recognizing* the critical role of international cooperation, technology transfer, and financial support in enabling LEDCs to adopt sustainable practices in resource management while ensuring economic growth in vulnerable mountainous areas,

1. Encouragesthe prioritization of capacity-building programs and the establishment of regional centers of excellence to sustainably manage natural resources in mountainous regions of LEDCs, integrating environmental preservation, equitable economic growth, and social development by implementing comprehensive, tailored measures, supported by initiatives including, but not limited to:
   1. facilitating technical expertise and financial support to empower community-led natural resource management projects and ensure equitable resource distribution to marginalized groups, achieved through mechanisms including, but not limited to:
      1. creating targeted grants, low-interest loans, and subsidies for small cooperatives and enterprises focusing on sustainable resource use and environmentally friendly innovations
      2. building partnerships with international organizations, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to provide advanced tools, technical guidance, and access to global expertise
   2. promoting platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration to adapt and replicate successful case studies and innovative practices from similar mountainous regions, supported by efforts including, but not limited to:
      1. organizing regional workshops, interactive conferences, and training programs, facilitating the exchange of ideas, technologies, and strategies for sustainable resource management
      2. developing accessible online repositories that compile best practices, case studies, and practical tools for use by policymakers, practitioners, and municipal stakeholders
      3. fostering international exchange programs to provide researchers, practitioners, and policymakers with hands-on experience in implementing successful sustainability projects
   3. designing integrated resource management plans that align with the ecological and socio-economic priorities of local communities, incorporating advanced planning tools and participatory approaches, supported by actions including, but not limited to:
      1. utilizing geospatial mapping technologies and real-time data analysis to assess and monitor resource distribution, usage patterns, and environmental impacts for informed decision-making
      2. conducting comprehensive environmental and social impact assessments to guide long-term development while mitigating risks to ecosystems and vulnerable communities
   4. empowering local communities through education and capacity-building programs, integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific approaches, supported by initiatives including, but not limited to:
      1. offering scholarships, internships, and skill-building workshops for youth and professionals to cultivate a new generation of leaders in sustainable resource management
      2. fostering partnerships between academic institutions, private enterprises, and governments to scale up successful sustainability models and innovations
   5. coordinating efforts with international organizations and donor nations to secure financial, technical, and logistical support for regional centers and capacity-building programs, ensuring their scalability and long-term viability, achieved through approaches including, but not limited to:
      1. leveraging global climate funds and green financing mechanisms to cover infrastructure development, operational costs, and program implementation for regional centers of excellence
      2. establishing technology-sharing agreements to equip these centers with state-of-the-art tools and expertise needed to address complex environmental and economic challenges
      3. collaborating with donor nations, multilateral institutions, and international Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to ensure sustained funding, capacity-building support, and monitoring of progress toward sustainability goals;
2. Urges the development of comprehensive financial mechanisms and targeted incentives to stimulate both public and private sector investment in sustainable natural resource management practices within mountainous regions of LEDCs, ensuring environmental protection, economic resilience, and equitable benefits for local communities, through frameworks including, but not limited to:
   1. creating extensive subsidies, grants, and tax incentives for industries and businesses that implement sustainable resource management practices, ensuring these incentives are accessible and impactful through measures including, but not limited to:
      1. reducing or eliminating corporate taxes for businesses that integrate sustainability into their operations, including those that actively engage in reforestation or biodiversity conservation programs
      2. offering financial rebates to companies adopting renewable energy systems, reducing carbon emissions, or implementing waste-reducing technologies within their production chains
      3. introducing cash-back programs and resource credits for organizations demonstrating measurable environmental improvements, including reducing water usage or restoring damaged ecosystems
   2. establishing innovative public-private partnerships (PPPs) to co-finance sustainable infrastructure projects, ensuring that both public and private stakeholders share the risks and rewards of environmental investments through initiatives including, but not limited to:
