



COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION

(13-24 October 1975)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 2

UNITED NATIONS



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CIB	International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IDCHEC	Intergovernmental Documentation Centre on Housing and Environment for Countries of the Economic Commission for Europe
OAS	Organization of American States
UIA	International Union of Architects
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHHSF	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Plan
WHO	World Health Organization

I. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning adopted three draft resolutions for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. The texts of those draft resolutions are given below with the relevant views of the Committee concerning each. The chapter also includes recommendations of the Committee that call for action by the Council and significant views of the Committee which might interest the Council.

A. Draft resolutions adopted by the Committee

Research and development activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning

2. The Committee reviewed the past activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning as well as its future work programme (the medium-term plan for 1976-1979 and the work programme for 1976-1977) and adopted two draft resolutions.

(a) The Committee wished to register its approval of the work programme as a whole and wished to recommend that, regardless of whatever administrative changes took place in the future, that programme should be continued and expanded. To that end, the representative of Finland submitted a draft resolution (E/C.6/L.83) which the Committee agreed to forward to the Economic and Social Council for its examination. The text of the draft resolution was as follows:

Draft resolution I

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the research and development activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning as contained in the mid-term plan for 1976-1979 and the work programme for 1976-1977 (E/C.6/L.45),

Convinced that the solutions to the problems raised therein require a better understanding of the role of settlements in the development process and on the analysis and evaluation of growth strategies, approaches to the improvement of spontaneous settlements, the improvement of the building sector, the strengthening of the institutions concerned with planning and management of settlements,

1. Notes with approval the objectives and components of the work programme for 1976-1977;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the mid-term plan and work programme of the United Nations, to give high priority to the implementation of the work programme on human settlements and technical co-operation activities in this field.

Information exchange in the field of human settlements

(b) The Committee considered it imperative for the Centre to give added attention to the collection and dissemination of information as well as to the development of more systematic approaches to that end. The Committee recommended the strengthening or establishment of regional centres co-ordinated, where possible with the Centre, as the most suitable means to attain that objective. The Committee also recommended that the Centre should assist as much as possible national and regional centres in unifying, systematizing and making more effective the ongoing exchange of information in fields related to human settlements and also to support the activities of individual Governments in that field. In addition, the Committee emphasized that the objectives of the Centre should be, inter alia, to stimulate the awareness of policy-makers, professionals and technicians alike, in adopting the most suitable measures for the solution of housing, building and planning problems and to encourage the general public to participate in programmes of improvement of housing and human settlements. The Committee considered a draft resolution (E/C.6/L.80) submitted by the representative of France which, inter alia, called on the Secretary-General to initiate and develop a systematic documentation and information service in the Centre in collaboration with IDCHEC (Intergovernmental Documentation Centre on Housing and Environment for the Countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe located in France). In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of France assured the Committee that the Secretariat will find the governing body of IDCHEC willing to undertake the negotiations foreseen in order to put into effect its resolution. He also assured the Committee that there would be no financial implications for the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning. Since one delegate stated that time had not permitted him to consult his Government concerning the French draft resolution, the Committee decided to refer the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for examination. The amended text of the draft resolution was as follows:

Draft resolution II

The Economic and Social Council,

Realizing that the development of activities relating to housing, building materials industry and physical planning is essential for integrated economic and social development and the improvement of living conditions,

Convinced that efficient documentation services, speedy exchange of information and the adaptation of existing knowledge to the needs of the developing countries are urgently needed by these countries to promote their development,

Aware that the seventh special session of the General Assembly placed great emphasis on the transfer of technology as a means of bridging the gap between the developing and the developed countries,

Recalling its resolutions 830 B (XXXII), 976 D (XXXVI), 1166 (XLI) and 1301 (XLIV) calling for and authorizing the establishment of a United Nations international institute for documentation on housing, building and planning,

Noting that that institute could not be established for lack of voluntary contributions required for its financing,

Considering that the need of documentation and information services in the field of human settlements has considerably increased since the Council adopted the above-mentioned resolutions,

Noting the possibilities offered by the Intergovernmental Documentation Centre on Housing and Environment for the Countries of the Economic Commission for Europe (IDCHEC) to make available, without cost or at cost price, to developing countries, at their request, the documentation and information facilities of IDCHEC through the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning,

Requests the Secretary-General to:

(a) Initiate and develop a systematic documentation and information service in the field of human settlements located in the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Documentation Centre on Housing and Environment for the Countries of the Economic Commission for Europe and for that purpose to negotiate details of the modus operandi with that institution;

(b) Undertake all necessary measures for informing Governments and institutions and enterprises in the developing countries of the services available to them and of the methods of obtaining the information in a form adapted to their needs and, for that purpose, to maintain contact with those countries to be continually apprised of their growing needs;

(c) Negotiate and assist interested countries with establishment of national and regional centres of documentation and information services on human settlements and co-ordinate the programmes and functions of the chain of centres with the services in the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning;

(d) Invite Member States to collaborate with the Centre in this service to the developing countries, through their existing services, institutions, training facilities and media;

(e) Organize regional and interregional meetings of experts from donor and recipient countries to advise on the effective functioning of the system proposed herein;

(f) Report to the Council through the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning on the implementation of this resolution.

Co-ordination and co-operation in the field of human settlements

(c) The Committee was keenly aware: (i) that an increasing number of organizations within the United Nations system were operating in the field of human settlements, sometimes with overlapping mandates; (ii) that the programmes of those organizations were growing in complexity and comprehensiveness in response to challenges they faced in the areas of their respective specialities; and (iii) that there was a legitimate demand by Member States to effect economies and to increase the impact of international programmes by improving their integration and co-ordination. The Committee, therefore, emphasized the need of a focal point for co-ordination in the field and cited the efficiency achieved in trade development after a focal point had been agreed upon in that field.

(d) The Committee agreed to affirm the existing and distinctive role of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, to express its desire that priorities within the United Nations should be altered to provide for an increased allocation of resources to the field of human settlements and to request the Economic and Social Council to give careful consideration to the historic mandate and role played by the Committee and the Centre in the field of human settlements in its implementation of its resolution 1914 (LVII) of 16 December 1974.

(e) Concerning this subject, the Committee adopted without a vote a draft resolution (E/C.6/L.79) proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom, with a recommendation for its adoption by the Council. The text of the draft resolution was as follows:

Draft resolution III

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the present situation in housing, building and planning,

Recognizing the growing problems in dealing with urban and rural settlements throughout the world, particularly those in developing countries,

Reaffirming the necessity to improve the living conditions, particularly among the poor, of an increasingly large proportion of the world's population and the vital interest of the United Nations in assisting national Governments to accomplish this goal,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 in which the Assembly decided to hold a United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements, now known as Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held at Vancouver in 1976,

Expressing its full support for the Habitat Conference and its hope that that Conference will encourage national Governments to award to the problems of human settlements, in which an increasing proportion of the world's population resides, an increasingly high priority in their national development planning,

Recalling its resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962 which established a Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to deal with housing and related community facilities and physical planning,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 which further clarified the role of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in the formulation and co-ordination of United Nations programmes in the field of human settlements,

Recalling further its resolution 1882 (LVII) of 31 July 1974 concerning the need for a thorough rationalization of the work of the International Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, and other elements of the United Nations system,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1914 (LVII) of

10 December 1974 concerning the rationalization of the work of the International Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the work of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 which established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Aware that one of the primary objectives of the Habitat Conference to be held in Vancouver in May-June 1976 will be to recommend the most effective way to rationalize those United Nations activities directed toward the mobilization of both national and international resources to improve the human settlements,

1. Affirms the existing and distinctive role within the United Nations system of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and its particular emphasis on the provision of professional expertise and technical assistance, the importance of that expertise and assistance in the development and improvement of human settlements and also the value of its work in the field of pre-investment studies and research programmes;

2. Expresses the deepest desire that the resources available for the work being carried out within the United Nations for the improvement of human settlements be enhanced, thereby enabling the United Nations to respond in a more comprehensive way to the demands being placed upon it;

3. Decides when carrying out the further considerations called for in its resolution 1914 (LVII) to give the most careful attention to the historic mandate and role played by, as well as the special competence of, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in seeking solutions to the problems of human settlements.

B. Recommendations of the Committee that call for action by the Council

3. The Committee, endorsing the conceptual framework within which the technical assistance activities of the Centre were being carried out, strongly recommended:

(a) The creation of a formal machinery to assure co-operation and co-ordination among the specialized agencies in the housing, building and planning field and a greater degree of contact between multilateral and bilateral projects;

(b) That the resources made available to the Centre's technical co-operation activities by the various funding agencies should be increased so as to allow for the evaluation on a comparative basis of those projects upon their completion and the subsequent preparation and dissemination of documentation and information on those evaluative studies.

C. Significant views of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council

4. In reviewing the situation of human settlements, particularly in the light of the current developments affecting them, the Committee expressed the following views which could be of interest to the Council in its deliberation relating to human settlements.

(a) The Committee noted the priority of the objectives established by the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the Second General Conference of UNIDO and by the seventh special session of the General Assembly on the establishment of a new international economic order and saw no basic conflict between those objectives and the development of human settlements. However, it cautioned that the possible implications of the proposed policies to deal with problems posed by food, energy and raw material scarcities deserved critical scrutiny in terms of their impact on human settlements and the human environment as a whole. The Committee was aware that no global solutions could be found to reduce the undesirable implications for human settlements of recent economic developments due to the great variation in the economic, social and physical conditions of the countries involved. It felt that, since the attainment of the said objectives would be on the whole beneficial, Governments should try at the national level to avoid or reduce the conflicting interests of specific economic considerations and of the social well-being of the people, within the context of human settlements. In that respect the greater involvement of national planning bodies in human settlements development was an encouraging sign.

