

**REPORT
OF THE COMMISSION
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
on the work of its eighth session**

29 April-10 May 1985

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/40/8)



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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.

[24 May 1985]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.
2. The report of the Commission on the work of its eighth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6 of resolution 32/162.
3. The Commission consists of 58 members elected for a three-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Algeria*	Guinea**	Pakistan**
Bangladesh***	Haiti**	Papua New Guinea*
Botswana***	Honduras**	Peru*
Bulgaria**	Hungary*	Phillipines**
Burundi***	India***	Rwanda**
Canada*	Indonesia*	Sierra Leone*
Central African Republic**	Iraq**	Spain**
Chile***	Jamaica***	Sri Lanka***
Colombia*	Japan**	Sweden*
Cuba*	Jordan***	Tunisia***
Cyprus***	Kenya***	Turkey**
Finland**	Lebanon*	Uganda*
France*	Lesotho***	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic***
Gabon**	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*	United Republic of Tanzania**
German Democratic Republic*	Malaysia*	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**
Germany, Federal Republic of***	Mexico***	United States of America**
Ghana**	Netherlands*	Venezuela**
Greece***	Nicaragua**	
	Nigeria**	
	Norway*	

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- * Term of office expires on 31 December 1985.
 - ** Term of office expires on 31 December 1986.
 - *** Term of office expires on 31 December 1987.

4. The eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, from 29 April to 10 May 1985, at the invitation of the Government of Jamaica, and in accordance with section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Mr. Edward Seaga, P.C., M.P. A summary of his address is reproduced in annex V (C). The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion; the text is reproduced in annex IV. Mr. Bruce Golding, M.P., Minister of Construction (Housing) of Jamaica, delivered a welcoming address on behalf of the host country. A summary of his address is reproduced in annex V (A). The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made a statement on the urban challenge. A summary of the statement of the Executive Director appears in annex V (D). The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, delivered an address to the session. A summary of his address appears in annex V (B).

6. The session was opened by General Ba Oumar, Chairman of the Commission at its seventh session.

B. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Commission were represented:

Algeria	Guinea	Philippines
Bangladesh	Haiti	Rwanda
Botswana	Hungary	Sierra Leone
Bulgaria	India	Spain
Burundi	Indonesia	Sri Lanka
Canada	Iraq	Sweden
Chile	Jamaica	Tunisia
Colombia	Japan	Turkey
Finland	Jordan	Uganda
France	Kenya	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Gabon	Lesotho	United Republic of Tanzania
German Democratic Republic	Mexico	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Germany, Federal Republic of	Netherlands	United States of America
Ghana	Nigeria	Venezuela
Greece	Norway	
	Papua New Guinea	
	Peru	

8. The following States not members of the Commission participated as observers:

Argentina	Denmark	Niger
Australia	Ecuador	Panama
Belgium	Gambia	Republic of Korea
Brazil	Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
Cameroon	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sudan
Costa Rica	Israel	Suriname
China	Italy	Swaziland
Dominica	Malawi	Switzerland
Dominican Republic	Mali	Trinidad and Tobago

United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Yemen
Zaire
Zambia

Zimbabwe

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.
10. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Western Asia

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
World Food Programme
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

12. The United Nations Council for Namibia was represented.

13. The following specialized agencies were represented.

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
World Health Organization
World Bank
World Meteorological Organization

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica
Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique)
European Economic Community
Latin American Housing and Human Settlements Organization
League of Arab States
Organization of American States

15. The Palestine Liberation Organization, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) were also represented.

16. In addition, 29 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

C. Election of officers

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April, Mr. Bruce Golding, Minister for Construction (Housing) of Jamaica, was elected chairman. The following other officers of the Bureau were elected at the same meeting.

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Istvan Geczi (Hungary)
Mrs. Najet Khantouche (Tunisia)
Mr. B. C. Perera (Sri Lanka)

Rapporteur: Mr. Nicholas Loukidis (Greece)

D. Credentials

18. Under rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

19. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 8th plenary meeting, on 8 May, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the eighth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the eighth session, as contained in document HS/C/8/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Progress report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
5. Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points.
6. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1986-1987.
8. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1986-1987.

9. Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.
10. Themes for the ninth and future sessions of the Commission.
11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the ninth session of the Commission.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report.

F. Organization of work

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole, and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: agenda items 5, 6 and 10;

Committee II: agenda items 7, 8 and certain issues under agenda item 9.

22. At its 5th plenary meeting on 3 May, the Commission decided to transfer consideration of agenda item 10 from Committee II to the plenary.

23. Committee I held 6 meetings, from 1 to 7 May, and Committee II held 4 meetings, from 30 April to 8 May. The recommendations of both Committees have been incorporated into the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

24. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 10th plenary meeting, on 10 May 1985.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

25. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 10 May, the Commission decided that its ninth session would be held from 28 April to 9 May 1986.

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 April, the representative of Turkey extended, on behalf of her Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its ninth session at Istanbul.

27. At its 10th meeting, on 10 May, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Turkey for its generous invitation and decided to accept, in principle, the invitation to hold its ninth session at Istanbul, Turkey, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

28. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its ninth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
5. The role of community participation in human settlements work.
6. The small-scale production of building materials.
7. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.
8. (a) Report on financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations;

(b) Progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.
9. Matters arising out of the decisions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.
10. Other matters.
11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the tenth session of the Commission.
12. Adoption of the report.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

29. In his closing remarks the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), expressed his appreciation to the Commission for the guidance it had provided to the work of the Centre and noted that the eighth session would be recalled for the important decisions it had taken, particularly with regard to institutional arrangements. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Jamaica for the excellent arrangements which they had made for the session.

30. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Jamaica for the hospitality they had extended to all participants and to the excellent support they had provided to the Commission at its eighth session. They also expressed their appreciation to the Government of Turkey for its kind invitation to the Commission to hold its ninth session in Istanbul.

31. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the Chairmen of the regional groups and all delegates for their contribution to the successful completion of the work of the eighth session of the Commission.

32. The Chairman then declared closed the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

ANNEX I .

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission
at its eighth session

	<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>A. Resolutions</u>		
1. <u>Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly</u>		
8/1	Biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements	10 May 1985 10
8/2	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	10 May 1985 11
8/3	A housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories	10 May 1985 14
8/4	Tenth anniversary of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements	8 May 1985 15
2. <u>Other resolutions</u>		
8/5	Creation of a financial and advisory institution for human settlements in Asia and the Pacific	8 May 1985 15
8/6	Assistance to displaced Namibians in settlements in neighbouring countries	8 May 1985 16
8/7	Co-ordination of human settlements activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region	8 May 1985 17
8/8	Mobilization of financial resources for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	8 May 1985 17
8/9	Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories	8 May 1985 19
8/10	Regional co-operation on human settlements and housing in Latin America and the Caribbean	8 May 1985 19
8/11	Contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the International Year of Peace	8 May 1985 20
8/12	Financing of human settlements	8 May 1985 21

	<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
8/13 Co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system	8 May 1985	22
8/14 Meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council	8 May 1985	23
8/15 Work programme and programme budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1986-1987	8 May 1985	24
8/16 Additional resources for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	8 May 1985	25
8/17 Cross-organizational programme analysis	8 May 1985	27
8/18 Assistance to victims of <u>apartheid</u> and colonialism in southern Africa	8 May 1985	28
8/19 Women and human settlements	8 May 1985	29
8/20 Theme for the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session	8 May 1985	30
8/21 Co-ordination of the work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions	8 May 1985	31
8/22 Collaboration with and support of non-governmental organizations	8 May 1985	32
8/23 Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points	8 May 1985	33
8/24 Guidelines for substantive discussion on the special theme	10 May 1985	35

