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Nineteenth special session  
Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
AGENDA 21

Contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements  
to the special session

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 51/181 of 16 December 1996, the General Assembly welcomed the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and its relevance to the field of sustainable development, and invited the Commission on Human Settlements to make a contribution to the special session in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda<sup>1</sup> adopted in Istanbul.

2. The Commission, in its resolution 16/24 of 7 May 1997 (see annex I), requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to submit his report (see annex II) to the General Assembly at its special session. The Commission also requested its Chairman to submit the text of Commission resolution 16/24 to the Assembly.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Annex I

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS RESOLUTION 16/24,  
ADOPTED ON 7 MAY 1997

Special session of the General Assembly for the  
purpose of an overall review and appraisal of  
the implementation of Agenda 21

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in particular, the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,<sup>1</sup> and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular, Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup>

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, which urged Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure effective follow-up to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21,

Aware that rapid urbanization, the concentration of the urban population in large cities, the sprawl of cities into wider geographical areas and the rapid growth of megacities are among the most significant transformations of human settlements,

Noting that by the year 2005 the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas,

Emphasizing that urban areas will strongly influence the world in the twenty-first century and that urban and rural populations will be increasingly interdependent in their economic, environmental and social well-being,

Convinced that urban settlements, properly planned and managed, hold a promise for human development and for the protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment,

Concerned that many cities are witnessing harmful patterns of growth, production and consumption, land use, mobility and the degradation of their physical structure, and noting that such problems are often synonymous with soil, air, and water pollution, the waste of resources and destruction of natural resources,

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Reaffirming that sustainable development is essential for human settlements development and gives full consideration to the needs and necessities of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection,

Aware that sustainable urban development requires a consideration of the carrying capacity of the entire ecosystem supporting such development, including the prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental events occurring outside urban areas,

1. Calls on the General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 to take into account the message of the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration, namely, that urgent action in cities and human settlements is necessary in order to secure sustainable human settlements and safe and healthy living conditions, especially for urban populations, recognizing the impact of urbanization on all sectors of sustainable human settlements;

2. Invites all relevant specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system, and the Bretton Woods institutions, to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies within their mandates, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to Habitat II, particularly at the field level. Relevant governing bodies should examine their relevant policies, programmes, budgets and activities;

3. Requests the Executive Director to promote cooperation and exchange of information between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in order to inform their intergovernmental machinery of their respective inputs in addressing the questions of sustainable human settlements development;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit his report on the implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> together with the comments made on it by the Commission, to the General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

5. Requests the Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements to submit the present resolution to the General Assembly at its special session.

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<sup>3</sup> HS/C/16/15 and Corr.1.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21\*

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which the Assembly urged Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to give effective follow-up to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, and to Commission on Human Settlements resolution 15/12 of 1 May 1995, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director, within available resources, to expand further the Centre's coordinating role in the implementation of the parts of Agenda 21 relating to human settlements and to report on the results of such coordination to the Commission at its sixteenth session. The report summarizes the activities of the Centre and its partners in the pursuit of these objectives within the context of its work programme and its ongoing responsibilities as task manager for the implementation of the human settlements component of Agenda 21.

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 51/181 of 16 December 1996, entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", the General Assembly welcomed the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and its relevance to sustainable development, and called for effective interaction and exchange of information on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements. It also invited the Commission on Human Settlements to contribute to the special session of the General Assembly in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted in Istanbul. In addition, by paragraph 14 of resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, on implementation of the outcome of Habitat II, the General Assembly recommended that, at its special session, the Assembly should give due attention to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development.

Accordingly, the views and decision of the Commission on the attached report will be submitted to the special session of the General Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of the two above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

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\* Originally issued under the symbol HS/C/16/15 and Corr.1.