(b) The Committee felt that the conditions of human settlements were largely a reflection of the economic and social conditions of the countries concerned. Particular concern was expressed concerning the consequences in some countries of the unfavourable trends in the growth of national product and the subsequent failure to generate economically meaningful employment in agriculture, industry and the services sectors. Moreover, in many countries there was evidence to indicate a direct relationship between the deterioration of income distribution and the growth of slums and squatter settlements; between recession and the slower social mobility and transformation of the labour force; and between the increasing inflation rates and the limitations of growth in the housing sector and urban services. With these observations the Committee welcomed the recommendations of the General Assembly for the expansion of international trade and for the acceleration of agricultural and industrial development. It was pointed out that future efforts to find solutions for those questions at the international and national levels should not lose sight of the spatial dimension of development.

(c) The Committee recommended that the problems of urban and rural development be treated as dual aspects of the same process and urged that a study of the experiences of those countries which have systematically shifted the emphasis of industrial expansion from urban to rural areas should be undertaken by the Centre in order to draw on their experiences for the benefit of all countries.

(d) The Committee also recommended that Governments should be encouraged to compile, process and analyse this data as a matter of priority and that the Centre's capacity to deal with data relating to human settlements should be enhanced, as an essential part of the process of exchange of information and transfer of technology.

5. While discussing the establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the Committee expressed the following views which could be of interest to the Council.

(a) The Committee wished to draw to the attention of the Council the difficulty of distinguishing between the function pertaining to general housing policy entrusted to the Centre and the financing policy which is under the purview of the Foundation.

(b) With regard to the specific relationship between the Foundation and the Centre, the Committee recommended that the Centre should be represented on the Advisory Board of the Foundation when that body was finally constituted.

(c) The Committee, being cognizant of the events that had taken place in recent years relating to the activities of the United Nations family in the field of human settlements, expressed some concern about the scope and relevance of its own terms of reference. Some delegations believed that the Committee, under its existing terms of reference, had the competence to examine the whole field of housing settlements activities within the United Nations system. Other delegations believed that the competence of the Committee to carry out that function had been restricted de facto to examining the activities of the Centre alone. For its part, the Committee was convinced that the more complex the problems of human settlements became and the larger the number of institutions dealing with them, the greater was the need for an integrating and co-ordinating body. In the Council's examination of this question, the Committee recommended that its historical mandate as well as the long experience of the Committee and of the Centre should be given careful consideration.

(d) The Committee was conscious of the erosion of its effectiveness in recent years and wished to draw the Council's attention to that fact. In considering possible remedies to that development some delegations felt that the Committee could not operate effectively when meeting on a biennial basis and that annual sessions - perhaps for one week only - and an increased membership of a professional nature would better enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate. Other delegations believed that the question should be left to the Council to consider in view of the Habitat Conference and of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations.

(e) The Committee agreed unanimously that the entire sector of human settlements should receive more financial support within the budgets of the United Nations and its family of organizations than was currently available.

II. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

6. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe welcomed the delegates to the ninth session of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

7. He observed that the problems of human settlements were, at last, beginning to achieve the recognition they deserved, a development which he thought was in part due to the efforts of the Committee and of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning which had been pressing over a period of several years for a comprehensive view of human settlements in the context of economic and social development. He thought that the current session of the Committee was faced with basic issues at a pivotal point in the involvement of the United Nations family of agencies in human settlements.

8. He recalled the impact of the Centre's efforts at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, at which human settlements received high priority. He realized that the United Nations Environment Programme, which grew out of the Stockholm Conference, also directed one of its main efforts towards the solution of environmental problems of human settlements. He observed that the establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation was particularly welcome and recalled, in this connexion, that both the Committee and the Centre had long advocated the establishment of a capital fund for urban investment.

9. He noted with satisfaction that major financial institutions, including the World Bank, were now placing great emphasis on the development role of cities in improving economic productivity. The outlook of funding agencies was moving closer to the view put forward by the Committee over the years. However, much remained to be done and he hoped that the Habitat Conference would make as great an impact on attitudes relating to human settlements as did the Stockholm Conference on environmental concerns.

10. The Director of the Centre, in his opening address, called attention to the fact that the ninth session of the Committee was being held at a time when a major global shift in awareness regarding the importance of human settlements was taking place. Also, the well-being of the world's people was finally recognized as a global challenge and the recently opened dialogue between the developed and the developing countries was highly encouraging.

11. The Director referred to the process of urbanization and particularly to the rural-to-urban migration and the proliferation of slums. He highlighted the measures which could be taken to ameliorate such conditions, such as the upgrading of national planning on a comprehensive level, the adaptation of technology to local requirements, the rational and equitable distribution and use of resources, the recognition of national and regional diversities, increased emphasis on popular participation, the importance of developing an indigenous building industry and the critical role of rural land settlement and rural housing programmes.

12. The Director recognized that the construction of residential buildings had the greatest impact upon the creation and expansion of any human settlement. In industrialized countries residential construction comprised between 30 and 50 per cent of total construction activity and in the developing countries between 20 and 45 per cent. Yet more than a billion people lived in appalling housing conditions. Before the end of this century, well over 1 billion dwelling units will have to be constructed to meet anticipated needs. This will require an average annual output of more than 40 million new urban and rural dwellings, approximately 75 per cent of which will have to be attained in developing areas. Corresponding public facilities and other support services will also have to be provided. The sheer impact upon the world's resources of steps to be taken to meet these objectives has neither been fully appreciated nor sufficiently analysed within the context of available human material and land resources. Furthermore, due to the preoccupation with urbanization, the critical role of rural land settlement and rural housing has almost been totally overlooked. The significance of progressive-improvement and self-help, as well as credit availability for low-income sectors of the population, has been unfortunately underrated.

13. Referring to the construction industry, the Director stated that it was one of the most backward of human technical activities and this has limited the development of settlements. This was so in spite of the fact that construction provided employment for large numbers of unskilled labour in developing countries. The development of a strong construction industry should be, after agriculture, the most important target in any national development policy.

14. The Director recalled that the Intergovernmental Expert Working Group convened by the Habitat secretariat in September in Geneva, had stressed the need to establish a properly equipped and effective Information and Documentation Service within the United Nations. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning might wish to recommend the establishment of such a unit within the Centre and the provision of the necessary resources for it. Meanwhile, the Centre's regular quarterly publication Human Settlements would be increasingly oriented to the type of information which would be of direct relevance to the needs of developing countries. The Director emphasized the dissemination of information and the transfer of technology among the tasks before the Centre and indicated its readiness to undertake the initiation of a world-wide documentation service - an international repository of information and data directly relevant to human settlements development. He urged the establishment of more regional research and training centres to deal with all aspects of human settlements. Policies, programmes and communications activities in the field of housing, building and planning must be initiated, implemented, co-ordinated and evaluated and these objectives must be achieved through both an adequate administrative as well as technical framework. All such activities must be envisaged, as well as administered, by the Centre at one level on a regional basis and at another level on a global basis.

15. The trend of the future in dealing with the problems of human settlements was clearly towards larger and more comprehensive multidisciplinary programmes reflecting the growing recognition on the part of developing countries that such issues could not be dealt with on a sectoral basis nor within the boundaries of urban centres. The Director saw in this trend an expanding role for the Centre as an intermediary between Governments and international funding agencies which increasingly rely upon it for capital investment proposals in developing countries.

16. The Centre's major objectives had progressed favourably during the past biennium. These included the delineation of new directions in policy formulation for Member States, the creation of new institutions and efforts to include planning, housing, building and tourism in national development plans. With UNDP support, the Centre was assisting Governments in adding spatial dimensions to national development planning activities. Studies on urban indicators and performance standards in human settlements were also being conducted by the Centre. Finally, one of the more important contributions of the Centre with respect to the Habitat Conference in Vancouver, Canada, was the preparation of a special document, provisionally entitled "Human Settlements Factbook", providing background information on the status of human settlements at the global level.

17. Finally, the Director referred to the impending developments which would affect institutional structures dealing with human settlements and wondered if the Centre would function best within the current administrative structure which oversees the Centre's efforts or whether a greater degree of independence within the United Nations would better suit its needs in meeting future challenges.

III. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AT THE MID-POINT OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE: REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AND THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

18. The Committee reviewed the present situation in housing, building and settlements development and the current developments - such as the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the recommendations of the regional and global conferences - affecting human settlements, as contained in the documents before it, namely, "Review of the situation in housing, building and settlements development" (E/C.6/142) and "Current developments affecting human settlements" (E/C.6/143). While there were many aspects of the present world situation as revealed in those documents which caused the Committee considerable concern, the Committee also believed that until more current statistical data was available caution should be exercised before taking too pessimistic a view of mankind's human settlements. Several factors, such as the convening of the Habitat Conference in 1976 and some evidence that Governments are allocating a higher priority and more resources to human settlements, were regarded as a basis for some optimism. However, the Committee remained keenly aware of the difficulties confronting most Governments in this field and carried out a useful discussion concerning them.

19. During the review the Committee noted the continuing high rates of increase of populations in both rural and urban areas. The demographic indicators, such as the doubling of urban population within a time span of less than a decade in some countries and the continued concentration of the total population in cities with a population of 1 million or more, illustrated the magnitude of the problem with which the developing countries were confronted. Several delegations, however, expressed the opinion that there was no direct causal relationship between human settlements' problems and population growth.