B. Decisions

8/25 Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1986-1987	8 May 1985	36
8/26 Themes for future sessions	10 May 1985	37

A. Resolutions

1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly

8/1. Biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on a biennial cycle of sessions for the Commission, a/ which presented various options and their implications,

Taking into consideration the proposal of the Executive Director in that report for the Commission to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of sessions, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/429 of 19 December 1983 and Economic and Social Council decisions 1984/104 of 10 February 1984 and 1984/57 A of 26 July 1984,

Taking into account the desirability of adopting a biennial cycle of sessions and, with regard to the timing of sessions, the need to meet in odd-numbered years in order to consider the biennial work programme and the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Also taking into account the role of the Commission, as the intergovernmental body designated by the General Assembly as responsible for organizing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, to ensure that there are effective preparations for and follow-up to the International Year,

1. Decides that, on an experimental basis, sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements will be held only during odd-numbered years as of 1987;
2. Further decides to hold a special session of the Commission in 1988 which will be shorter than a normal session and will be devoted exclusively to ensuring effective follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, with special attention to national policies and strategies for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged to the year 2000 and to international programmes in support of national action, and, if possible, to hold that shortened session - taking into account the views of the Committee on Conferences - later in the year than usual but in time for submission of its report to the General Assembly;
3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to submit to the Commission at its tenth session a proposal on the agenda and duration of the special session in 1988;
4. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare a report on low-cost alternatives to intersessional consultations with Governments after 1989, for consideration by the Commission at its session in 1989;

a/ HS/C/8/8/Add.1.

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that it consider changing the term of office of members of the Commission from three to four years, beginning in 1986, in recognition of the biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission.

10th plenary meeting
10 May 1985

8/2. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 7/1 of 10 May 1984, Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/57 B of 26 July 1984 and General Assembly resolution 39/171 of 17 December 1984 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting with satisfaction that over one hundred and fifteen countries have designated official national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless that many countries have already launched intensive national programmes for the Year and have reported on them to the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session, and that over one hundred and sixty projects are under way in sixty-five countries,

Expressing its appreciation to the twenty-nine developing countries and five developed countries that have already made or pledged voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recognizing that an estimated one quarter of the world's population do not have adequate shelter and live in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions and that the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless provides a necessary and unique opportunity for countries to review their shelter and settlements prospects and priorities and to develop, before or during 1987, new national policies and strategies for providing and improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000,

Noting that most of the voluntary contributions pledged to date have been pledged by developing countries and that further voluntary contributions are now needed in order to carry out effectively the overall plans endorsed by the General Assembly for the activities before and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; b/

2. Requests those countries that have not yet established official national focal points for the International Year to do so in the near future, along the lines specified in the annex to General Assembly resolution 38/168 of 19 December 1983;

b/ HS/C/8/4 and Add.1 and 2.

3. Also requests those countries that have not yet formulated national programmes and plans of action for the International Year to do so and periodically to provide information on them to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) so that all national focal points can be regularly informed on activities, progress and achievements of the Year in countries around the world;

4. Further requests those countries and international organizations that have not yet designated projects for the International Year to do so, with special attention to legal and institutional measures to improve access to land, financing, building materials, training and employment, and to send a Project Information Sheet for the International Year on each project to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

5. Requests all countries in their periodic reports on their national programmes and projects for the International Year, especially reports to the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session, to give special attention to their plans for developing and implementing new national policies and strategies for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged to the year 2000;

6. Appeals once again to all Governments that have not yet announced a voluntary contribution, especially those of developed countries, and to international financial institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide effective financial and other support to the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

7. Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption at its fortieth session of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 37/221 of 20 December 1982, 38/168 of 19 December 1983 and 39/171 of 17 December 1984 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"Noting with satisfaction that over one hundred and fifteen countries have designated official national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, that many countries have already launched intensive national programmes for the Year and reported on them to the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session, and that over one hundred and sixty projects for the Year are under way in sixty-five countries,

"Expressing its appreciation to the twenty-nine developing countries and five developed countries that have already made or pledged voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"Recognizing that an estimated one quarter of the world's population do not have adequate shelter and live in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions and that the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless provides a necessary and unique opportunity for countries to review their shelter and settlements prospects and priorities and to develop, before or during 1987, new national policies and strategies for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000,

"Noting that most of the voluntary contributions pledged to date have been pledged by developing countries and that further voluntary contributions are now needed in order to carry out effectively the overall plans endorsed by the General Assembly for the activities before and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"1. Requests those countries that have not yet established official national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to do so in the near future, along the lines specified in the annex to General Assembly resolution 38/168 of 19 December 1983;

"2. Also requests those countries that have not yet formulated national programmes and plans of action for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to do so and periodically to provide information on them to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) so that all national focal points can be regularly informed on activities, progress and achievements of the Year in countries around the world;

"3. Further requests those countries and international organizations that have not yet designated projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to do so, with special attention to legal and institutional measures, to improve access to land, financing, building materials, training and employment, and to send a Project Information Sheet on each project to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"4. Requests all countries in their periodic reports on their national programmes and projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, especially in reports to the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session, to give special attention to their plans for developing and implementing new national policies and strategies for providing shelter and improving neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000;

"5. Appeals once again to all Governments that have not yet announced a voluntary contribution, especially those of developed countries, and to international financial institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide effective financial and other support to the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on progress achieved in the implementation of the approved programme of measures and activities to be undertaken before and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda for its forty-first session an item entitled 'International Year of Shelter for the Homeless'."

10th plenary meeting
10 May 1985

8/3. A housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/224 of 18 December 1984 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/56 of 25 July 1984 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Further recalling its resolution 7/8 on activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. Takes note of the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement its resolution 7/8;
2. Also takes note of the report of the Executive Director on a housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied territories on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; c/
3. Decides to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption at its fortieth session of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 39/224 of 18 December 1984, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on a co-ordinated programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people,

"Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/56 of 25 July 1984 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

"Aware of the need to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of human settlements,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to convene an international seminar dealing with and leading to a comprehensive general housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories, with the co-operation of specialized agencies and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

"2. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

10th plenary meeting
10 May 1985

8/4. Tenth anniversary of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which was held from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Noting with approval the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement the recommendations of that Conference,

Also noting with satisfaction the achievements of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), through its Executive Director,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly, that beginning in 1986, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the first Monday of October of every year be called the "Day of Habitat".