      1. funding the development of green infrastructure projects, including solar energy installations, eco-tourism facilities, and water conservation systems, tailored to the needs of mountainous areas
      2. implementing shared funding agreements for the construction of sustainable transportation networks that prioritize low-emission options like electric cable cars, bike paths, and electric vehicle routes
   3. encouraging financial institutions that enable grassroots-level access to funding and economic support for small-scale sustainability projects, leveraging tools including, but not limited to:
      1. microloans and savings schemes designed for smallholder farmers and cooperatives engaged in environmentally sustainable practices
      2. region-specific grant programs that prioritize projects with clear environmental and social benefits, including organic farming or waste management systems
   4. aligning international development aid and financing with sustainability objectives, ensuring that financial flows are directed toward impactful projects through mechanisms including, but not limited to:
      1. offering concessional loans to LEDCs for projects that combine resource conservation with economic development, including eco-tourism or renewable energy systems
      2. linking debt-relief initiatives to measurable improvements in natural resource governance and environmental preservation efforts
      3. providing specialized grants for governments and NGOs to develop and implement innovative models of sustainable resource management;
3. Reaffirms the critical importance of participatory and inclusive governance in managing natural resources sustainably and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of diverse stakeholders, through efforts including, but not limited to:
   1. establishing robust multi-stakeholder platforms and forums where representatives from local governments, community groups, businesses, and environmental organizations collaborate to create sustainable policies and practices, with measures including, but not limited to:
      1. organizing regular dialogues, consultations, and public hearings to gather input from marginalized and indigenous groups, ensuring that their voices are reflected in decision-making processes
      2. creating permanent advisory boards comprising equal representation from both public and private sectors to guide, overseeing sustainable development projects and policies
   2. strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable access to resources, supported by strategies including, but not limited to:
      1. enacting anti-corruption laws and creating independent monitoring bodies to prevent resource mismanagement and exploitation
      2. developing legal protections and land rights for vulnerable groups, including smallholder farmers and forest-dependent communities, to secure their livelihoods and well-being
      3. requiring businesses operating in mountainous regions to publicly report on their environmental impacts, including emissions, resource usage, and restoration efforts, to ensure compliance with sustainability standards
   3. fostering capacity-building programs that empower local governments to implement sustainable policies and manage resources effectively, through approaches including, but not limited to:
      1. providing leadership training and mentorship for local officials and representatives to enhance their ability to engage in evidence-based policy-making
      2. offering workshops and seminars on resource management, environmental law enforcement, and sustainability best practices tailored to regional contexts
      3. creating digital learning platforms and toolkits that provide easily accessible guidance on managing resources sustainably and transparently
   4. implementing monitoring systems to track resource use, ensure compliance with environmental regulations, and empower residents to hold stakeholders accountable through initiatives including, but not limited to:
      1. training local volunteers to collect and expound data on biodiversity, water quality, and land use changes using simple, cost-effective tools
      2. establishing mobile and online platforms where residents can report illegal activities including logging, mining, or poaching directly to authorities;
4. Advocates for enhanced international cooperation to develop and deploy innovative technologies and solutions that address the unique environmental and economic challenges of mountainous regions in LEDCs, with an emphasis on equitable access to knowledge and resources, through initiatives including, but not limited to:
   1. fostering global research collaborations that prioritize cutting-edge solutions for resource management and ecological preservation, including, but not limited to projects:
      1. designing advanced erosion control technologies, including precision soil monitoring systems and vegetation stabilizers, tailored to the steep slopes of mountainous terrains
      2. innovating modular renewable energy systems, including portable solar and wind units, to meet the needs of remote and off-grid communities
   2. establishing technology transfer programs to ensure LEDCs have access to sustainable and affordable solutions for managing natural resources, supported by measures including, but not limited to:
      1. offering subsidies and financing options for acquiring green technologies, including water recycling systems, waste-to-energy units, and biogas plants
      2. creating international technology-sharing platforms that feature open-source designs, tutorials, and best practices for adapting technologies to local contexts