20. The Committee also noted that natural population increases presently account for more than half the growth rate of urban areas in many developing countries. Thus, even if all rural-urban migration ceased immediately the urban areas would continue to grow at almost half their current rate due to the child-bearing potential of the young population already settled in the cities.

21. With such demographic factors in mind, the Committee noted that the living conditions of a large portion of the world's urban population in the 1970s still remained as low as those of the 1960s. In some cases there had even been a decline in the quality of the urban infrastructure (water, sewerage, electricity and transportation) as well as in services (refuse collection, police and fire protection and environmental sanitation). Living conditions in urban areas had not improved in many countries, not only as a result of demographic factors but also because of the general economic situations in those countries - a situation characterized by high unemployment, inequitable income distribution, recession, inflation problems, as well as the high cost of energy and other critical commodities.

22. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the development efforts of many countries in the field of human settlements despite difficulties such as those

noted above. In addition, some countries had maintained or even programmed ambitiously for future investments due to their advantageous individual characteristics. Nevertheless, human settlements in the world in general, and in developing countries in particular, were confronted with serious problems of development and that remained a main source of concern for the Committee.

23. The Committee paid particular attention to the high cost of developed urban land and the serious impact of speculative interests on urban land development and believed that recent efforts in some countries to deal with land problems should be studied carefully in order that the experience gained could be shared on a global basis. In that respect, several members also recommended that the resources of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should be increased so that it could undertake operational and detailed studies in this subject area.

24. The insufficiency of the funds devoted to the housing sector in many countries and the great impact of general price increases on the cost of housing was also a source of concern to the Committee. The lack of developed housing financing systems and the limitations of the existing building technology as well as the fiscal, organizational, legal and manpower short-comings of most local governments immediately responsible for dealing with problems of human settlements were considered critical bottlenecks in many countries. The need for institution building and the strengthening of the administrative capacities of developing countries were also discussed. Another major area of concern to the Committee was the impact in many countries of difficulties in housing financing especially on low-income housing. In that respect approaches such as that of "sites and services" programmes became all the more important as a means of attacking the housing problem of the lowest income groups. The Committee noted with appreciation the commitment of the World Bank to the programme and also endorsed the direction of the Centre's activities toward the promotion of "sites and services" programmes in dealing with the problems of low-income housing.

25. The Committee realized the importance of its ninth session in providing expert opinion to the Economic and Social Council and guidance to the Centre relating to the impact of current development trends on human settlements. In that respect it noted the impact of inflation on housing, of energy costs on transportation, of agricultural mechanization to achieve food production targets on urbanization and the importance of infrastructural investments in exploiting and processing natural resources.

26. The Committee pointed out the interdependence of economic and social development and their spatial dimensions which were closely related to the development of human settlements. It noted the priority of the objectives established by the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the Second General Conference of UNIDO and by the seventh special session of the General Assembly on the establishment of a new international economic order and it saw no basic conflict between those objectives and the development of human settlements. However, it cautioned that the possible implications of the proposed policies to deal with problems posed by food, energy and raw material scarcities deserved critical scrutiny in terms of their impact on human settlements and the human environment as a whole. The Committee was aware that no global solutions could be found to reduce the undesirable implications for human settlements of recent economic developments due to the great variation in the economic, social and physical conditions of the countries involved. It felt that since the

attainment of the said objectives would be on the whole beneficial, Governments should try at the national level to avoid or reduce the conflicting interests of specific economic considerations and of the social well-being of the people, within the context of human settlements. In that respect the greater involvement of national planning bodies in human settlements development was an encouraging sign. As an example of the value of this kind of integration, the representative of Egypt outlined to the Committee the experience of his Government in the resettlement of 3 million inhabitants of the Suez Canal zone following the war of 1967 as well as the additional efforts required, which had made necessary the doubling of the Government's allocations to rebuild the cities located in that area after the 1973 war. These efforts were being carried out according to an integrated plan that ensured the expansion of the facilities given to the prospects of navigation through the Suez Canal.

27. The Committee felt that the conditions of human settlements were largely a reflection of the economic and social conditions of the countries concerned. Particular concern was expressed in regard to the consequences in some countries of the unfavourable trends in the growth of national product and the subsequent failure to generate economically meaningful employment in agriculture, industry and the services sectors. Moreover, in many countries there was evidence to indicate a direct relationship between the deterioration of income distribution and the growth of slums and squatter settlements; between recession and the slower social mobility and transformation of the labour force; and between the increasing inflation rates and the limitations of growth in the housing sector and urban services. With these observations the Committee welcomed the recommendations of the General Assembly for the expansion of international trade and for the acceleration of agricultural and industrial development. It was pointed out that future efforts to find solutions for those questions at the international and national levels should not lose sight of the spatial dimension of development.

28. Housing and other aspects of agrarian reform related to human settlements were noted. The interdependence of the issues related to rural migration required that they should be taken into account in the discussion of the Committee's subject-matter. The Committee, therefore, recommended the treatment of the problems of urban and rural development as dual aspects of the same process in order to facilitate the solution of human settlements problems. Although the Committee realized the inevitability of urbanization as an integral part of economic progress and social change, it nevertheless urged that a study of the experiences of those countries which had systematically shifted the emphasis of industrial expansion from urban to rural areas should be undertaken by the Centre in order to draw on their experiences for the benefit of all countries.

29. Several speakers stressed the need to develop the mechanisms for a fast retrieval of information and data. The value of important studies such as the World Housing Survey to be prepared by the Centre, would be greatly enhanced if Governments could process and make available census data and other information in time. The Committee also recommended that Governments should be encouraged to compile, process and analyse such data as a matter of priority and that the Centre's capacity to deal with them should be enhanced, as an essential part of the process of exchange of information and transfer of technology.

IV. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

A. Research and development projects for general discussion

(a) Policies, programming and administration in housing development

30. The Committee noted with approval the special emphasis that the Centre placed upon providing Governments with assistance in the critical area of housing policy and programming. It also noted the progress achieved on the project, "Survey of rent control policies and practices", and the completion of two major projects, "Housing policy guidelines for developing countries with market economies" and "Non-profit housing associations: organization, financing and structural integration". Those efforts, it was felt, would provide the necessary information on directives for housing policy and remove what the Committee at its eighth session had considered to be a major obstacle to the development of housing.

(b) Rural housing

31. At its eighth session, the Committee had deplored the lack of attention given by Governments to rural housing and had considered that this was not in keeping with the long-standing interest of the United Nations in improving rural conditions. The Committee noted with interest that several Governments had since made policy statements emphasizing the need for the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas and commended the Centre for its initiative in this field. Reasons for increasing assistance to rural housing were stated in the following terms: first, it was necessary to rectify the inequities implied in giving assistance mostly to urban areas, which still hold a minority of the population in most developing countries; secondly, it was crucial to reduce the gap in living standards and wages between cities and villages; thirdly, it was vital to reduce the massive migration from rural to urban areas that had tended to impoverish the former and add to the squatter settlements in the latter; and finally, it was important to maximize the economic, social and cultural potential contribution of rural inhabitants to national development and to integrate them within the development process of the country as a whole.

32. The Committee noted a report produced by the Centre entitled Financing Rural Housing: Selected Policies and Techniques for Developing Countries. ^{1/} The report, the Committee observed, while highlighting the critical imbalance of assistance given to urban and rural settlements in many countries and urging its correction, drew attention to the considerable economic investment and savings potential inherent in many rural situations. It gave guidelines for maximizing the effectiveness of financial assistance when combined with other forms of help. In particular, the report stressed the importance of adapting and expanding existing institutions in rural settlements to include a housing finance function, rather than adding this function to the responsibilities of existing urban housing finance institutions. The latter had frequently failed to give rural settlements sufficient

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.IV.2.

financial assistance, or on satisfactory terms, it was emphasized. The Committee was also informed that this publication had been presented at a Regional Seminar on the Improvement of Rural Housing for the ESCAP region, held at the United Nations Regional Housing Centre at Bandung, Indonesia, in March 1974.

33. A second project focusing on the development of guidelines based on case studies for the establishment of service centres in rural areas was noted with interest by the Committee.

34. The Committee was also informed that the future work in one field would focus upon those aspects of squatter settlements improvement schemes that were affected specifically by rural settlements and would concentrate on the development of simplified administrative structures to facilitate implementation of measures for the improvement of rural settlements.

(c) Social aspects of urban development and housing

35. The Committee noted that the Centre had followed recommendations made at its eighth session regarding work on social aspects of urban development and housing. That work had concentrated upon three projects: the Interregional Seminar on the Social Aspects of Housing held in Holte, Denmark, in September 1975; guidelines for Governments on social integration through housing programmes; and social indicators for housing.

36. With regard to the last project, the Committee noted the Centre's activities undertaken to implement most of the recommendations by the Expert Group Meeting on Social Indicators for Housing and Urban Development held in Dublin, Ireland, in 1971. Also noted was the Centre's response to Committee requests made at its last session, to undertake the formulation of simple indicators based upon easily obtainable data, and to prepare a draft report on social indicators for housing, including an outline of the criteria and methodology for the development of social indicators, a theoretical framework for the identification of social indicators for housing and an identification of the basic social concerns in housing for which social indicators were proposed.