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

2. Other resolutions

8/5. Creation of a financial and advisory institution for human settlements in Asia and the Pacific

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 6/4 of 4 May 1983, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to convene a working group to continue working on the proposal for setting up a financial and advisory institution for human settlements in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that in 1984 the working group submitted a report to the Executive Director, including a proposed charter for the institution, and recommending consultations by the Executive Director with the countries concerned,

Considering that similar financing institutions for human settlements have already been set up in Latin America and, more recently, in Africa through the activation of Shelter-Afrique,

Considering also that the region of Asia and the Pacific has the world's largest number of settlements that could also benefit from the setting up of such an institution in the region,

Recognizing that further work on the setting up of the institution could be a useful contribution to the world-wide observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to circulate to the countries in the region of Asia and the Pacific and to other interested countries and institutions the proposal for setting up a financial and advisory institution for human settlements in Asia and the

Pacific, submitted by the working group pursuant to resolution 6/4 of the Commission on Human Settlements;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to undertake the needed consultations with the countries and institutions concerned in the matter;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit the results of the consultations, together with his observations and recommendations, to the Commission at its ninth session.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/6. Assistance to displaced Namibians in settlements in neighbouring countries

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981 and subsequent resolutions on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Aware of the deplorable conditions to which the Namibian population is being subjected by the racist Pretoria régime in flagrant violation of several pertinent United Nations resolutions,

Concerned about the violent repression against the civilian population in the so-called operation areas, in Namibia, thus forcing many Namibians to flee their native land into neighbouring States, particularly Angola and Zambia,

1. Strongly condemns and rejects as unacceptable any unilateral action by racist South Africa leading towards an internal settlement outside the terms of United Nations Security Council resolution 435;

2. Declares the establishment of the so-called "interim Government" as null and void;

3. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made so far in implementing resolution 7/3 of 9 May 1984 of the Commission on Human Settlements;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue and to intensify his efforts for the provision of increased technical and other forms of assistance to Namibian refugee settlements;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to provide additional financial, technical and other forms of assistance, including the improvement of shelter conditions in the settlements, and to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session on the progress made in that regard.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/7. Co-ordination of human settlements activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which reference is made to the decentralization of resources to the regional commissions,

Recalling also its resolutions 2/5 and 3/7 on support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action and on co-operation and organization at the regional level,

Recognizing the crucial role of human settlements in social and economic development,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for having reached an agreement with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the establishment of a unit on human settlements to be set up jointly by the Commission and the Centre, and for assigning to it the resources necessary to its operation;
2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support, with the required resources, the activities undertaken in the region, within the framework of the agreement;
3. Requests the Executive Director to give more support to the Centre's linkage offices in the region and, particularly, as available resources permit, to strengthen the Centre's Information Office for the Central America and the Caribbean region, whose continuous efficiency is a priority for the participating countries, and to consider the possibility of opening other information offices in other countries of the region.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/8. Mobilization of financial resources for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/77 D of 5 December 1980, in which it urgently appealed to all States and appropriate financial institutions to make or to increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in support of the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/72 C of 4 December 1981 in which it reiterated its urgent appeal to Member States to contribute and, if possible, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in support of the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements (Habitat) and appealed to those that had not contributed, particularly developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, also to make voluntary contributions,

Further recalling its resolution 7/1 of 10 May 1984 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting from the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the proposed budget of the Foundation and on the status of voluntary contributions to it and to the International Year d/ that contributions are not forthcoming and that, for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in particular, there is a shortfall of about 50 per cent of the required amount,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/69 A of 24 July 1981 - in particular, paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof - which refer to the need for adequate financing for the projected activities of the Centre,

1. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have so far made financial and material contributions to the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
2. Strongly appeals once again to all Governments that have not yet announced a voluntary contribution to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, especially those of developed countries and others in a position to do so, and to international financial institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide effective financial and other support to the programme for the Year;
3. Decides that, in addition to the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities which is held at United Nations Headquarters in November of each year, there will be a pledging meeting for voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation on the second day in plenary at all future sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements and special provision at the ninth and tenth sessions of the Commission for pledges of voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;
4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States Members of the United Nations.

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d/ HS/C/8/6 and Corr.1; HS/C/8/INF/4; HS/C/8/INF/5.

8/9. Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on a housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied territories on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the study, prepared by a consultant, annexed thereto, e/

Recalling its resolution 7/8 of 10 May 1984,

Noting that the information presented by the consultant in the annex to the report of the Executive Director is incomplete and inaccurate, does not comply with resolution 7/8 and can therefore not be a basis for any reference,

1. Reaffirms its support for resolution 7/8 of 10 May 1984;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare anew the study on the housing of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, in co-ordination with the Palestine Liberation Organization and concerned United Nations agencies;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to submit the study to the Commission at its ninth session.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/10. Regional co-operation on human settlements and housing in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/57 of 26 July 1984, in which the Council urged the Commission on Human Settlements to take into account technical co-operation among developing countries in the execution of its programmes,

Also recalling that in the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council recognized that in the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, complete use of all bilateral and multilateral co-operation between governmental and non-governmental international organizations should be made,

* Adopted by 29 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

e/ HS/C/8/2/Add.1/Rev.1.

Noting that the Latin American Organization for Housing and Development of Human Settlements and the Permanent Committee of Housing and Urban Development for Central America and Panama have as objectives to assist in the improvement of housing conditions and human settlements of low-income groups through bilateral co-operation among the countries of that region and also through multinational co-operation,

1. Invites the Latin American Organization for Housing and Development of Human Settlements and the Permanent Committee of Housing and Urban Development for Central America and Panama to participate and collaborate with the Commission on Human Settlements in the execution of programmes for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in executing and programming international and regional activities of co-operation, to take into account the Latin American Organization for Housing and Development of Human Settlements as an important organism which can mobilize the political support of its member countries;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to consider the Permanent Committee of Housing and Urban Development for Central America and Panama as a permanent subregional institution and to establish links for co-operation and mutual support in the execution of programmes of technical co-operation in Central America and Panama;

4. Appeals to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to consider giving additional support to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in order to increase its regional activities through programmes and projects in conjunction with the Latin American Organization for Housing and Development of Human Settlements and the Permanent Committee of Housing and Urban Development for Central America and Panama, especially in reference to subprogramme 14.4: Dissemination of information and participation. f/

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/11. Contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements
to the International Year of Peace

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/16 of 16 November 1982, in which the Assembly declared 1986 to be the International Year of Peace,

Recognizing that peace is one of the major prerequisites for solving the global problems confronting mankind, including housing problems,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 39/151 E of 17 December 1984, as adopted, which invited the organizations of the United Nations system to broaden

f/ See HS/C/8/CRP.2, chap. III.

further their contribution, within their areas of competence, to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament, stressing that disarmament would promote the effective economic and social development of all States, including their solution of housing problems, particularly those of the developing countries,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 39/10 of 8 November 1984, which invites all the organizations of the United Nations system to make an even greater contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Notes with satisfaction the work of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat) in preparing the report on the strengthening of peace and the development of human settlements;

2. Stresses the importance of the contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements in implementing the objectives of the International Year of Peace;

3. Recognizes the close interdependence between the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and those of the International Year of Peace;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a report on the contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the strengthening of peace and the implementation of the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Peace.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/12. Financing of human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with concern that resources available for housing and human settlements planning and development remain at significantly low levels,

Recognizing the need to improve the quantum, nature and quality of resources complementary to those provided by the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Noting also the reduction of resources available for human settlements planning and development and the widening affordability gap of prospective home owners, which are a result of international economic phenomena, such as spiralling interest rates, increasing construction costs and restrictive lending policies of multilateral funding institutions,

Further noting that utilization of national and regional financial institutions for channelling resources for housing and human settlements development would facilitate greater development of local and regional expertise as well as regional skill banks,

