

**Country:** The Republic of Azerbaijan

**Committee:** United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Topic:**

1. Assessing the current state of the climate crisis
2. Environmental problems regarding cities



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stands as a beacon of hope amidst the daunting struggles posed by the escalating global environmental crisis. In its pursuit of sustainable development and ecological protection, the UNEP serves as a vital platform for international cooperation, advocacy, and policy-making. As delegates representing the Republic of Azerbaijan, we are honored to contribute to this collective endeavor aimed at safeguarding our planet for present and future generations.

In light of the pressing nature of these matters, the purpose of this position paper is twofold. Firstly, we aim to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current state of the environment-friendly crisis, elucidating its multifaceted effects. Secondly, we endeavor to shed light on the nature-related issues plaguing our cities, offering insights into the root causes, consequences, and potential resolutions to enhance urban environmental sustainability.

The assessment of the current state of the climate encompasses various dimensions, beginning with a global overview of its definition, scope, and key drivers, including greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, as outlined in reports IPCC's "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C" and the World Bank's analysis<sup>12</sup>. These drivers have far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human well-being.

The Azerbaijan National Climate Change Strategy and relevant studies highlight the country's efforts to mitigate and adapt to these hurdles, emphasizing the importance of national policies, renewable energy deployment, and adaptation strategies such as water management<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, URL: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank Analysis, URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

<sup>3</sup> Azerbaijan National Climate Change Strategy, URL: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/eastern-europe-and-caucasus/azerbaijan>

City-related substantial challenges pose significant threats to sustainable development, particularly in rapidly urbanizing areas like Azerbaijan. The outline details various facets of metropolitan issues, including air pollution, water pollution, and waste management. Each subcategory explores the sources, outcomes, and potential approaches to these obstacles, such as regulatory frameworks for air quality monitoring, plans for water conservation, and innovative waste management initiatives. Additionally, Examining the causes and consequences of municipal environmental degradation, highlighting the complex interplay between population growth, unsustainable land use, and socio-economic disparities.

Current initiatives and policies aimed at those problems in Azerbaijan are also discussed, showcasing ongoing actions to promote urban resilience.<sup>4</sup> Through case studies and evaluations of existing programs, the importance of integrated approaches, policy frameworks, and community engagement in achieving environmental goals. Lastly, proposing remedies and best practices, advocating for the adoption of smart city technologies, public awareness campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance long-term viability.<sup>5</sup>

The conclusion synthesizes the key points discussed throughout the exploration of the climate crisis and urban environmental troubles in Azerbaijan and in the world. It underscores the interconnectedness of these difficulties and emphasizes the necessity of integrated solutions to address them effectively. Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to addressing real concerns both domestically and internationally, emphasizing its role in the global effort towards sustainability.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Urban Development in Azerbaijan, UNDP Azerbaijan (2018), URL: <https://www.undp.org/azerbaijan>

<sup>5</sup> National Strategy for the Development of the ICT Sector in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2021-2025, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2021), URL: <https://mincom.gov.az/en>

<sup>6</sup> 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (2024), URL: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>