(d) Slums and squatter settlements

37. The Committee was informed that this subject would constitute one of the major areas of concentration of work in the 1976-1979 medium-term plan. The Centre's work in this area included a wide range of activities in collaboration with United Nations agencies. Noteworthy was the Centre's collaboration with UNICEF on projects in eight developing countries and with UNEP in integrated and comprehensive squatter improvement projects for the Philippines and Indonesia. The Centre's participation in the Inter-Agency Committee on Housing and Urban Development for Latin America in Washington, D.C., concerning the Multinational Demonstration Project for the Improvement of Slums and Squatter Settlements in six Latin American countries, and its participation in an advisory group on improvement of slums and squatter settlements for the ESCAP region were also noted.

38. The Committee learned that the Centre had continued to improve and update its information on slums and squatter settlements in anticipation of the major effort to be undertaken in this area as part of its future activities of the 1976-1977 work

programme. As part of this information-gathering, the Centre had reviewed the involvement by multilateral and bilateral agencies in programmes specifically aimed at low-income urban settlements. This review indicated that since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1224 (XLII) in 1967 there has been a growing tendency among international agencies to develop programmes in this field (notable among them being the World Bank investments in sites and services and squatter settlements upgrading and the projects initiated by UNICEF, UNEP and WFP) but the Committee noted that the total amount of aid funds allocated specifically to the improvement of slums and squatter settlements was still only a very small part of international assistance: roughly one fifth of the annual amount allocated to housing, building and planning in general and a mere 0.3 per cent of total international development aid. The Committee commended the Centre for its work in this area, and particularly for its catalytic role in the provision of services in slums and squatter settlements.

(e) Finance for housing and community facilities

39. The Committee noted that the Centre had complied with the Economic and Social Council's request that the Centre's activities in housing finance and housing finance policy be transferred to the new United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974. In agreement with the Foundation, the Centre had agreed, however, to undertake the convening of an Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York in December 1974 to discuss ways of improving the financial management of government housing projects as well as to continue in the preparation of a report on the non-conventional financing of housing. This report, the Committee was informed, would contain innovative ideas on housing finance and would examine different ways in which conventional financing institutions could be modified in order to reach households which could not meet eligibility requirements for mortgage loans. A conceptual formulation of a non-conventional financing approach based on case studies of successful experiences would be included.

40. The Committee was also informed of the completion of another important study concerning criteria governing the multilateral financing of housing and human settlements as requested by the General Assembly (resolution 3130 (XXVIII)), which had been submitted to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly for its consideration. 2/

(f) Building technologies for developing countries

41. The Committee was informed of the activities undertaken to promote international co-ordination and the exchange of information concerning successful solutions achieved through building research in some developing countries.

42. The Committee noted the Centre's efforts towards the establishment of a world-wide network of institutions devoted to the improvement of construction techniques based on locally available materials. In this respect the possibility of co-operation with the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB) was being explored. The Committee was also informed that a

2/ See A/10225.

directory of building research organizations in Latin America had been completed and was in the process of publication, and that a similar directory covering Asia and the Pacific was being finalized.

43. The Committee noted with interest the joint human settlements technology programme between the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and UNEP. The intention of this programme is to establish a number of working groups in selected developing countries that will undertake research and implementation steps conducive to the execution of pilot demonstration projects conceived in an innovative way to use local resources and to improve upon existing schemes in social, economic, environmental and technical aspects. The Committee called for the participation of Governments as an essential element in the successful implementation of such a programme.

44. The Committee noted with interest the conclusions of an Ad Hoc expert group meeting, held in Puerto Rico in 1974, on the utilization of agricultural and industrial wastes as low-cost building materials. The expert group had concluded that agricultural, industrial, consumer and municipal wastes could be utilized as sources of low-cost building materials and had formulated recommendations for a future course of action that would contribute towards solving problems of housing and of the construction industry in the developing countries.

45. The Committee was informed of the Interregional Seminar on Building Operations in Low-cost Construction which was to take place in Rotterdam, in April 1976, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands. The main objective of the Seminar would be to study ways and means of improving building productivity in developing countries through the rationalization of work, the planning and organization of site operations, the selection of building materials and techniques and cost control in projects ranging from sites and services and aided self-help schemes to complete contractor-built homes.

46. The Committee further learned with interest from the representative of Brazil of the research being undertaken in the town of Humboldt on the Amazon by a multidisciplinary team of scientists, including civil engineers, architects, planners and construction material specialists. Those studies aimed at finding ways and means to adapt men to the tropical environment and included research intended to find the best tropical building materials and construction techniques for the tropical regions taking into account the ecological systems of the area.

(g) Design of low-cost housing and community facilities

47. The Committee had discussed the topic in earlier sessions and was therefore gratified to learn of the progress made on the study relating to functional design requirements for low-cost housing. The study which it was expected would be completed shortly, would identify and analyse the use of space under different cultural backgrounds and the relationships between these activities and the physical environment. It would include indicators on critical design factors as well as recommendations for the practical application of those criteria in the design of housing and community facilities. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the study entitled "Basic housing - case studies" had been completed with the assistance of the International Union of Architects (UIA) and would be published in the near future.

48. The Committee was also informed of the Interregional Seminar on Design and Technology for Low-cost Housing which had taken place in Budapest, Hungary in April 1974. One of the Seminar's major achievements was the gathering of technical information on the Hungarian experience in low-cost housing design and construction through typified methods. Thus, the Seminar contributed to identifying areas for the transfer of building technologies that could contribute towards increased production, expanded employment opportunities and the gradual improvement of building industries in the developing world.

49. The Committee was informed by the representative of ECA that its secretariat had undertaken a study entitled "Economic housing in Africa" which was being published. The representative of ECA explained that this publication would contain information on low-cost housing in 32 African countries as well as 22 different solutions to housing problems which the ECA secretariat considers to be important and useful for the region. This publication would be made available at the Habitat Conference.

(h) Improvement and expansion of the building industry in developing countries

50. The Committee noted that this subject was one of the important components of the World Housing Survey and that a preliminary model would be completed during the current year with a view to providing a manageable instrument for the use of governmental officials in their efforts to examine, plan and develop a well-organized local building industry. On the basis of the Committee's comments and suggestions, additional work would be undertaken during the biennium 1976-1977.

(i) Industrialized techniques in building

51. The Committee was informed of the activities of the Centre which have been focused on the rationalization and adaptation of building techniques to suit prevailing conditions in the developing countries and on the examination of development of advanced techniques in those countries at various stages of industrialization. The Committee also learned of the completion of the study entitled "The situation and trends in building in Latin America" which contained an analysis of the impact of construction on national economies of various countries in the region and which identified trends in the development of building technology. The study pointed out the importance of introducing rational procedures at all stages of the building process and stressed the need to make rationalization a working tool to achieve the optimum use of available resources for construction. Data contained in this study on the achievements and failures in the application of innovative technologies could be of considerable value to other developing regions.

52. A representative emphasized the fact that the great interest in low-cost building technologies by developing countries should in no way imply undue restrictions on the use of more advanced technologies. He expressed his country's wish to see the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning continue to look into the most advanced building technologies being used in highly developed countries in order to consider their possible adaptation to the needs of the developing countries.

(j) Urban indicators

53. The Committee recalled that at its session in 1971 it had approved a study designed to identify a set of indicators on the quality of urban environment that could provide a quantitative measure of the performance of an urban system, spanning social, economic and physical aspects of urban development. In recent years, developed nations have directed more and more attention to the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of life in human settlements. The main goal of United Nations research on urban indicators is to provide Governments of developing countries with measurement techniques and indices directed towards the monitoring and quantifying of major changes occurring in key components of the urban systems as they relate to the urban development process.

54. The Committee was informed that, although this project was originally to be carried out in several stages, due to unforeseen difficulties all of the components had been merged into a single phase which would be achieved with the identification of a preliminary set of indicators. It was hoped that, through bilateral co-operation and voluntary contributions from Member States, it would be possible to test the validity of the proposed material through its use in selected activities of the Centre's technical co-operation programmes.

55. The Committee noted that a group of experts on urban indicators was scheduled to meet late in 1975 to assist in the identification of conceptual issues and approaches directly related to the formulation of the preliminary set of indicators. It was acknowledged that, although work on social indicators had generated a large amount of interest and literature, the practical results had been few and the current efforts of the secretariat in establishing a system of social and demographic statistics ^{3/} had produced a first and major step towards the development of an information system based on an internationally accepted body of statistics designed to monitor some key development processes. The continuing co-operation by the Centre with the Statistical Office would facilitate the identification of methods of collection and the compilation of basic and derived statistics related to the project.

56. With regard to the work on urban indicators the Committee stressed the importance of a permanent exchange of information between the Centre and the national and international institutions and organizations, such as the ECE and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which were also carrying out work on the development of urban indicators.

(k) Performance standards for the environment of human settlements

57. The Committee noted that this project had been conceived as a complement to the Centre's work on urban indicators and that it corresponded to the priorities of the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. ^{4/} The study was intended to provide a methodology for the elaboration of planning standards in developing countries and

^{3/} See Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.74.XVII.8).

^{4/} Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14), chap. II.B.

to serve as a guide to planners and policy-makers in the field of urban planning as well as for the monitoring of the quality of human settlements.

58. The Committee noted that the study would be of a sequential nature to permit maximum flexibility, refinement and corrective action and that, since the project was in the final stage of its first phase, it should be completed during the 1976-1977 biennium.

(1) Land policies and land-use control measures

59. The Committee was informed that, in pursuance of its request at the second session, six regional surveys on land policies and land-use control measures had been completed. Following the Committee's request at its eighth session, the survey on Eastern Europe has been initiated with the preparatory work being undertaken by the Institute of Environment at Warsaw, Poland. The Global Review, 5/ which consolidated the findings of the six earlier regional reports, had been published and the findings of the study on Eastern Europe would be issued as an addendum to the Global Review.