Also noting that a large proportion of international assistance to developing countries has gone into the provision of feasibility studies and experts, without

the necessary funds for follow-up implementation, including the provision of infrastructure, equipment and training,

1. Calls upon the international community, particularly the multilateral financial institutions, to adopt a more flexible strategy in lending for human settlements projects;
2. Calls upon the multilateral financial institutions to develop more creative financing strategies, particularly in the area of secondary mortgage financing;
3. Urges the international community, particularly the multilateral financial institutions, to utilize existing regional and national financial institutions as the structures through which current and additional resources for housing and human settlements development are channelled;
4. Urges multilateral and bilateral agencies to restructure their present systems of technical assistance for housing and human settlements development in order to give more emphasis to the provision of infrastructure, equipment and training.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/13. Co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 35/77 C of 5 December 1980 and 37/223 C of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to arrange for participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in all aspects of the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary machinery,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 38/167 B of 19 December 1983, in which the Assembly expressed awareness that decision 1983/18 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination did not completely meet the requirements of General Assembly resolutions 35/77 C and 37/223 C,

Noting the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-fourth session that co-ordination should be reinforced at both the inter-agency and intergovernmental levels, g/

Also noting General Assembly resolution 39/170 B of 17 December 1984, in which the General Assembly welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to review in the near future the existing arrangements regarding the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

g/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 222.

1. Agrees with the observation of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), although participating in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, was not a member of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in its own right and had not been able to support adequately the central co-ordinating role of the Commission on Human Settlements; g/

2. Reconfirms its conviction that only full and equal membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination will enable the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to discharge properly its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, to ensure the harmonization at the intersecretariat level of human settlements programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system, and to assist the Commission on Human Settlements in co-ordinating human settlements activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take due account of the views expressed in the present resolution in preparing his report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/170 B.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/14. Meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements and, in particular, section VI on concerted action and co-operation, and 35/77 B of 5 December 1980 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling its resolution 7/13 of 10 May 1984 on joint meetings of the bureaux of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting section III of resolution 12/2 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular paragraphs 4 and 5,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on meetings of the Executive Director of the Centre and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council, h/

h/ HS/C/8/8/Add.2.

1. Expresses satisfaction at the continuing co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. Urges intensification of that co-operation;
3. Decides to include in its agenda for future sessions an item on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
4. Recommends to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme that it include in its agenda for future sessions a similar item;
5. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to agree that the agenda items referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above should be discussed by each governing body during its sessions on the basis of a common progress report of the two Executive Directors;
6. Expresses the view that, upon implementation of the arrangements referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above, joint meetings of the bureaux of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with the two Executive Directors, as provided for in General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 35/77 B of 5 November 1980, will no longer be necessary;
7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to ensure that the views cited above are brought to the attention of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its thirteenth session.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/15. Work programme and programme budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1986-1987

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Reaffirming the role of human settlements in providing equitable economic and social development,

Conscious of its mandate to assist countries and regions in strengthening their own efforts to solve human settlements problems,

Bearing in mind its responsibilities to provide overall direction and guidance to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Noting with satisfaction the results achieved during the first biennium of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,

Aware of the importance of the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1986-1987 in furthering achievement of

the objectives and full realization of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 by the end of the biennium 1988-1989,

Appreciative of the thorough preparations underlying the selection of areas of activity and the setting of priorities in the draft work programme, integrating fully the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recognizing the importance of all elements in the proposed work programme,

1. Expresses concern that the level of the programme envisaged is far too low compared to the scale of the problems to be addressed;
2. Urges all Governments to ensure that extrabudgetary resources are made available to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the timely completion of the 1986-1987 work programme and the 1984-1989 medium-term plan;
3. Expresses its particular concern for the completion of outputs and for activities in the area of training;
4. Approves the outputs and activities proposed in the draft work programme for the biennium 1986-1987;
5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in implementing the work programme, to take due account of the comments of the Commission on Human Settlements concerning such programme elements that ought to have a relatively higher priority in the studies, information and training, and in particular:

- (a) Land policies and practices;
- (b) Development of a local construction industry and appropriate technology;
- (c) Low-cost infrastructure, with special emphasis on sanitation;
- (d) Planning and management of a rational settlements pattern, with appropriate emphasis on small and intermediate centres;
- (e) Development of alternate financial modules or systems that can reduce dependence on Government budgetary allocations or borrowing.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/16. Additional resources for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recognizing that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation is and will continue to be one of the major sources for the funding of projects and programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Noting with concern that the real resources at the disposal of the Foundation have declined, thereby impeding the launching of new projects and programmes of the Centre and even preventing the proper implementation of those already approved and budgeted,

Bearing in mind that the States members of the Commission on Human Settlements, and particularly the developing countries, recognize that greater effort is needed, both on the part of the international agencies and on the part of their own countries, to obtain additional financial and material resources for the launching of new urban development and human settlements projects and programmes which are of primary concern,

Emphasizing that the purpose of such increased effort would be to supplement, rather than replace, the resources now being provided to the Foundation,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to seek additional financing for specific activities, projects and programmes, including those activities provided for in the Centre's work programme and programme budget, through counterpart contributions and the establishment of trust funds and special funds to supplement the resources which the Foundation receives from Governments, from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and from regional development banks and private entities;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify his close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, thereby ensuring more financing of specific activities from the resources of that agency;
3. Recommends that the Executive Director make an inventory of the potential resources available from multilateral international and regional organizations and bilateral financial sources to support human settlements programmes and to create and maintain an information system relating to those existing and potential additional resources;
4. Authorizes the Executive Director to take measures, within the resources available and acting in co-ordination with the relevant international and regional bodies of the United Nations system, to offer alternatives to Governments, such as additional contributions, so that they use national currency and inputs in kind in the execution of projects considered to be of priority concern;
5. Urges Governments to maintain and strengthen existing machinery for international and regional co-operation in which use is made of resources in national currency and inputs in kind, and to try to gear it to the execution of specific priority projects and programmes in the field of human settlements;
6. Further urges Governments, through their representatives to the various international bodies - both intergovernmental and non-governmental - which may be a potential source of financing and co-operation in the field of human settlements, to promote the allocation, on a priority basis, of existing and available financial resources to support the execution of priority human settlements projects; and to try to ensure that their technical co-operation projects designed to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries include components related to areas of priority concern in the field of human settlements;

7. Requests all States, and particularly the developed countries, to increase their voluntary contributions to the Foundation and to deliver them promptly.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/17. Cross-organizational programme analysis

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements i/ and the comments on it made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, j/

Recalling the co-ordinating role for human settlements activities assigned to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Commission on Human Settlements by, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977,

Recalling also the previous efforts of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Commission to review the financial and other assistance to and among developing countries in the field of human settlements and the recommendations for the further reviewing of such assistance made in Commission resolution 7/12 of 10 May 1984,

Anxious to fulfil its co-ordinating role in the best way possible, and to facilitate the task of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in that respect,

1. Considers that what should be included in the human settlements activities of the United Nations system could most appropriately be defined by a listing of areas of action along the lines made in the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements; k/

2. Notes that a statistical summing-up of the activities of United Nations bodies within their different areas of action in many ways does not give the guidance needed for co-ordination of work and the setting of priorities;

3. Underlines the fact that much of the co-ordination work can best be carried out through agency-to-agency contact, based on information that takes into account the nature of the work of each agency;

i/ HS/C/8/8/Add.3, annex I.

j/ Ibid., annex II.

k/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7), chaps. II and III.

