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Resolution by the General Assembly

Stop All Uses of Fossil Fuels and Toxic Chemicals to Save Our Planet and Protect Children’s Rights

The General Assembly,

*Recognizing* to protect child rights, human life, biodiversity, the environment and the future of our shared planet, we must end our dependence on fossil fuels and manage a just transition away from coal, oil, gas and biomass to clean, renewable energy,

*Realizing that* our actions are the biggest threat to our planet and it is critical to act immediately to repair the harm we have done;

*Emphasizing* the effects of climate change on our children's lives are substantial, impacting their health, education, and safety;

*Noting* it is important to advocate for climate action to stop one of the greatest threats facing people and communities throughout the world and climate change is a generational justice and human rights issue,

*Believing* climate change is not a partisan nor a political issue and that local, state, national and global policies must be guided by the best available science,

*Acknowledging* there is a broad consensus among scientists that human activities are the cause of climate change, releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gas gases like carbon dioxide and methane,

*Affirming* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) statement that the critical point in our temperature rise is between 1. 5° C ( 2. 7° F) and 2. 0° C ( 3. 60F) and it is only possible to limit our temperature rise to 1. 5° C (2. 7° F) with immediate and determined global effort,

*Warning* the atmosphere must not exceed greenhouse gas concentrations of 350 ppm for a stable climate and we are now at 420 ppm and rising,

*Considering* the human use of fossil fuels, whether in the form of coal, oil or natural gas, are the primary sources of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases,

*Recognizing* the oil, gas and petrochemical industry is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and many leaks and emissions go unreported or are not properly regulated and methane is a major contributor to global warming and climate change, accounting for approximately 16% of global greenhouse gas emissions,

*Alarmed by* the oil, gas and petrochemical industry having significant influence over government policies and regulations, often leading to weak or inadequate environmental protections and many governments provide significant financial subsidies and tax breaks to fossil fuel industries, at the expense of supporting clean and sustainable energy sources,

*Declaring* subsidies to the fossil fuel industry artificially inflate demand, make it harder for renewable energy sources to compete in the marketplace and slowing the transition to a low-carbon economy,

*Warning* pipelines carrying oil and gas pose a significant risk of water and land contamination, either through leaks or spills; and,

*Noting* environmental racism refers to the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards and pollution on communities of color and low-income communities and marginalized communities often bear the brunt of environmental harm, even though they contribute the least to environmental degradation,

*Deeply convinced* environmental racism is a form of systemic injustice and discrimination that violates human rights, including the right to a clean and healthy environment, as well as the right to life, health, and equality,

*Deeply worried* indigenous people continue to face threats to their land and natural resources, from extractive industries like drilling, mining and logging along with the loss of land and displacement which causes profound harm to their cultural identity, economic livelihood, health, and well-being,

*Alarmed by* law enforcement protecting fossil fuel companies’ interests, not indigenous tribes trying to fight for their environmental rights and pipelines and other fossil fuel related activities which often go through or near indigenous lands, putting these communities at risk of water poisoning, environmental damage and loss of biodiversity,

*Taking into account* biodiversity is the variety of life within a particular habitat or ecosystem and is an essential part of maintaining ecosystem health,

*Deeply worried* climate change is driving species extinction rates that may lead to extinction of 37% of all plant and animal species by 2050 and the extinction rate for insects is 8x faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles,

*Warning in worry* the loss of insects would cause unthinkable harm to the environment and food production on a global scale with entire ecosystems threatened,

*Having in mind* fossil fuel companies manufacture agrochemicals and create artificial dependency on their products and these synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers kill pollinators, insects, damage soil, and create dead zones in lakes, rivers and oceans,

*Deeply convinced* our climate needs us to stop the use of synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and use organic regenerative agriculture with local food production and healthy diets to protect soils, ecosystems, reduce food waste and reduce the quantity of land needed for food production,

*Observing with worry* humans have produced over 90,000 synthetic chemical compounds that do not occur naturally and 99% of them are petrochemicals and are found in most personal care products and many food items, exposing children on a daily basis to hundreds of sources of harm,

*Thoroughly alarmed* chemical exposure is linked to increased childhood cancer rates, with cancer being the leading cause of death by disease and the fourth leading cause of death overall in children under 15 in the United States,

*Recognizing* scientists have determined we have exceeded Earth’s capacity to manage plastic and chemical pollution,

*Declaring* water pollution is caused by various human activities, including industrial and agricultural practices, improper disposal of waste, and use of synthetic chemicals, synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and preventing water pollution is critical to protecting public health, preserving the natural environment, and ensuring sustainable development,

*Warning as well* we are rapidly depleting available fresh water and causing ocean acidification and excessive heating,

1. *Emphasizes* addressing environmental racism requires acknowledging and addressing the root causes of environmental injustice, including systemic racism and economic inequality;
2. *Demands* the nations of the world:
   1. Stop all bailouts, subsidies and incentives, both direct and indirect, to the fossil fuel industry
   2. End all new fossil fuel projects of any kind: exploration, extraction, transportation, generation
   3. Divest all financial stakes in fossil fuel industries
   4. Stop the use of local natural resources like water for use in fossil fuel projects
   5. Cease building fossil fuel infrastructure like pipelines, petrochemical and plastic plants, especially through or near indigenous people’s land and water
   6. End all Carbon Capture, nuclear and biomass projects as false climate solutions as they are not clean or renewable;
3. *Calls upon* all to take immediate direct action to quickly end the use of fossil fuel based products like petrochemicals, synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, plastics, synthetic clothing and synthetic turf/artificial grass/plastic grass;
4. *Requests* preservation and protection of at least 30% of all lands and waters by 2030;
5. *Provide* energy security for all by promoting and incentivizing clean, renewable energy: wind, water, solar, and storage;
6. *Condemns* the use of toxic chemicals in any products and manufacturing processes;
7. *Emphasizes* the importance of using the precautionary principle as it is better to be safe than sorry;
8. *Resolves* to prevent water pollution:
   1. Through the implementation of effective policies and regulations
   2. Promoting sustainable practices in agriculture and industry
   3. Improving wastewater treatment facilities
   4. Supporting community-led initiatives to protect and preserve local water resources
   5. Protecting water sources and ensure that clean and safe water is available to all;
9. *Supports* a just transition from extractive economies to end the global climate, nature, food and inequality crises;
10. *Calls to* protect planetary processes so that life is sustainable for the present and future of all children;
11. *Resolves* to support, pass and enforce strict guidelines and policies to protect the environment, to protect where our children run and play, protect the water they drink and the air they breathe.