60. The Committee was also informed that following a suggestion made at its eighth session, further work was continuing on urban land questions as part of the Centre's preparation of a report on the state of human settlements for the Habitat Conference. Another study dealing with economic and land questions and reviewing the implementation of land reforms under various conditions was also in progress.

61. The Committee, noting the absence of governmental urban land programmes in many countries, stressed the need for the adoption of articulated land policies related both to tenure and to land use for programmes providing for direct governmental intervention in the land market through such means as the acquisition of land and public development of land, and for other necessary fiscal, legislative and regulatory measures to this end, in accordance with the social and economic systems as well as the constitutional framework of each country. Hitherto, it was felt, the role of Governments had been in most cases a passive one and limited to regulatory activities, many of which had further reduced the availability of land.

62. The Committee pointed out that the detrimental effects of the spiralling increases in land prices were nowhere more evident than in their effect on housing programmes for low-income groups. Further, land was out of the reach of not only the urban poor but even the rural poor. Since assured tenure is one condition leading to the improvement of squatter settlements, the Committee recommended security of tenure should receive careful consideration by Governments.

(m) Handbook of threshold analysis

63. The Committee noted with satisfaction the completion of the study on threshold analysis, conducted to facilitate the application of that planning technique in developing countries. The Committee was informed that a number of institutions in different countries had already expressed interest in the manual and copies of the

5/ Urban Land Policies and Land-use Control Measures, vol. VII, Global Review (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.IV.11).

document in draft form were provided to them. Institutions in Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Venezuela which offer training programmes in physical planning had been contacted for testing the application of this technique and the manual in its preliminary form was used as a text for such exercises. The procedure had been of considerable value in carrying out revisions of the draft. The Committee recommended that the study be given due consideration and that it be translated into French and Spanish so as to increase its usefulness.

(n) Glossary of planning terms

64. The Committee was informed that the Government of Spain had indicated its intention to co-operate with the Centre on the Spanish translation of the glossary, now in the publication process, for the benefit of Spanish-speaking countries. The Committee recommended that the Centre seek to interest a French-speaking country to do likewise concerning the French text as the translations of the glossary would require a professional knowledge of the subject-matter.

65. The Committee noted that, because of the expanding nature of the physical planning profession and the rapid changes taking place in science and technology the glossary would have to be revised and brought up to date periodically and that the Centre would, resources permitting, continue to collect additional terms and information for this purpose.

(o) Exchange of information in the field of housing, building and planning

66. The Committee noted that the United Nations had always shown special concern for the exchange of information and transfer of technology and that the General Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Committee itself, had repeatedly emphasized the importance of this form of activity so as to promote the effective and expeditious development of human settlements. Nevertheless, the methods currently employed were traditional and of limited impact and, therefore, called for continual review and improvement.

67. During the period under review, the Committee was informed, the Centre had arranged to have published in book form, in co-operation with the Macmillan Company of London, the technical papers relating to human settlements prepared for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The book was entitled Human Settlements: The Environmental Challenge and was reportedly a commercial success currently going through its second edition. Furthermore, the quarterly Bulletin of the Centre, Human Settlements, had an annual circulation of 18,000 copies in English and one edition annually was being produced in Spanish by courtesy of the Spanish Government. It was suggested that the Bulletin should be also issued in a French language edition and that for this purpose an effort should be made to interest Governments to emulate the example given in this respect by the Spanish Government.

68. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the value of the Bulletin, Human Settlements, which was the only publication within the United Nations family devoted exclusively to activities relating to human settlements, and, in particular, commended the Centre for its intention to devote to the Habitat Conference a whole issue of the Bulletin which would contain information outlining the role and activities of all the members of the United Nations family in this field. Several

suggestions were made for improving and expanding the Bulletin. For example, it was suggested that: (a) the Centre should try to produce a version of this Bulletin addressed directly to the needs and tastes of younger readers, i.e., students of subjects related to housing, building and planning; (b) the Centre should try to charge a nominal subscription for the Bulletin to make it self-supporting; (c) projects and studies should be more fully reported in the Bulletin; (d) some method should be developed for budgeting the cost of inputs of various sorts as part of transfer of technology, thereby contributing to the cost of producing, improving and expanding the Bulletin; and (e) investigation should be made into the United Nations producing its publications directly if there was a possibility of a profit being made.

69. The Centre had also prepared a cumulative list of the publications of the United Nations family in the field of housing, building and planning for the past several years. It was a substantial and unique document and would also be presented to the Habitat Conference. In response to a question concerning the relationship between the computerized mailing list of professionals and institutions active in the field of human settlements, which the Centre had prepared, and the international referral system of UNEP, the Committee was informed that in due course contact would be made in order to compare the two lists.

B. The medium-term plan for 1976-1979 and the work
programme for 1976-1977

70. The Committee reviewed the future work programme of the Centre which had been developed in the context of the 1976-1979 medium-term plan and the 1976-1977 programme budget of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as a whole. The Committee was informed that that plan and budget were based on the concept of the interdependency of the objectives within and among the various programmes for which the Department was responsible and on the requirement to concentrate the Department's efforts on a few integrated areas which responded to the actual needs of the Member States.

71. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the priority themes for the planning period, namely, the promotion of new and equitable international and economic and social order, the development of an adequate natural resource base for economic growth and the improvement in conditions of living, were also the basis of the new priorities of development in the field of human settlements.

72. The Committee emphasized that the improvement of living conditions should be viewed in the light of the basic demands created by human settlements as a result of rapid urbanization, economic development and social change. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the fact that the Centre's work programme reflected the inter-sectoral nature of the problems of human settlements and it also emphasized strongly the need for concentrated and integrated action within the United Nations system to solve those problems.

73. The Committee strongly endorsed the Centre's work programme which, in its opinion, reflected a deliberate effort to focus its activities on fewer specific areas selected in accordance with their importance, relevance and interest to Member States. It also noted with favour that the new programme had been conceived in terms of problem solving, cutting across administrative boundaries so as to

achieve an integrated and comprehensive treatment of the subject. In commenting on the way in which the programme had been conceived the Committee specifically wished to commend the Centre's approach based on the technique of management by objectives as one of the most interesting innovative features of the programme and expressed the view that the approach should be adopted by other units in the United Nations system. Such adoption would facilitate the work of the ACABQ in carrying out its review, on a well-informed and comprehensive basis, of the work programmes under its purview.

Problem areas considered in the programme

(a) Urban growth

74. The Committee was informed of the lack in many countries of national policies and organizational preparedness particularly with regard to the locational factors of economic activities and the related distribution of population. In that respect the current priority of the first area of concentration of the Centre's work programme was considered well chosen since urban growth strategies provided the framework in which housing, building and planning policies and programmes should be formulated and executed.

75. In dealing with urban growth strategies the Committee noted the importance of administrative ties between the governmental agencies responsible for economic planning and the planning of human settlements. The impact of over-all national development policies on urbanization was mentioned as a factor to be kept in mind and additional research in that field was considered by the Committee to be very important. It was noted that Governments lacking clear policies to guide the development of their human settlements could not make adequate investment decisions to cope with the growing needs in infrastructure, housing and community services.

76. Furthermore, in the identification of forces affecting the urbanization process a clear understanding of the locational aspects of economic activities deserved particular attention. The Committee believed that secondary cities and rural settlements, as well as large cities, should also be emphasized in the work programme.

77. The Committee appreciated the fact that the work programme could stimulate and support research by national institutions concerned and it recognized the need for training and research at the national level. That was particularly important in all countries in view of the variations in the characteristics of urban growth which required critical inter-sectoral analysis at the national level before strategies of growth were formulated by Governments.

(b) Improvement of slums and squatter settlements

78. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the Centre's work relating to objective 2 (see E/C.6/145, chap. II) would concentrate on providing assistance to Governments on ways of improving the critical situation in the slums and squatter settlements in rural and urban areas and that that activity would be one of the major foci of the Centre's activities. The Committee realized that the rapid growth of slums and squatter settlements and other forms of uncontrolled development

constituted a most critical problem in the developing countries and that the problem required a comprehensive approach which provided for the simultaneous consideration of both the social and economic factors involved.

79. The Committee, in strongly endorsing the proposed work relating to the improvement of slum and squatter settlements, recommended that both positive and negative experiences be investigated so as to better guide the activities of Member States. It also supported the provision of assistance to Governments through participation in the development of pilot and demonstration projects directed toward the improvement of living conditions in squatter settlements. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the provision by the Centre of consultative services to UNICEF in order to assist that organization in carrying out the different phases of its programmes and expressed its hope that the Centre would develop similar relations with other organizations and institutions both within and without the United Nations system.

(c) Building sector

80. In regard to objective 3 (ibid.), the Committee was informed that there was a need for a more systematic concentrated and integrated approach to building activities and for the development of the building industry to achieve increased output as well as the lowering of building costs. The Committee believed that methods and criteria must be developed to incorporate better the building sector into national economic planning in order to provide more realistically for the inputs needed for the implementation of physical plans and the provision of the required infrastructure and housing.

81. The Committee stressed the importance of the classification and distribution of information in the building field and noted with approval the continuation of the activities geared to co-ordinate building research at the national, regional and international levels. It acknowledged that information on successful results in design and building technology achieved by some developing countries would be most useful to other countries with similar conditions. The Committee felt that, while the Centre had given to its work programme the proper emphasis by concentrating on labour-intensive and low capital investment techniques, it nevertheless considered it necessary for the Centre to keep abreast of new technologies that were being utilized in developed countries and to facilitate the dissemination of information on those technologies to developing countries.