4. Further underlines the fact that priorities for action within the United Nations system should take due account of activities covered outside the system, as foreseen by the Commission in its resolution 7/12 of 10 May 1984;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in preparation for the 1990-1995 medium-term plan, to carry out a comprehensive study of the activities in the field of human settlements and the relative priorities attached to them by the United Nations system, including the Commission, regional bodies and Governments, indicating possible areas for co-ordination within the United Nations system;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit his findings in that respect to the Commission on Human Settlements for its consideration at its tenth session.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/18. Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism
in southern Africa*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983 and 7/3 of 9 May 1984,

Aware of the deplorable conditions to which the majority population is being subjected by the racist apartheid régime in South Africa and in the international territory of Namibia, which the racist régime in question continues to occupy by force, in flagrant violation of several United Nations resolutions,

Further aware of the continuous forced removal of the African population from their homes by the apartheid régime,

Concerned about the increased repression by the Pretoria apartheid régime of the African people of South Africa and the people of the occupied international territory of Namibia and about the intensified aggression of the apartheid régime against the front-line States,

1. Strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid régime for its inhuman repression in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, as well as for its acts of aggression and destabilization against the front-line and other neighbouring States;

2. Further strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid régime for its continuous forced removal of the African population from their homes;

* Adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

3. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made so far in implementing resolution 7/3 of the Commission on Human Settlements, as described in his report to the Commission; 1/

4. Further commends member States of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving efforts in support of the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and intensify his efforts for the provision of increased technical and other forms of assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism, pursuant to Commission resolution 7/3;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to provide additional assistance to those countries in which human settlements have been disrupted by the Pretoria racist régime and to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session on the progress made in that regard.

9th plenary meeting

8 May 1985

8/19. Women and human settlements

The United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

Having approved the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on the activities of the Centre,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 September 1984 concerning the International Conference on Population, 1984, held at Mexico City from 6 to 14 August 1984,

Considering that the solution to problems of improving the living conditions of women, including housing conditions, must be closely linked to the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and to the realization of the provisions of the programmes of the two preceding global conferences - the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975, and the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen in 1980 - which could be refined during the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi in 1985,

Noting with interest the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and the report prepared for that purpose,

1/ HS/C/8/2.

Emphasizing the role of women's participation in the solution of housing problems and the special responsibility being increasingly assumed by women in the search for, control of and improvement of living conditions represented by housing suitable for the favourable development of the family,

Believing that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should devote a special study to women's participation in the solution of the problems of the homeless,

Reaffirming the need to take account, in urban-development policies of the new conditions created by the evolution of women's place in economic, political and social life,

Recognizing that community participation makes it necessary to take account of the opinions expressed by women in connection with the formulation of settlement policies and the administration of urban centres,

1. Invites Governments to remain attentive to the concerns expressed by women in the field of housing and urban development;
2. Invites countries to co-operate in order to ensure better satisfaction of women's needs in the field of housing, especially in developing countries;
3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give an appropriate place, depending on the case concerned, in the thematic examination of questions related to human settlements, to the special impact of the evolution of the tasks fulfilled by women in society;
4. Proposes that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements should consider the possibility of sponsoring a seminar in a State willing to host it, as part of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, in order to define the role of women in the conception, utilization and maintenance of human settlements.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/20. Theme for the Commission on Human Settlements
at its ninth session

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Considering the importance of indigenous experiences developed by the developing world in trying to find solutions to their human settlements problems,

Convinced that Governments should give wide support to popular movements that demonstrate their efficiency, and look forward to adapting and applying the experiences of different countries on a co-operative basis,

Taking note of the fact that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his address to the Commission at its eighth session, called attention to the critical situation confronted by the peoples of Africa, Latin America and Asia, whose economies are at the edge of collapse,

Recognizing that there exist some examples of solutions orientated towards the generation of income, human resources and materials for housing which can alleviate the economic crisis,

Recalling Habitat United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, m/ at which appeals were made for special attention to make a reality of the right to housing,

Taking note of its resolution 7/7 and the note by the secretariat on the preparation of the theme paper for the Commission at its ninth session, n/

Recommends that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in preparing the documentation for the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session, take into consideration the following topics:

(a) The importance of community solutions that are recognized in several developing countries as implementable using available resources;

(b) The need to emphasize the clear perspective that should be given predominantly to social, political and economic factors in solutions to housing and human settlements problem;

(c) The importance of promoting knowledge and taking advantage of existing appropriate technologies to be used by the beneficiaries in their own regions and of adapting the solutions already achieved by old civilizations as the expression of their cultural development;

(d) The need to intensify the study and utilization of non-conventional financing mechanisms that have already shown positive results.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/21. Co-ordination of the work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Welcoming the draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1986-1987, o/

Aware of the important role that the regional commissions can play in human settlements work,

m/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7), chap. I.

n/ HS/C/8/9.

o/ HS/C/8/CRP.2.

Aware also of the complementarity of the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and that of the regional commissions in many areas of activity,

Further aware of the need of the regional commissions to adapt their work programmes to the specific needs and possibilities of their regions,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for his efforts to establish close working relationships with the regional commissions;

2. Urges the regional commissions to co-operate closely with the Centre in developing and implementing their respective work programmes and priorities in the human settlements field;

3. Requests the Executive Director, when submitting the work programmes of the regional commissions in the human settlements field for the biennium 1988-1989, to supply a synoptic chart showing the relationships between the subprogramme elements of the Centre and the programmes of the regional commissions;

4. Recommends that the Executive Director should continue his efforts to co-ordinate the work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and those of the regional commissions, and to take their relevant work into account in developing and implementing the work programme of the Centre.

9th plenary meeting

8 May 1985

8/22. Collaboration with and support of non-governmental organizations

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in section IX of which it is stated that, at the global as well as the regional level, co-operation should be sought with universities, research and scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations, voluntary groups and so on, in order to make full use of their knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing the valuable contribution which non-governmental organizations such as the Habitat International Council can make to the promotion and furtherance of human settlements development and related activities aimed at improving the living conditions of the people,

Expressing satisfaction with the efforts made so far to ensure co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Habitat International Council and other non-governmental organizations in the field of human settlements,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and, wherever possible, extend his co-operation with and support of the Habitat International Council and other non-governmental organizations active in the field of human settlements, in particular in the following areas:

- (a) The ongoing development and implementation of the work programme of the Centre, on a regular basis;
- (b) Technical co-operation activities;
- (c) Training, and the collection and dissemination of information;
- (d) The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, including the implementation of the information policy for the Year.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/23. Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind that:

- (a) The potential role of small and intermediate settlements in helping to meet national development priorities is often underrated;
- (b) Through small and intermediate centres, significant social and technical services can be delivered to the population in greatest need in developing countries at affordable costs;
- (c) The concept of small and intermediate centres is not a function of size alone, and therefore small and intermediate centres ought to be identified by their function and roles in a settlement system;
- (d) Small and intermediate settlements can be the level of government and administration at which local development plans are formulated and implemented and that they represent an optimum opportunity to mobilize scarce development resources in a settlement system;
- (e) Small and intermediate centres can perform a strategic and unique role in achieving national and regional economic goals, since they are particularly sensitive to the consequences of the network of international economic interdependence;
- (f) International organizations, including non-governmental organizations, can play a crucial role in the development and support of small and intermediate centres within the settlement system of developing countries;