      3. organizing hands-on training sessions for technicians, engineers, and policymakers to enhance their capacity to implement and maintain advanced systems
   3. incentivizing private sector investment in research and development (R&D) for sustainable technologies specifically targeting the needs of mountainous regions through strategies including, but not limited to:
      1. providing tax credits, recognition awards, and public endorsements for companies that create innovative products addressing key environmental challenges
      2. launching competitive grant programs for startups and small enterprises developing solutions for high-altitude agriculture, energy, and water management
      3. creating co-funding arrangements where international organizations match private sector investments in promising sustainability projects;
5. Emphasizes the need to integrate sustainability education and awareness-raising campaigns into national development strategies to foster a culture of conservation responsibility for natural resource management, through actions including, but not limited to:
   1. embedding sustainability principles into school curricula, teacher training, and extracurricular programs at all educational levels, with topics including, but not limited to:
      1. the role of ecosystems in supporting livelihoods, economic activities, and climate stability in mountainous regions
      2. practical ways to adopt conservation practices, reduce waste, and manage resources efficiently in daily life
      3. global and local case studies demonstrating the impacts of unsustainable practices and the benefits of adopting greener alternatives
   2. launching mass communication campaigns to engage the public on sustainability issues, leveraging a range of media, outreach events, and partnerships with influential figures, through methods including, but not limited to:
      1. developing interactive digital platforms, games, and apps that teach resource management concepts in an engaging and user-friendly manner
      2. organizing community clean-up events, eco-fairs, and exhibitions showcasing sustainable practices and technologies;
6. Proposes the establishment of sustainable watershed management programs in mountainous regions of LEDCs to ensure equitable water distribution, enhance ecosystem health, and mitigate water scarcity risks while supporting agricultural, industrial, and domestic needs, through comprehensive initiatives including, but not limited to:
   1. implementing integrated watershed management frameworks that include multi-stakeholder participation, advanced planning tools, and climate resilience measures, supported by means including, but not limited to:
      1. conducting detailed hydrological assessments using satellite imagery, ground surveys, and predictive modeling to map water sources, identify high-demand areas, and develop long-term conservation plans
      2. establishing inclusive water governance councils composed of local farmers, community leaders, scientists, and government representatives to oversee sustainable allocation, resolve conflicts, and ensure accountability
      3. introducing legal protections for critical watershed areas, including headwaters, forests, and wetlands, with strict penalties for pollution and overuse by industries and communities
   2. developing innovative water-saving infrastructure tailored to the challenges of mountainous regions, achieved through ways including, but not limited to:
      1. constructing interconnected systems of gravity-fed irrigation, terraced fields, and small-scale reservoirs to optimize water use in agriculture while minimizing erosion and runoff
      2. installing advanced rainwater harvesting systems in rural and urban areas to supplement seasonal water supplies and reduce pressure on existing sources
   3. empowering local communities with the knowledge, resources, and incentives to manage water sustainably to spread information and awareness of the importance of maintaining a sustainable level of water levels through methods including, but not limited to:
      1. organizing capacity-building workshops and field demonstrations on techniques like drip-irrigation, contour farming, and soil moisture conservation to maximize water efficiency, specifically in mountainous regions
      2. providing financial incentives including subsidies grants, and tax rebates for household farmers, and businesses adopting water-efficient technologies and practices provided by the United Nations and willing NGOs;
7. Encourages the adoption of circular economy models in mountainous LEDCs to optimize resource use, reduce waste, and generate economic opportunities while promoting environmental sustainability, through measures including, but not limited to:
   1. developing closed-loop systems in key industries including agriculture, forestry, and mining as these are key to maintaining mountainous regions, to be supported by methods including, but not limited to:
      1. utilizing agricultural byproducts like husks, shells, and stalks as raw materials for bioenergy, compost, and biodegradable packaging to minimize waste while creating value-added products
      2. introducing wood recovery programs to repurpose sawmill byproducts, including bark and offcuts, into furniture, construction materials, and renewable fuels including biochar
      3. implementing advanced mineral recovery systems in mining operations to extract usable elements from tailings, reducing environmental contamination while boosting resource efficiency
   2. fostering small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that drive innovation in resource recovery and waste management to provide aid which is crucial in maintaining a sustainable mountainous environment, achieved through ways including, but not limited to:
      1. providing targeted grants and low-interest loans for entrepreneurs developing products and services based on recycled materials, creating new job opportunities in local economies
      2. establishing industrial parks where businesses can share waste streams, byproducts, and energy to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs through symbiotic relationships
      3. incentivizing research and development in eco-design and material innovation, including modular products and bio-based alternatives that align with circular economy principles
      4. organizing educational campaigns on repair, reuse, and recycling to shift consumer behavior and build a culture of sustainability;
8. Supports the implementation of integrated strategies in mountainous LEDCs to restore fragmented ecosystems through biodiversity corridors, enhance species migration, improve resilience against climate change, and balance resource extraction with environmental preservation and socio-economic development, ensuring equitable benefits and sustainable economic growth, through comprehensive initiatives including, but not limited to:
   1. designing and establishing biodiversity corridors that serve as ecological pathways and planning backbones for infrastructural and bureaucratic systems, supported by methods including, but not limited to:
      1. deploying satellite-based tracking systems and ecological modeling tools to identify critical habitats, migration routes, and biodiversity hotspots requiring immediate protection and targeted conservation efforts
      2. integrating biodiversity corridors into national development policies to balance ecological conservation with infrastructure expansion, agricultural growth, and regional needs
   2. incentivizing local participation in the establishment and maintenance of biodiversity corridors to gain essential support for policy enactment, achieved through programs including, but not limited to:
      1. providing employment opportunities in corridor construction and management, including activities like reforestation, wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, and education, creating sustainable livelihoods for affected communities
      2. introducing eco-certification schemes for tourism, agriculture, and forestry businesses that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices, enabling them to access premium markets and support conservation efforts
   3. fostering global partnerships to secure funding, technical expertise, and policy support for biodiversity corridors, enhancing the feasibility and scalability of these initiatives, achieved through means including, but not limited to:
      1. establishing international conservation funds to finance large-scale biodiversity projects, supported by carbon credit revenues, philanthropic contributions, and global biodiversity pledges
      2. creating transboundary agreements between neighboring countries to connect ecosystems across borders, fostering regional cooperation and enhancing habitat connectivity on a global scale
      3. hosting international workshops, conferences, and knowledge-sharing platforms to exchange expertise, refine best practices, and showcase successful biodiversity corridor projects
   4. enforcing sustainable mining practices that balance resource extraction with environmental preservation and socio-economic development, ensuring long-term economic benefits for LEDCs and minimal environmental impact, supported by frameworks including, but not limited to:
      1. requiring mining companies to submit detailed restoration plans, including timelines, budgets, and ecological benchmarks, as a condition for obtaining and renewing operating licenses
      2. mandating the use of renewable energy sources, water recycling technologies, and non-toxic ore processing methods to minimize the ecological footprint of mining operations and ensure sustainability
      3. establishing independent monitoring bodies to conduct regular audits, ensure compliance with environmental laws, and impose penalties ranging from fines to operational suspensions for violations
   5. fostering community participation in mining governance to promote transparency, equitable benefits-sharing, and trust-building among stakeholders, achieved through initiatives including, but not limited to:
      1. allocating a significant percentage of mining revenues to community development funds, financing essential projects including infrastructure, education, and health care in affected areas
      2. providing targeted training programs and employment opportunities for local residents, prioritizing skill development in mining-related fields including engineering, safety, environmental management, and entrepreneurship
   6. promoting value addition in the mining sector to maximize economic returns and incentivize LEDCs to participate in sustainable resource management, supported by means including, but not limited to:
      1. establishing processing and refining facilities near mining sites to create jobs, enhance local economies, and reduce the environmental impact of transporting raw materials
      2. encouraging private investment in downstream industries, including electronics, jewelry, and renewable energy components, relying on sustainably sourced minerals to foster innovation and economic diversification
      3. creating export incentives, certification programs, and international marketing campaigns for ethically mined and processed products, ensuring access to premium markets and competitive pricing.