82. In regard to the specific projects for the improvement of slum and squatter settlements, the Committee felt that it was consistent with the basic objectives of the mid-term plan in emphasizing the development of appropriate building materials and techniques which could be used by the residents themselves in improving their living conditions.

(d) Decision-making processes and administrative structure

83. The Committee stressed that the elimination of constraints in current decision-making processes and administrative structures and mechanisms was one of the most serious requirements for both the implementation of plans and the better management of human settlements. The sectoral nature of the administrative structure in many countries had resulted in conflicts between policies and action by governmental

bodies as well as between the public and private sector. The Committee felt that the elaboration of that objective in the work programme did not fully reflect the complexity of the issues involved and, realizing the importance of integrating physical and economic planning within an orderly administrative framework, the Committee recommended that the Centre should strengthen its work in the areas outlined in that section of the work programme.

(e) Information exchange in the field of human settlements

84. The Committee emphasized that, with the increasing number of international and national activities concerning human settlements, it was imperative for the Centre to give added attention to the collection and dissemination of information as well as to the development of more systematic approaches to that end. It pointed out that the current inadequacy in the exchange of information in this field was partly due to the multiplicity of sources of information reflecting the diversity of scientific disciplines and administrative entities involved. Moreover, the Committee believed that developing countries not only lacked the needed information but also that the information presently available was often unrelated to their specific needs. Determination of their needs and the adaptation of existing information systems to answer those needs as well as the development of more effective methods of presentation better suited to the specific requirements of intended users were considered as tasks of the highest priority. Improved methods of exchange of information and experience were also necessary in order to avoid the duplication of efforts and to make possible the more effective sharing of knowledge among Member States. Present efforts in this direction, however, were sporadic and intuitive rather than systematic. The Committee in this connexion recommended the strengthening of or, where necessary, establishment of, regional centres co-ordinated, where possible, by the Centre, as the most suitable means to attain this objective. The Committee also recommended that the Centre should assist as much as possible national and regional centres in unifying, systematizing and making more effective the ongoing exchange of information in fields related to human settlements and also to support the activities of individual Governments in this field.

85. In addition, the Committee emphasized that the objectives of the Centre in this field should be, inter alia, to stimulate the awareness of policy makers, professionals and technicians alike, in adopting the most suitable measures for the solution of housing, building and planning problems, and to encourage the general public to participate in programmes of improvement of housing and human settlements.

86. At the conclusion of the Committee's consideration of that aspect of the work programme, the delegation of France submitted a draft resolution (E/C.6/L.80) which, inter alia, called on the Secretary-General to initiate and develop a systematic documentation and information service in the Centre in collaboration with IDCHEC, to inform developing countries of the information services available to them, to assist interested countries to establish national and regional documentation centres, to invite member countries to collaborate with the Centre in providing such service and to organize regional and interregional meetings of experts to provide advice on the system developed. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of France assured the Committee that the Secretariat would find the governing body of IDCHEC willing to undertake the negotiations foreseen in order to put the draft resolution into effect. He also assured the Committee that there

would be no financial implications for the Centre. The representative of the United Kingdom then informed the Committee that his delegation wished to support the French draft resolution in order to be consistent with its support of Economic and Social Council resolution 1301 (XLIV), which had requested the Secretary-General to undertake "the preparatory work necessary, inter alia, for the establishment of national and regional centres where necessary". That support, of course, had been based on the assumption that voluntary funds might be made available and that no increase in the financial requirements of the United Nations would be needed for that purpose. That view was generally shared by the members of the Committee, including the representative of France, with one delegate adding that time had not permitted him to consult his Government concerning the French draft resolution. The Committee therefore decided to refer the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for examination (see para. 2 (b) above).

(f) Tourism

87. While the Committee noted that tourism development was a new area of concern for the Centre, in view of the close relationship between the human environment and tourism, the Committee appreciated the Centre's involvement in the field. However, it also believed that questions of a managerial and promotional nature fell beyond the Centre's purview and more properly belonged to the World Tourism Organization. One delegation, citing the limited resources available to the Centre, suggested the deletion of this aspect of the Centre's work programme. Following a discussion of that suggestion, the Committee strongly encouraged the Centre to study ways and means of assisting in the increase of the developing countries' share of international tourism with particular attention to the carrying out of studies aimed at ensuring the co-ordination of tourism development with other sectors of national development. Accordingly, the Committee believed that tourism should be treated within the national, regional and interregional comprehensive planning processes so as to avoid the dangers of unco-ordinated and even conflicting development and, above all, to maintain the features of both the natural and man-made environments as the major resources for tourism development.

Conclusions

88. In closing the discussion the Committee wished to register its approval of the work programme as a whole and wished to recommend that, regardless of whatever administrative changes took place in the future, the programme should be continued and expanded. To that end the representative of Finland submitted a draft resolution (E/C.6/L.83) which the Committee agreed to forward to the Economic and Social Council for its examination (see para. 2 (a) above).

V. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR
HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

89. The Committee reviewed the progress made in carrying out the technical co-operation activities in the field of housing, building and planning. It had before it two reports of the Secretary-General, one describing the substance of the technical assistance programmes in this field (E/C.6/146), and the other providing quantitative data and summaries of individual technical co-operation projects which were under the technical supervision of the Centre during the reporting period (E/C.6/147 and Add.1).
90. The Committee noted with satisfaction that there had been considerable improvement in the achievements of the technical co-operation projects in terms of the creation of new institutions; the increasing participation of experts in this field in their governmental decision-making processes; the stimulation of action programmes for the effectuation of development proposals and the formulation of investment projects; the improvement of regulatory measures; and the increase of trained personnel.
91. The Committee endorsed the conceptual framework within which the technical co-operation activities were being carried out and noted with interest that there was a trend towards longer term, more comprehensive projects and welcomed the increasingly interdisciplinary professional inputs being made to project activities.
92. Recognizing the basic role of technical co-operation in institution building and training, the Committee strongly supported the direction of the Centre's technical assistance projects aimed towards promoting more effective participation by professionals in that field in the governmental decision-making process. The emphasis on planning proposals, meaningful within shorter time horizons and directed toward facilitating more effective solutions to the urgent problems of economic and social development in developing countries, was also supported.
93. To that end, the new orientation of technical co-operation projects towards the identification and pre-feasibility analysis of investment projects in order to ensure a more immediate impact on the living conditions in human settlements was strongly supported and the Committee commended the Centre's collaboration with international financing institutions.
94. The Committee endorsed the Centre's approach in incorporating the analysis of environmental factors, where relevant, in all technical assistance projects and it strongly encouraged the continuation of the basic methodologies incorporated in the Centre's technical co-operation projects which were directed towards the simultaneous integration of policies and development efforts at different levels. The Committee noted that those methodologies were comprehensive but also selective, proceeding through successive cycles of equal comprehensiveness but of narrowing focus and emphasizing the interdependence of development levels and sectors.
95. The Committee noted with satisfaction that efforts were being made to maximize the opportunities for public participation and community action in the planning

process and the Committee recommended that those efforts should be increased and that, in the Centre's institution building and training programmes, that aspect should be emphasized.

96. The regional technical co-operation projects were found to be a promising area of activity which should be encouraged and the Committee supported those regional projects, particularly those calling for the establishment of regional training and research centres, as the most practical way to meet the growing requirements of developing countries for manpower training and the promotion of improved building techniques. The Committee pointed out that there was a need for innovative training techniques to close the gap in manpower requirements in that field.

97. The Committee was pleased to note the efforts being made towards interagency co-operation. The creation of a formal machinery to assure co-operation and co-ordination among the specialized agencies in the housing, building and planning field was strongly recommended by the Committee as was a greater degree of contact between multilateral and bilateral projects.

98. The Committee pointed out that the experiences of developing countries could be particularly beneficial to others and that the flow of experience among developing countries was desirable. Some representatives of the regional commissions expressed their dissatisfaction with their experiences with some consulting firms and the Committee endorsed the proposal made by several delegates that the recruitment of experts from developing countries should be given greater attention.

99. To benefit from the experiences of technical co-operation projects the Committee felt that the availability of technical documentation was vitally important. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the resources made available to the Centre's technical co-operation activities by the various funding agencies should be increased so as to allow for the evaluation on a comparative basis of those projects upon their completion and the subsequent preparation and dissemination of documentation and information on those evaluative studies.

100. The Committee took note with satisfaction of a proposal by the French delegation to have the plan to set up a body for investigation of cyclone prevention measures examined by the competent authorities.

VI. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Preparations for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

101. The Committee noted that at its eighth session, while considering this subject under the title "The human environment as it relates to human settlements", it had requested the Secretary-General that appropriate action be taken on a number of recommendations as indicated in document E/C.6/148 which was before it at its ninth session.

102. The Committee was informed that utilization of its expertise in the preparations for the Habitat Conference was being done indirectly through the guidance which it gave to the Centre. The direct utilization of the expertise of the Committee was not necessary because the Preparatory Committee for the Habitat Conference, a governmental body of 56 Member States, consisted of many of the same Governments represented on the Committee, thus permitting the Governments concerned to directly express their views with regard to the Habitat Conference in that forum.

103. Regarding the role of the Centre in the preparations for the Habitat Conference, the Committee was informed that a close working relationship existed between the Habitat secretariat and the Centre, particularly through a task force which had been set up by the Centre to work on the report on the state of human settlements, and through a smaller group which had prepared a study entitled "Urban slums and squatter settlements in the third world" which had been submitted to the preparatory regional meetings convened in Teheran, Cairo and Caracas by the Habitat secretariat. The Centre would also assist the Habitat secretariat in the preparation of the documentation for the Conference itself. This would be in the form of specific inputs for which purpose consultations were taking place. Overall, the Committee noted with satisfaction the preparations being made for the Habitat Conference.