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points"; p/

2. Takes note of the recommendations made in Intermediate Settlements: Planning and Management Within a Spatial Strategy, a report prepared by a seminar of experts organized by the Centre for Human Settlements, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and submitted to the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session by the Government of Canada;
3. Recommends that Governments recognize the inevitable and well documented interdependence between settlement policies and economic development policies and incorporate spatial consideration into those policies, since long-term economic development demands equally long-term settlement strategies;
4. Also recommends that Governments assess thoroughly the spatial biases inherent in administrative structures, sectoral plans and programmes, taxation and planning systems, and adjust social and economic policies with settlement strategies;
5. Further recommends that Governments examine the strategic role intermediate settlements can play in implementing national and regional development policies and thereby assist in distributing the intended benefits with justice and fairness, particularly to the most disadvantaged segments of the population;
6. Urges Governments to formulate and adopt policies for economic and social development that recognize explicitly the locational implications of economic development and trends, particularly in the distribution of population and related economic opportunities and identify offices within their administrations to promote the interests of small and intermediate settlements;
7. Also urges Governments to recognize that comprehensive planning and management of intermediate settlements is required to meet the needs of a community within a regional spatial strategy, since it can contribute significantly to regional economic expansion and generate meaningful and lasting employment;
8. Further urges Governments to integrate local government into the formulation, planning and implementation of local development programmes and projects, reflecting the strategic role local authorities can play in achieving national settlement policies and the necessity of relying on local experience and knowledge in the development of small and intermediate centres;
9. Urges Governments, in pursuing a settlement system as part of their economic development policy, to recognize and encourage a strategic collaboration between public- and private-sector institutions, since neither has the resources necessary to achieve its development goals alone;
10. Urges multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, at the request of recipient countries, to raise the priority in their policies, programmes and projects for small and intermediate settlements, particularly to support low-income groups with improved housing and living facilities and thereby help in tapping unutilized or under-utilized resources to build and support the local community and its self-government;
11. Requests countries to pay special attention, when preparing and executing demonstration projects and national shelter strategies for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, to creating, expanding and strengthening the role of small and intermediate settlements, in order to meet the objectives of the Year;

12. Also requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give special attention to strengthening and expanding the role of small and intermediate settlements in implementing the 1987 work programme of the Centre for the 1986-1987 biennium in the proposals for the work programme of the 1988-1989 biennium.

9th plenary meeting
8 May 1985

8/24. Guidelines for substantive discussion on the special theme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having noted with satisfaction that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has prepared valuable documentation on the subject of the special theme for its eighth session: "Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points",

Recognizing the usefulness of sharing the national experience of member States and observers,

Also recognizing that the interventions in Committee I dealing with the special theme can be characterized as mainly treating the national situation of the delegates' respective countries,

Again recognizing that those interventions should substantively improve the documentation provided by the Executive Director, and they should be expedient for substantive discussion between the delegates during meetings of the Committee,

Taking into account the fact that many delegates have expressed a sincere desire to use the meetings of the Committee to make substantive remarks explicitly related to the documentation and to hold discussions with other delegates during those meetings,

Also noting with appreciation that the secretariat has made other special arrangements for giving exposure to national presentations by the delegates during the session,

1. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to form a working group, composed of members of the secretariat and interested members of the Commission, preferably one from each of the regional groups, which will develop guidelines for eliciting more substantive discussions on special themes at future sessions of the Commission;

2. Further invites the Executive Director to take into account the considerations outlined in the annex to the present resolution, regarding guidelines for the proposed working groups;

3. Further requests that the guidelines should be applied on an experimental basis, beginning at the ninth session of the Commission.

10th plenary meeting
10 May 1985

Annex to resolution 8/24

Considerations with regard to guidelines for the
proposed working group

1. National presentations related to the special theme of future sessions will be presented to the plenary, with explicit reference to the structure and content of the documentation prepared by the Executive Director on the special theme. Those presentations can be delivered in any one or a combination of three available means: oral statements; audio-visual presentations; or pamphlets.
2. Along with the formal presentations, the Committee dealing with the special theme will establish one or more workshops to discuss the main issues and proposals set forth in the documentation prepared by the Executive Director. The number of workshops will depend on the number of sub-themes that will evolve from considerations of the special theme.
3. Considerations (1) and (2) will be taken into account by the Executive Director when he prepares the documentation for each session, in order to provide a clear reference for national statements and a well structured framework for discussions. Those guidelines also imply that the documentation prepared by the Executive Director should be received by the different participants well in advance of each session.
4. The working group will develop techniques to ensure that the emphasis in dealing with the special theme should be on substantive discussions and not on statements on national situations. The working group should explore ways and means to ensure the best and most efficient use of the time available for such substantive discussions.

B. Decisions

8/25. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1986-1987

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1985, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee II, adopted the following decision:

The Commission on Human Settlements, having reviewed the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) g/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised estimates of resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and their utilization in the 1984-1985 biennium and the proposed utilization of

g/ HS/C/8/6 and Corr.1.

resources in the 1986-1987 biennium, r/ and having also reviewed the report of the Executive Director on the other extrabudgetary resources of the Centre, s/

(a) Commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the restraint and good financial management shown in the utilization of the limited resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(b) Approved the proposed allocations of funds for programme, programme support, projects and reserve purposes for the biennium 1986-1987, in accordance with the mandate of the Foundation and financial rule 303.1;

(c) Also approved the proposed utilization of resources for the implementation of the activities related to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

(d) Noted with appreciation the contributions of those member States that have consistently provided financial support to the Foundation and also those States that have made pledges in support of activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

(e) Also noted the need for a minimum balance in the Foundation of over \$5 million to be carried from one biennium to the next in order to enable the Foundation to continue to maintain its viability.

8/26. Themes for future sessions

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 10 May, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the following decision:

(a) To include a theme on the small-scale production of building materials in the agenda for discussion at its ninth session, in addition to the theme on the role of community participation in human settlements work;

(b) That there would be no special theme apart from a discussion on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless at its tenth session;

(c) To consider the inclusion of a theme for its eleventh session on the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of different levels and organizations in the governmental and the non-governmental sectors, and opportunities for co-operation and partnership among them, with a preliminary outline to be presented for consideration to the Commission at its tenth session.

r/ HS/C/8/6/Add.1.

s/ HS/C/8/7.

ANNEX II

Special presentationsA. Audio-visual presentations on the planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points

<u>Country</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Length (minutes)</u>
France	Libérer l'initiative locale: le mouvement de la décentralization	French	19
Hungary	The development of medium-size and small towns in Hungary	English	19
Jamaica	A new day is dawning	English	9
Japan	City planning in Yokohama	English	17
Kenya	A case for decentralization	English	14
Mexico	Proyecto estratégico de ciudades medias	Spanish	15
Peru	Plan Nacional de Vivienda en el Peru, 1980-1985	Spanish	20
Sri Lanka	Learning from Sevanagama: a success story of traditional construction	English	11
Trinidad and Tobago	Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points	English	13
Turkey	For a better future	English	15
Chile	Carretera Austral	Spanish	5

B. Audio-visual presentations relating to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

UNCHS (Habitat)	Adequate shelter, an investment in mankind	English	20
France	Et la ville va	French	16
Mexico	Un hogar para el hombre	Spanish	18
Sri Lanka	Demonstration project for IYSH (1987)	English	20

C. Audio-visual presentations on other themes

<u>Country</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Length (minutes)</u>
Bolivia	Las zonas de desastre y la planificación de los asentamientos humanos y la vivienda	Spanish	12
Canada	Lessons from Lesotho	English	30
Chile	Millalemu: una comunidad rural	Spanish	10
Dominica	Housing in suburban areas	English	16
Indonesia	Untitled	English	20
Korea, Republic of	Untitled	English	20
Panama	Los mananitas	Spanish	11
Peru	Los repatriados	Spanish	10
Uganda	War-damaged towns in Uganda	English	30
Yemen	The Urban Development Project	English	20

D. Photo displays

Bulgaria	Bulgarian contribution to the IYSH programme
Burundi	World Bank project
Gabon	Scheme préliminaire d'urbanisme
Haiti	Motivation panels for community participation in two urban reconstruction projects
Honduras	Self-help rural housing
Japan	Integrated residence policy and trends in local cities in Japan
Papua New Guinea	Low-cost housing
Republic of Korea	Korean National Housing Corporation
Sri Lanka	Low-cost housing technology in Sri Lanka

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Small and intermediate towns in Hong Kong, Oman and Peru
Uganda	Uganda's focal issues in the human settlements based on growth points
Yemen	Life and services Upgrading of mosque area Urban project for Hodeldaj
USSR	Fortieth anniversary of victory in the great patriotic war
UNCHS (Habitat)	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
Department of Public Information, United Nations Secretariat	Fortieth anniversary of the United Nations

Two additional video programmes were available for viewing:

Earth construction technologies appropriate to developing countries;

The Malikaganda experience: participation in communication (Sri Lanka).

ANNEX III

List of documents

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HS/C/8/2	Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director	4
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HS/C/8/3	Planning and management of human settlements, with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points: report of the Executive Director	5
HS/C/8/3/Add.1	Review of past approaches and experiences. The development of small and intermediate centres and their share in national population: report of the Executive Director	5
HS/C/8/3/Add.2	Review of past approaches and experiences. Small and intermediate urban centres in the subnational, national and international contexts: report of the Executive Director	5
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HS/C/8/3/Add.4	Review of past approaches and experiences. Review of spatial biases implicit in governmental structure, non-spatial policies and sectoral plans: report of the Executive Director	5
HS/C/8/3/Add.5	Review of past approaches and experiences. References: report of the Executive Director	5
HS/C/8/4	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: report of the Executive Director	6

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
HS/C/8/4/Add.1	Information strategy for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: report of the Executive Director	6
HS/C/8/4/Add.2	Geographical and substantive coverage of IYSH projects as at 1 March 1985: report of the Executive Director	6
HS/C/8/5	Draft work programme and programme budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1986-1987: report of the Executive Director	7
HS/C/8/6 and Corr.1	Proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1986-1987: report of the Executive Director	8
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* This document, prepared by the Secretary-General for submission to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, was not available in time for submission to the Commission at its eighth session.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
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HS/C/8/INF/14/Rev.1	Final list of participants	

ANNEX IV

Message from the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session

1. It is with much pleasure that I convey my greetings to all the participants at the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

2. We are deeply appreciative of the kind invitation extended by the Government of Jamaica to hold this session of the Commission at Kingston. The Government and people of Jamaica have shown a consistent commitment to the ideals of the United Nations and have given concrete support to efforts to realize those ideals. This support has been particularly manifest in recent years in connection with the negotiations to establish a new and equitable régime for the oceans. It is therefore most appropriate that the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea should have decided to locate the headquarters of the International Sea-Bed Authority at Kingston. I take this opportunity once again to express our gratitude to the Government and people of Jamaica for their commitment to our common endeavour.

3. Last year the Commission met in Africa, where participants had occasion to deepen their understanding of the grave economic and social problems confronting that continent. It is equally fitting that the Commission should this year meet in a region where the economic and social problems, aggravated by a different, though equally grave, set of circumstances, are also disturbing. I refer here to the heavy debt burdens which have for the past few years kept the economies of several Latin American and Caribbean countries on the brink of disaster.

4. Several of the countries of this region are currently trapped in a vicious circle where debt-servicing is effectively cancelling out any gains in the field of development. In some particularly serious instances, as much as 80 or 90 per cent of countries' export earnings has been required merely to pay the interest on their loans - to say nothing about repayment of the principal sums. When a country needs so much of its income to pay off its debts, very little remains for the provision of such essential imports as capital goods, spare parts and fertilizers, and even less for programmes such as housing, education and medical care.

5. Although they have not yet reached such disturbing magnitudes elsewhere, the problems precipitated by the debt burdens of Latin American countries are shared by other developing countries in Africa and Asia. Countries of all three regions are experiencing the stultifying effect of the debt burden on their capacity to improve the lot of their people and, for some, to cope with the effects of natural or human-induced disasters. Furthermore, this situation, together with the stringent austerity measures which have typically been prescribed for coping with it, has carried with it ominous seeds of political and social instability, which can in no way favour development in the affected countries. For these reasons, the debt burden is in fact intimately bound up with the substance of your concerns at this session, as indeed with the concerns of all who seek to promote development in all its various facets.

6. For the Commission on Human Settlements, whose focus is on the improvement of the living conditions of people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, these are genuine grounds for concern. The human settlements sector, typically neglected in national development plans even in the best of times, will suffer even greater

neglect under these difficult circumstances. Such an outcome would indeed be a tragic error, for it has been shown that investment in human settlements activities, with their high multiplier effect and indigenous component, can pave the way to economic recovery in hard times.

7. It is in this context that I personally welcome the emphasis which the Commission has placed in its work on promoting the maximum use of indigenous resources, human and material, in human settlements development, and I urge all Governments to adopt the same emphasis.

8. I also welcome the selection by the Commission of the theme "planning and management of human settlements with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points" for review at this session. Proper planning and management of intermediate centres can be a strong stimulus and play a critical catalytic role in the development of the rural areas. The establishment of agro-industries, programmes of natural resource exploitation and integrated rural development will never be successful without this essential component, for it is only through the proper development of small and intermediate centres that the required economic and social infrastructures can be provided to an increasing proportion of the national population.

9. I wish you every success in your important deliberations at this session.

ANNEX V

Summaries of statements

A. Welcome address by Mr. Bruce Golding, Minister of Construction (Housing), Jamaica

The Minister stated that Jamaica continued to maintain a keen interest in the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The condition of human settlements for the poor in the world, especially in the developing world, continued to deteriorate. The creeping effects of that deterioration on social stability, community organization, public health and - especially - on the development of children, posed alarming consequences for the world unless it was possible to summon the political will and find a way to provide resources to arrest the decay and improve the quality of life for the poor. The Commission should continue its efforts to secure for human settlements development a higher place on the agenda of national and international priorities.

B. Address by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. R. Premadasa

1. The Prime Minister stated that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had become a comprehensive activity and part of a large moral crusade to improve the quality of life for human beings. He warned that the Year should not be mere symbolic lip-service to its goals but the onset of a co-ordinated long-term approach. The future of a substantial part of humanity was at stake, and so was the credibility of the international community.

2. Success in the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would depend, to a significant extent, on the overall economic strategies of countries, in which the shelter sector should receive the high priority it deserves. In Sri Lanka a successful five-year shelter programme had been completed in 1983, and a new programme, involving the building of 1 million houses launched. The experience had made the Government aware of the critical importance of settlements policy in development efforts.

3. The Prime Minister suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of regional working groups on settlements, technology and education, to study and test settlements technology, materials and ideas, and to develop educational efforts. In addition, the feasibility of a global housing and shelter bank should be studied, which would channel international resources into local programmes and place funding and repayments on a sound financial foundation. An appeal should be made that 1 per cent of military outlays be diverted for housing and into the institution.

4. The Prime Minister proposed that the Commission should agree on two clear targets that would be central to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and would provide the framework for a future global settlements policy. The first target concerned an accelerated international programme of building settlements; Governments should make pledges of the number of settlements they were planning for the next decade. The second target concerned institutionalization. An international agency should be established with the special objective of promoting

shelter and allied activities. It was the intention of Sri Lanka to propose such an institution in 1987, the International Year.

C. Keynote address by Mr. Edward Seaga, Prime Minister of Jamaica

The Prime Minister noted that the projections with regard to human settlements for the rest of the century, especially for the developing countries, were daunting. Many factors, however, gave cause for optimism, one of them being the sessions of the Commission, in which concerns, ideas and strategies for dealing with the challenge were pooled. The interdependence of the developed and developing worlds was no longer seriously disputed, nor confined to matters of trade and economics. In addition, however, the importance of national strategies should not be overlooked. In Jamaica the perceived need to integrate physical planning strategies with national development planning as a means of guiding urban growth, to achieve the most adequate use of land, and the allocation of economic and social activities, had led to the formation of such a national settlement strategy. Within that strategy the role of rural centres, including the provision of public services and economic infrastructure to small and intermediate towns, was seen as vital. Major concerns in promoting and achieving appropriate human settlements development were the promotion of public participation and the mobilization of finance. Serious consideration should be given, in particular, by international financing and lending institutions to the provision of funds for secondary mortgage financing, since those institutions had available to them the necessary long-term, low-interest money, critically essential for that purpose. There was also need for greater support by donors for programmes which addressed long-term development objectives, and for higher priority to be given to funding programmes for operation and maintenance, so that existing investments and infrastructure could be fully utilized. In the final analysis, however, it had to be national Governments that must take the lead. One area of attention should be how to marshal the countries' own resources, including the development and use of indigenous building materials, and the promotion and application of mechanisms for creating mortgage financing for low-income housing.

D. Address by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. The Executive Director stated that he found it useful to focus his remarks at each session on a specific topic in the broad field encompassed by the subject of human settlements. He subsequently directed his remarks to the urbanization phenomenon, as an essential determinant of the human settlements landscape currently and in the years to come.

2. He recalled four basic and well documented facts of urbanization:

(a) The human environment was becoming more and more an urban one. By the year 2010, for the first time in history, the majority of the world's population would be living in settlements classified as urban;

(b) Change would come about mostly through the population shift in developing countries;

(c) Urbanization was taking place at an unprecedented rate, with predictable consequences as far as the capability to supply shelter and services at a commensurate rate was concerned;

(d) Urbanization was leading not only to more towns and cities but to larger and larger cities - often called megacities - as illustrated by the fact that by the turn of the century, 24 cities would reach the level of 10 million or more inhabitants.

3. The Executive Director then drew some conclusions from those four facts and the trends they entailed. The first conclusion was that urbanization was a reality in current life and that megacities were going to continue to exist and indeed to grow even bigger. He said that many experts and policy makers had not necessarily accepted that reality and that many plans still existed which tried to check or reverse the process.

4. A second conclusion was that enormous demands would be placed by the urbanization process on financial, material and managerial resources. It followed that, with a continuation of current trends, countries would have to double their capabilities to produce and manage shelter, infrastructure and services requirements in order merely to maintain the not-too-rosy status quo. Urbanization thus challenged countries to cope with their urban situations in conditions of diminishing resources and rising expectations.

5. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the urban situation in Latin America and the Caribbean region, the most urbanized region as far as developing countries were concerned. He cited urbanization rates in a number of countries of the region.

6. The Executive Director then asked what one could learn of the urbanization experience of the region. He summarized the more significant human settlements characteristics of the region, noting the mature stage of urbanization, the availability of satisfactory technological solutions, the abundance of qualified manpower, the variety and depth of policy experience and the commitment of many Governments to human settlements development as an integral part of national economic development.

7. The Executive Director wondered why, then, the Latin American and Caribbean region was also confronted with phenomena quite similar in nature and scale to those found in less urbanized regions. He concluded that the human settlements challenge could not be met simply in terms of technology, know-how and appropriate sectoral policies. The inequalities of human settlements, as exemplified by the continued existence of slums and squatter settlements within and outside cities, could not be removed without addressing the inequalities embedded in society. He said that the simple reality was that the needed breakthrough could only be achieved by making some "hard choices" aimed at removing some of the structural obstructions to the human settlements development process and at creating conditions for an equitable and just society.

8. He went on to state that we must awaken to the realization that legislation without implementation mechanisms and policies without adequate resources and instruments could not produce anything but disillusionment, frustration and apathy. There was need to reduce the gap between grandiose policy objectives and minimal financial resources. That implied promising less and delivering more, and it meant calling for sacrifices from all sections of society. Policy choices could

not be confined to human settlements policies, institutions, planning and management, as illustrated by three policy areas where the necessity for broader scope was very clear - namely, administrative decentralization; land; and metropolitan planning and management.

9. In conclusion, the Executive Director stated that, given the projected conditions in large urban centres, it was no wonder that many people entertained nothing but negative images of such centres, seeing them as sources of congestion, environmental pollution, crime and other ills of society. But, he pointed out, cities were also creators of wealth and, in the majority of countries, centres of production. Growth in settlements was the most common indicator of overall growth in a national economy. Conversely, efficient and functioning urban settlements were essential to the maintenance of growth and ensured that at least some of the material benefits of economic expansion were shared by a larger number of people. What was required, therefore, was knowing how to manage urban areas and get the best out of them.

E. Statement by the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

1. The Deputy Executive Director pointed out that the disasters that confronted people in the developing world's major urban centres were not inevitable and could be avoided with good planning - sustainable growth planning, a major element of which would lie in the rational distribution and density of human settlements. There was need to address the issue of sustainable development on many fronts simultaneously. Piecemeal approaches would not work. Adequate population policies and policies promoting the full use of agricultural potential had to be essential parts of that comprehensive approach.

2. The joint programmes of UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had shown that some headway could be made in cities considered by many to have grown beyond manageable size. Projects had been undertaken in areas like slum improvement, re-orientation of prejudicial land tenure systems, the upgrading of water supply and waste disposal, and the reduction of pollution. In the light of the total human settlements crisis, however, those efforts were still small indeed. More emphasis should be placed on the need to catalyze shifts in governmental development policies - which would open the way for balanced and equitable growth. The Commission's selection of the theme of planning and management of human settlements with emphasis on small and intermediate towns and local growth points provided an appropriate opportunity for such effort.

3. Decision makers should be made aware of the practical advantages which could follow from the provision of increased resources for rural improvement through the development of small and intermediate towns. Small and intermediate towns could also play an important role in promoting economic growth, in restoring the balance of the environment, in making the best use of natural resources, and finally in improving the quality of life in general.

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