104. Furthermore, the Centre was engaged in the preparation of a study of a diagnostic nature complementary to that on urban slums and squatter settlements mentioned above. The study would attempt to trace the effects on human settlements both in terms of qualitative and quantitative changes, due to economic factors, mainly employment and the availability of resources.

105. Concerning the Committee's recommendation at its eighth session that the necessary additional resources to meet the above obligations be placed at the disposal of the Centre, the Committee learned that no additional resources had in fact been made available to the Centre for the work undertaken in connexion with the Habitat Conference. However, an effort had been made by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to draw upon its own resources, as well as to accommodate some of these additional responsibilities within the Centre's workload. In spite of the resulting strains and over-loading of the Centre, that work was proceeding satisfactorily. The Committee was assured, however, that the technical co-operation activities of the Centre had not been allowed to suffer because of the work being done for the Habitat Conference, though progress on research and documentation had not proceeded as quickly as had been anticipated.

106. The Committee also had before it a progress report which was a report by the Habitat secretariat addressed to the Habitat Preparatory Committee describing the preparations made up to the summer of 1975 (A/CONF.70/PC.13). The Committee also noted that audio-visual programme arrangements are proceeding as scheduled.

107. In response to a statement by the delegate of Canada concerning preparations under way for the hosting of the Habitat Conference, during which it was announced that Mr. James MacNeill, formerly of the Canadian Government's Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, had been appointed Commissioner-General of the Habitat Conference with over-all responsibility for ensuring that Canada's role, both as host country and as an active participant, would be truly effective, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee and the Centre, sent a congratulatory message to Mr. MacNeill in which the continued full co-operation of the Committee and the Centre in the preparatory process for the Habitat Conference was pledged.

108. The Committee discussed the advisability of the Conference recommending specific targets to monitor progress of human settlements and recommended that, while there are disadvantages in attempting to formulate global targets for housing that might be recommended by the United Nations, Member States should present to the Conference specific policies, plans and programmes in the human settlements field which had been quantified in relation to a time period and which had been prepared in view of their capabilities in that field.

109. Several delegations informed the Committee of their contributions to the Habitat Conference and the activities being conducted by their Governments. Special national committees had been established in several countries to co-ordinate the national contributions which ranged from studies on specific issues to films and other audio-visual presentations.

110. The representative of WHO informed the Committee that his organization had prepared two documents for the Habitat Conference, the first being a study on health and the environment in human settlements and the second containing recommendations for action on human settlements and health. Further, the WHO Board had selected the theme of "Health aspects of human settlements" for its next technical discussions in preparation for the Habitat Conference.

B. Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

111. The Committee had before it document E/C.6/149 entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation". The Director of the Centre and the representative of UNHHSF informed the Committee concerning the origin and functions of UNHHSF, as given in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, and also of the efforts made by the Economic and Social Council to rationalize the work of the Centre and UNHHSF in its resolution 1914 (LVII). By the latter resolution the Council had transferred the functions relating to housing finance from the Centre to UNHHSF and had requested the Executive Director of UNEP to take into account, in preparing the programme of work of UNHHSF, the need to rationalize the roles of both institutions.

112. The representative of UNHHSF informed the Committee that among the functions of UNHHSF were institution building, the provision of seed capital, the

stimulation of innovative approaches to pre-investment and financing strategies for human settlements activities, the provision of technical assistance services in human settlements and human habitat management, the mobilization of national resources for the improvement of human settlements and the promotion of the transfer of appropriate scientific and technical knowledge on human settlements projects.

113. Several Committee members expressed some confusion concerning the division of functions between the Centre and UNHHSF, noting that the terms of reference of UNHHSF, given in paragraph 3 of document UNEP/GC/36, and the terms of reference of the Centre clearly overlapped and provided an opportunity for considerable duplication. The Committee was informed that only the functions related to financing of housing and finance policy had been transferred to UNHHSF and that the Centre would continue its work as stated in Council resolution 1914 (LVII). The Committee also noted that the Council had expressed its intention to reconsider the question of respective mandates and wished in that respect, to draw to the attention of the Council the difficulty of distinguishing between the function pertaining to general housing policy entrusted to the Centre and the financing policy which is under the purview of UNHHSF.

114. With regard to the specific relationship between UNHHSF and the Centre, the Committee hoped that the Centre should be represented on the Advisory Board of UNHHSF when that body is finally constituted. In response to a question concerning the relationship between UNHHSF and the Centre, the Committee was informed by the representative of UNHHSF that it was the executing agency for UNDP-sponsored projects concerning subject areas which had been transferred to it from the Centre. The Committee was also informed that the Governing Council of UNHHSF reported directly to the Economic and Social Council as does the Committee.

115. With regard to the larger question, the Committee was cognizant of the events that have taken place in recent years relating to the activities of the United Nations family in the field of human settlements and expressed some concern about the scope and relevance of its own terms of reference. Some delegations believed that the Committee, under its existing terms of reference, had the competence to examine the whole field of human settlements activities within the United Nations system. Other delegations believed that the competence of the Committee to carry out this function had been restricted de facto to examining the activities of the Centre alone. The Committee also realized that its terms of reference had originally been adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1962 (Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV)) and that since that time several new institutions had been created within the United Nations to deal with specific subjects which had an impact on human settlements. The current situation, therefore, required, and indeed the Council had already agreed as noted above, that the overlapping of functions and the considerable possibility of duplication that had resulted should be examined with a view to the rationalization of the situation. For its part, the Committee was convinced that the more complex the problems of human settlements became and the larger the number of institutions dealing with them, the greater was the need for an integrating and co-ordinating body. In the Council's examination of the question, the Committee recommended that its historic mandate as well as the long experience of the Committee and of the Centre should be given careful consideration.

116. The Committee was quite conscious of the erosion of its effectiveness in recent years and wished to draw the Council's attention to that fact. In considering possible remedies to that development some delegations felt that the

Committee could not operate effectively when meeting on a biennial basis and that annual sessions - perhaps for one week only - and an increased membership of a professional nature would better enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate. Other delegations believed that the question should be left to the Council to consider in view of the Habitat Conference and of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System. Above all, it was agreed unanimously that the entire sector of human settlements should receive more financial support within the budgets of the United Nations and its family of organizations than was currently available.

117. One delegation suggested that to resolve the problem the following solutions could be considered: (a) the redistribution of existing resources within the United Nations system to provide more funding for human settlements; and (b) the reduction by Governments of their expenditures on armaments and the allocation of some of those freed resources to housing and human settlements pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1885 (XLII).

VII. CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

118. One of the themes that dominated the ninth session of the Committee was that of co-ordination and co-operation in the field of human settlements.

119. The Committee had before it document E/C.6/150 and Add.1 which summarized the activities of most members of the United Nations system in the field of housing, building and planning. The Committee was also given information concerning the activities being carried out by ECA, ECWA and ESCAP by representatives of those regional commissions. The representative of the International Alliance of Women also informed the Committee of that organization's activities in the field of human settlements. The traditional means of co-operation, the Committee noted, included exchange of work programmes, information exchange, joint sponsorship of expert meetings and regional seminars, the interchange of staff visits, collaboration in data collection and surveys, identification of demonstration projects and the co-ordination of research and training. The Committee also noted the degree of co-operation and co-ordination between the work programmes of the Centre and the regional commissions.

120. The Committee also learned of some significant examples of co-operation and co-ordination, such as the joint development of slum improvement programmes by the Centre and UNICEF in eight developing countries and by the Centre and UNEP in the Philippines and Indonesia, the Centre's contribution to the preparations for the Habitat Conference and the preparation for presentation to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of a study on criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements. The latter work is being carried out in consultation with the World Bank, UNEP and the regional development banks. The Centre had also continued its collaboration with several non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, such as OAS, CIB and UIA.

121. The Committee was keenly aware: (a) that an increasing number of organizations within the United Nations system were operating in the field of human settlements, sometimes with overlapping mandates; (b) that the programmes of those organizations were growing in complexity and comprehensiveness in response to challenges they faced in the areas of their respective specialities; and (c) that there was a legitimate demand by Member States to effect economies and to increase the impact of international programmes by improving their integration and co-ordination. These facts, together with the financial condition of the United Nations system, require the adoption of effective measures leading to the co-ordination of the programmes of those bodies. The Committee noted several successful examples of co-ordination cited in the documents before it but was quite clear and explicit in stating its opinion that no more than casual sporadic efforts were being made in this vital area and in expressing its view that conventional methods of co-operation could not be depended upon at a time when the human settlements sector was in the public eye and when it was likely to become increasingly so as a consequence of the Habitat Conference.

122. In that context the Committee noted the recommendations of the fifteenth session of the ACC Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Housing and Urbanization in 1975 to the effect that the ACC was requested to create a permanent sub-committee on human settlements, which would meet annually, and that the various agencies, together with the Centre, should organize interagency task forces, each of which would be addressed to one specific subject of common concern (such as the improvement of slums or the exchange of information). Those task forces would jointly plan, review and evaluate comprehensive studies or operational projects as well as provide for a systematic feedback on them.

123. The Committee agreed that the joint planning of programmes and policy co-ordination were even more essential now that the United Nations system had adopted long-range budget programming methods. The Committee was conscious of the difficulty of harmonizing the programmes of independent agencies but emphasized that a reduction in duplication of efforts was mandatory. In this connexion the absence of representatives of several bodies at the ninth session was regretted by the Committee.

124. The Committee emphasized the need of a focal point for co-ordination in the field and cited the efficiency achieved in the field of United Nations technical assistance for export promotion after a focal point had been agreed upon in that field. With regard to that focal point it was considered essential that Member States should be represented at a high professional level in order that instructions promoting co-ordination might be issued with the clear support of their Governments. That was even more important in view of the fact that the conceptual framework in this field of housing, building and planning had been progressively broadened to consider human settlements as essential aspects of integrated economic and social development leading to the improvement of the conditions of life.

125. In that regard, some members thought that it was the Committee itself which could most effectively serve as the co-ordinating focal point in the United Nations system, due to the historic mandate and role played by, as well as the special competence of, the Committee itself as well as the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning. Other delegations believed that developments since the founding of the Committee had, to some extent, by-passed it and expressed equally strong views that, since the Habitat Conference was expected to make recommendations concerning the most effective institutional structure in this field to ensure the necessary co-ordination and integration, it would be premature for the Committee to intervene in the matter at that time. It was felt necessary by the exponents of the latter view that the Committee should leave all options open to the higher bodies which were seized with questions of institutional character.

126. With respect to the recommendations which might emerge from the Habitat Conference, there was discussion of the advisability of the Committee recommending that the Economic and Social Council should authorize the convening of an extraordinary session of the Committee, for one week only, in late 1976 in order that it could consider those recommendations. In addition, several delegations expressed the general opinion that annual sessions of the Committee would better enable it to fulfil its mandate. However, aware of the difficulties which such a recommendation would cause with regard to the heavy calendar of the Economic and Social Council as well as for many member countries, it was decided not to make a recommendation to that effect.

127. In concluding its discussion on the item, and in view of similar discussions which had taken place under other items of its agenda, the Committee agreed to affirm the existing and distinctive role of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, to express its desire that priorities within the United Nations should be altered to provide for an increased allocation of resources to the field of human settlements and to request that the Economic and Social Council give careful consideration to the historic mandate and role played by the Committee and the Centre in the field of human settlements when it came to carry out its deliberations pursuant to resolution 1914 (LVII) of 16 December 1974.

128. Concerning the subject under discussion the Committee agreed by consensus to forward draft resolution E/C.6/L.79 proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom to the Economic and Social Council for its adoption (see para. 2 (e) above).

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
TENTH SESSION

129. The Committee had before it document E/C.6/151 containing the proposed annotated draft provisional agenda for its tenth session. This was the first time that the Committee had had to decide so far in advance what subjects it would deal with at its next session in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII).

130. The Committee was informed that the proposed agenda reflected some new emphasis which might emerge from the Habitat Conference, namely recommendations concerning co-ordination and co-operation within the United Nations system in the field of human settlements as well as with respect to the dissemination of information and exchange of experience. Those recommendations would be of great interest to the Committee as they would deal with fields within the mandate originally given by the General Assembly to the Centre which stated that the Centre "should play a major role in the formulation and co-ordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements". The recommendations of the recently held ACC Inter-Agency meeting on housing and urbanization could also make the item on co-ordination more important in the future.

131. The Committee felt considerable reluctance in drawing up an agenda so much in advance of its next scheduled session, particularly when events in the intervening period might alter the arrangements relating to the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements. Thus, the agenda it approved for the tenth session would have to be regarded as tentative at best in order to maintain the necessary flexibility and to reflect the views of members of the Committee.

132. The Committee therefore adopted the proposed provisional agenda subject to the following views: (a) that item 5 of the proposed agenda concerning the review of the situation in the field of housing, building and settlements development might not be given such high priority since that situation had been examined repeatedly over the years and was not, regrettably, likely to change materially in the next two years and since much of the relevant subject material would be covered during the consideration by the Committee of the recommendations arising from the Habitat Conference; (b) that an item relating to the review of the conclusions and recommendations of the proposed Global Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held in 1976 under the auspices of the United Nations, and to its bearing upon human settlements programmes might be added to the agenda since that meeting might well prove to be as important for human settlements as the Habitat Conference; and (c) that item 6 (dealing with the activities of the Centre) might be expanded so that its consideration would become one of the main features of the agenda. That last item would require more extensive and specialized documentation reporting on and assessing the activities of the Centre between the Committee's sessions. The modified agenda for the tenth session is given in annex III.

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

133. The Committee considered its draft report to the Economic and Social Council at its 154th and 155th meetings, held on 23 and 24 October 1975. The draft report, as amended during the discussion, was adopted without a vote at the 155th meeting.

X. ORGANIZATION OF THE NINTH SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

134. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning held its ninth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 to 24 October 1975. The session was opened at the 138th meeting by Mr. Vladimír Mukulaš (Czechoslovakia), Chairman of the Committee at its eighth session. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe made an opening statement on behalf of the Secretary-General. The Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning also made an introductory statement.

Attendance

135. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela. The following States members of the Committee were not represented: Gabon, Iraq, Morocco, Panama, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Republic of Cameroon.

136. The following States Members of the United Nations sent observers to the session: Argentina, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

137. The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia were represented at the session.

138. The following specialized agencies were represented: the International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization and the World Bank.

139. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the World Federation of Free Trade Unions.

Category II: Baha'i International Community, International Confederation of Catholic Charities (Caritas Internationalis), Friends World Committee for Consultation, and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

Election of officers

140. At the 138th meeting, on 13 October 1975, the Committee elected Mr. Anthony Lubega (Uganda) Chairman by acclamation.

141. At the 139th meeting, on 14 October, it elected the following officers:

Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Nicolay Nenov	(Bulgaria)
	Mr. Prasart Junhaman	(Thailand)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Mark Moher	(Canada)

142. Since no candidate for the vice-chairmanship allocated to the Latin American Group was put forward by that Group, that office was not filled.

Agenda and organization of work

143. At its 138th meeting, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Secretary-General (E/C.6/141 and Corr.1). The Committee adopted the agenda without objection. The agenda as adopted is reproduced in annex I of the present report.

144. At the same meeting, it agreed, on the proposal of the Chairman, to consider the items in the following order: item 3, item 6, item 4, item 5, item 7, item 8 and item 9. It also allocated a tentative number of meetings for the discussion of those items.

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

145. The Committee held 18 meetings (138th-155th meetings).

146. The resolutions and decisions recommended by the Committee at its ninth session for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, and other matters of concern to the Council, are set out in chapter I.

147. A list of the documents which were before the Committee at its ninth session is contained in annex II of this report.

ANNEXES

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE NINTH SESSION

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Human settlements at the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade:
 - (a) Review of the situation in housing, building and settlements development
 - (b) Current developments affecting human settlements
4. Research and development activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning:
 - (a) Research and development projects for general discussion
 - (b) The medium-term plan 1976-1979 and the work programme for 1976-1977
5. Technical co-operation activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning:
 - (a) Development of technical co-operation activities in the field of housing, building and planning
 - (b) Technical co-operation projects (1973 and 1974) in the field of housing, building and planning
6. Human settlements and the environment:
 - (a) Preparation for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
 - (b) Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
7. Co-ordination and co-operation in the field of human settlements
8. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the tenth session
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/C.6/141 and Corr.1	2	Provisional agenda with annotations
E/C.6/142	3 (<u>a</u>)	Human settlements at the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade - Review of the situation in housing, building and settlements development: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/143	3 (<u>b</u>)	Human settlements at the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade - Current developments affecting human settlements: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/144	4 (<u>a</u>)	Research and development activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning - Research and development projects for general discussion: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/145	4 (<u>b</u>)	Research and development activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning - The medium-term plan 1976-1979 and the work-programme for 1976-1977
E/C.6/146	5 (<u>a</u>)	Development of technical co-operation activities in the field of housing, building and planning: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/147 and Add.1	5 (<u>b</u>)	Technical co-operation activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning - Technical co-operation projects (1973 and 1974) in the field of housing, building and planning: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/148	6 (<u>a</u>)	Human settlements and the environment - Preparation for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/C.6/149	6 (b)	Human settlements and the environment - Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/150 and Add.1	7	Co-ordination and co-operation in the field of human settlements: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.6/151	8	Consideration of the provisional agenda for the tenth session
E/C.6/L.78 and Add.1-10	9	Draft report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to the Economic and Social Council
E/C.6/L.79	6	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution
E/C.6/L.80	4 (b)	France: draft resolution
E/C.6/L.81	6 and 7	United States of America: draft resolution
E/C.6/L.82	6	Thailand: draft resolution
E/C.6/L.83	4	Finland: draft resolution
E/C.6/INF.2 and Add.1		List of representatives to the ninth session of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning

Annex III

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of the conclusions and recommendations of the Habitat Conference concerning (a) national action, and (b) international action
4. Review of the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Meeting of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries as they relate to human settlements
5. Review of the situation in housing, building and settlements development
6. Activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning:
 - (a) Research and development projects
 - (b) Technical co-operation activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning: development of technical co-operation activities in the field of housing, building and planning, together with the 1975-1976 technical assistance projects of the Centre
 - (c) The work programme for 1978-1979 and the medium-term plan for 1977-1981
7. Co-ordination and co-operation in the field of human settlements: review of the work programme and activities of
 - (a) The regional commissions
 - (b) The specialized agencies concerned
 - (c) The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme as it relates to human settlements
8. Dissemination of information and exchange of experience in the field of human settlements with special reference to the recommendations of the Habitat Conference
9. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the eleventh session
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee