

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

6-15 May 1980

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/35/8)



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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.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established by General Assembly resolution 32/162, adopted on 19 December 1977. The report on the third session of the Commission is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.

2. 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:

Argentina*	Malawi**
Australia**	Malaysia***
Bangladesh**	Mexico*
Belgium***	Netherlands***
Benin*	Nigeria***
Burundi*	Norway***
Canada***	Pakistan*
Central African Republic*	Papua New Guinea***
Chile**	Peru***
Colombia***	Philippines*
Cuba***	Poland**
Czechoslovakia**	Portugal*
Ecuador*	Rwanda*
Egypt***	Senegal**
France***	Sierra Leone***
German Democratic Republic***	Sri Lanka**
Germany, Federal Republic of**	Sudan*
Greece**	Sweden*
Guatemala**	Togo**
Hungary***	Uganda***
India**	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*
Indonesia***	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
Iran*	United Republic of Cameroon**
Iraq***	United Republic of Tanzania*
Italy**	United States of America*
Jamaica*	Venezuela**
Japan*	Viet Nam**
Jordan**	Yugoslavia*
Kenya**	
Lesotho***	

* Term of office expires on 31 December 1980.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1981.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1982.

3. The third session of the Commission was held at Mexico City, from 6 to 15 May 1980, at the Conference Centre Annex to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the invitation of the Government of Mexico.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

4. The session was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. José López Portillo, President of Mexico. The participants observed a minute of silence in memory of President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion, the text of which is reproduced as annex II. A welcoming address was delivered by Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, Minister for Public Works and Human Settlements of Mexico. The session was opened by Mr. Gregorio Valner, Vice-Chairman of the Commission, on behalf of the Chairman.

B. Attendance

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

Argentina	Malawi
Australia	Malaysia
Belgium	Mexico
Canada	Netherlands
Chile	Nigeria
Cuba	Norway
Czechoslovakia	Pakistan
Ecuador	Papua New Guinea
Egypt	Philippines
France	Poland
German Democratic Republic	Rwanda
Germany, Federal Republic of	Senegal
Greece	Sri Lanka
Guatemala	Sudan
Hungary	Sweden
India	Togo
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Iraq	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Italy	United Republic of Cameroon
Jamaica	United Republic of Tanzania
Japan	United States of America
Jordan	Venezuela
Kenya	Viet Nam
Lesotho	

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

Algeria	Guyana
Angola	Haiti
Austria	Holy See
Bolivia	Israel
Botswana	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Brazil	Morocco
Bulgaria	Nicaragua
China	Panama
Costa Rica	Republic of Korea
Cyprus	Saudi Arabia
Denmark	Spain
Dominican Republic	Swaziland
El Salvador	Switzerland
Finland	Thailand
Gabon	Turkey
Guinea-Bissau	United Arab Emirates
	Yemen

7. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:

Economic Commission for Africa
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America
Economic Commission for Western Asia

8. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme

9. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Inter-American Development Bank
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Organization of American States

11. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.

12. In addition, 14 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

C. Establishment of committees

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 6 May 1980, the Commission established a sessional Committee of the Whole, allocating to it agenda items 3, 7, 8 and 9.

14. The Committee held nine meetings. The recommendations of the Committee have been incorporated into the present report (annex I).

D. Election of officers

15. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 6 May, Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, Minister for Public Works and Human Settlements and representative of Mexico, was elected to the post of Chairman by acclamation. At the 1st and 3rd plenary meetings, on 6 and 7 May, the following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Wahab O. Dosunmu (Nigeria)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Abdul Wadood Shekhly (Iraq)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Sergei Zmeoul (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. F. Schlingemann (Netherlands)

16. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 13 May, the Commission elected Mr. Gregorio Valner Onjas as Chairman to replace Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, who was unable to continue in that capacity because of illness.

E. Agenda

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document HS/C/3/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Rules of procedure for the Commission.
4. Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
5. General debate, including a review of human settlements policies and programmes in relation to the new international economic order and the new international development strategy.
6. Review of selected human settlements themes:
 - (a) Human settlements finance and management;
 - (b) Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements;
 - (c) Development of rural settlements and growth centres;
 - (d) Upgrading of slums and squatter settlements.

7. Report on United Nations activities in the field of human settlements:
 - (a) 1982-1985 medium-term plan of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
 - (b) 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
 - (c) 1980-1981 work programmes and the 1982-1985 medium-term plans of the regional commissions;
 - (d) Co-ordination of activities of other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements.
8. Co-operation and co-ordination with organizations outside the United Nations system:
 - (a) Intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system;
 - (b) Non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements.
9. Administrative, management and budgetary matters: report of the Executive Director.
10. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourth session of the Commission.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

F. Adoption of the report

18. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May.

III. RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMISSION

A. Introduction

19. At the 3rd meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 9 May, the Executive Director introduced agenda item 3 entitled "Rules of Procedure for the Commission" (HS/C/3/2). At the same meeting, the Committee decided to establish an ad hoc working group, composed of two representatives from each of the five regional groups, to consider the draft rules of procedure and make appropriate recommendations to the Committee.

20. The ad hoc working group submitted its report to the 7th meeting of the Committee, on 14 May. At that meeting, the Committee approved the report, with amendments, and decided to recommend it for adoption by the Commission.

B. Action by the Commission

21. At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to adopt its rules of procedure (see annex I, decision 3/10). One representative expressed a reservation as to the need for rule 16 (Voting rights of the Chairman).

IV. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

A. Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

22. At the plenary meeting, on 6 May, in introducing agenda item 4, the Executive Director referred to document HS/C/3/3 which covered the activities of the Centre since the second session of the Commission in April 1979. He pointed out that, during that period, the transfer from New York to Nairobi had been completed, with the final establishment of the administrative and support services at Nairobi in October 1979. As soon as the headquarters in Nairobi had become fully operational, implementation of the work programme was started. Technical co-operation continued to receive the highest priority in direct assistance activities. In 1979, such activities were valued at approximately \$12.5 million, with the major part of the resources coming from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Smaller amounts had come from the United Nations regular budget and from voluntary contributions to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

23. The recommendation of the Commission at its second session calling for establishment of a unified information service within the Centre had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/115 of 14 December 1979. Its implementation had been initiated through an understanding with the Government of Canada to integrate the United Nations Audio-visual Information Centre into the Centre's over-all information activities.

24. Direct contacts had been made with Governments, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with problems of human settlements. Areas of common interest had been identified, and joint action on several projects in research, training and technical co-operation had been initiated.

25. The Executive Director considered the current session of the Commission a crucial one, because the deliberations of the Commission would have a great impact on the human-settlement priorities which the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements would address in future.

26. Further, the Executive Director noted that human-settlement activities throughout the world were in a stage of significant transition from what were once considered well-established and virtually unchallengeable directions of development. However, the dimensions of the new and innovative channels of activity were not yet fully clear. Thus, not only was the Commission challenged to examine priorities but to suggest how best the Centre might respond to the human settlements agenda of the 1980s. Regardless of substantive concern, though, one theme ran through all areas, namely, that of focusing efforts on meeting the basic human needs of the most disadvantaged groups of the population. Human-settlement development in the 1980s would emphasize equity in the distribution of development benefits.

27. Disadvantaged groups would receive the special attention and consideration which they deserved. The Commission must speak plainly and definitively on the

issues, not only for the benefit of the United Nations system but also for the guidance of Governments.

28. The thematic subjects before the Commission provided a framework for decisions on issues which would affect the life styles of virtually everybody in the world over the next 20 years. He, therefore, urged the Commission to give the four themes and their interrelationships the most thorough attention in the course of its deliberations and to provide the Centre, the United Nations system and the Governments of the world with positive guidance on the direction of human-settlement development at this crucial turning-point in world history.

29. The Executive Director expected that the Commission would address itself to finding solutions to those complex human-settlement issues and charged the Commission to continue to provide intellectual and innovative leadership in that regard.

B. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

30. As provided for in General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) addressed the Commission. He pointed out that the delineation of joint efforts between the Centre and UNEP had been firmly established. The areas of common interest and the modalities of co-operation between the two organizations had been worked out during the second Joint Bureaux Meeting, held in December 1979, and were contained in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two Executive Directors in January 1980. He noted that emphasis for co-operation had been placed on the environmental aspects of human-settlement planning, with particular reference to the problems of specific ecosystems.

31. Another issue which had been given particular attention was that of appropriate and environmentally sound technology. He stated UNEP was convinced that, in view of the interaction of people, resources, environment and development, only a holistic, long-term approach to human-settlement planning would be effective and would make it possible to produce solutions to human-settlement problems which were in harmony with environmental imperatives and could, at the same time, satisfy and sustain basic human needs. UNEP was actively supporting the search for future development options through the organization of regional seminars on alternative patterns of development and life styles.

32. In conclusion, the Executive Director of UNEP emphasized that the basic conditions for effective and comprehensive settlement planning could be established only if resources far more extensive than those currently available were mobilized, both at the national level and by the international community. The United Nations system could provide useful assistance only if Governments themselves gave more attention to the urgency of such matters, so that a new development pattern which was more responsive to the actual needs of mankind could be pursued.

C. Discussion

33. In response to the progress report given by the Executive Director, many

delegations informed the Commission of the human-settlement problems and situation in their own country and, consequently, addressed themselves to the role that the Centre should play in providing service to the international community. There was general agreement that the Centre should be selective and make choices from among the numerous problem areas and demands, in keeping with its resource constraints.

34. Delegations noted that the Centre should also concentrate more on developing implementation strategies for priority programme areas for consideration and decision by the Commission, based on reviews of selected human-settlement themes, which should be prepared for discussion by expert groups, seminars, etc. The implementation of the strategies could preferably take place through demonstration projects which would have a multiplier effect, in order to make the role of the Centre more visible to the international community. That would also enable the Commission to take a fully active role in guiding the Centre.

35. It was recognized by many delegations that the world community did not suffer from a lack of ideas to improve the conditions of human settlements, but was in urgent need of finding practical and economically feasible solutions that would strengthen the capacities of Governments to cope with human-settlement problems. Particular care and assistance had to be given to developing countries, which, in dealing with their human-settlement problems, are faced with considerable energy constraints and other limitations of natural and human resources. The Centre had an important role to play in that respect.

36. Many delegations expressed the view that the Centre should exert its efforts in the fields of research, technical assistance, training and the collection and dissemination of information. Also, it should promote technical assistance and co-operation among developing countries. In providing technical assistance to developing countries, the Centre should take into account the experiences of other developing countries in similar situations. One delegation emphasized that the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries should not become an excuse for justifying the current low levels of international financial resources for human-settlement programmes and for withdrawing the responsibility of developed countries in assisting less fortunate nations.

37. There was general agreement that the Centre should remain action-oriented, selective and catalytic in its delivery of assistance. The higher priority accorded to "shelter, infrastructure and services", was endorsed as reflecting the actual situation of human-settlement conditions in developing countries. A number of delegates stated that their Governments were eager to seek and discuss possibilities of assistance by the Centre in appropriate areas of human-settlement development, including the formulation of national settlement policies and strategies.

38. Several delegations noted that the amount of international aid available to assist developing countries in improving their human-settlement conditions was far too low. Therefore, the already limited resources of the Centre should be utilized to support national objectives, in particular, training activities aimed at the creation and improvement of local skills. The recruitment of foreign experts, one representative observed, should be limited and geared towards strengthening and building up local management capacities. Furthermore, the Centre should assist countries in creating and developing national manpower resources, domestic industries and employment opportunities for the poverty groups of the population.

39. A number of delegations congratulated the United Nations agencies, and the Centre in particular, for their quick response to those countries which suffered from the consequences of national liberation wars. Uganda and Zimbabwe were cited as examples of new Governments which were currently receiving assistance from the Centre. Particular reference was made by several delegations to the role of building materials and the construction industry for the development of those countries.

40. A number of delegations drew attention to the need for the Centre to have a clearly definable work programme with indicated priorities, resource allocations and evaluation of results that did not duplicate the work of existing institutions. They welcomed the links that had been established by the Centre with other United Nations organizations and bodies, in particular, with a view to the effective delivery of its services. Several delegations urged close co-operation and collaboration with financial institutions, with a view to increasing their share and involvement in the financing of national, regional and international human-settlement programmes and projects. Satisfaction was expressed on the close co-operation between the Centre and UNEP. Several delegations supported the recommendation of the second meeting of the joint Bureaux that the meetings of the two Bureaux and the Executive Directors of UNEP and the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements should take place on an annual basis. One delegation, however, expressed doubts about the value of those meetings in terms of cost-effectiveness.

41. A number of delegations stressed the need for increasing and strengthening human-settlement activities and co-operation at the regional level, as envisaged by General Assembly resolution 32/162. The Commission was informed by one delegation of the priority which the African region had given to the accelerated promotion of decent living conditions in urban and rural areas as an integral part of over-all economic development. The same delegation also reported on the establishment of a regional bank for investment in housing in Africa. Several delegations called for the establishment of a regional intergovernmental committee on human settlements in Latin America.

42. Several delegations welcomed General Assembly resolution 34/115 of 14 December 1979, concerning the establishment of a unified information service within the Centre, as recommended by the Commission at its second session. 1/ Effective communication, it was stated, was a prerequisite for successful human-settlement development, provided that it was a two-way process. One delegation suggested that the service continue its activities in technical co-operation, research training and education, and general information and documentation. The same delegation indicated that its Government was prepared, under certain conditions, to entertain the proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for Vision Habitat in Vancouver.

43. Several delegations drew attention to the question of the living conditions of the Palestinian people and urged the Executive Director to assist in undertaking activities which could solve those problems.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/34/8), annex I, resolution 2/4.

44. The representative of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania informed the Commission of the miserable living conditions of the black people in South Africa.

45. Representatives of specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations informed the Commission of their activities in the field of human settlements and indicated their preparedness and willingness to collaborate with the Centre in areas of mutual interest.

46. The representative of the Habitat International Council elaborated on the valuable contribution that non-governmental organizations can make to human-settlement development, in particular, in research, training and the collection and dissemination of information. He pledged the Council's continuing support for the work of the Commission and the Centre.

47. One representative announced that his Government would make a contribution of DM 1 million to the Centre.

D. Action by the Commission

48. At its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Commission adopted a resolution on assistance to Zimbabwe (see annex I, resolution 3/3).

49. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution on Arabic as an official language (see annex I, resolution 3/4).

V. GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN RELATION TO THE NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A. Introduction

50. Agenda item 5 was considered by the Commission at its 2nd to 6th plenary meetings.

51. In his statement introducing the item, the Executive Director called the attention of the representatives to General Assembly resolution 33/193. The relevance to human settlements of that resolution, which emphasized the need to mobilize human and natural resources if the benefits of social development were to extend to all sectors of society, became evident when the locational aspects of development were considered. Furthermore, the resolution encouraged the transfer of technologies and the development of indigenous technologies in support of the process of industrialization, with the aim of expanding and diversifying employment opportunities.

52. Programmes of human settlements development and improvement, the Executive Director pointed out, could contribute significantly to achieving the goals of the new international development strategy in five ways.

53. First, it was in the provision of housing, infrastructure and services, such as water supply, sanitation, health, educational and recreational facilities, that the goals of social and economic development took concrete expression. Human settlement programmes could be targeted to benefit specific population groups and thus become effective in meeting the goals of social equity. As pointed out in General Assembly resolution 33/193, the ultimate aim of development was to enhance the well-being of the entire population and to ensure a fair distribution of economic and social benefits. The allocation of public resources on the basis of redistribution offered an effective means of achieving social equity in human-settlement development. Improvements in the delivery of water supply and sanitation to low-income households need not require large subsidies, if physical standards and construction techniques were chosen so as to make use of indigenous materials and skills, and such programmes were carried out as much as possible through self-help and popular participation. That would have the additional benefit of fostering community awareness and involvement in public affairs. Moreover, encouraging the community's initiative would gradually reduce the government burden of establishing and administering such programmes through public agencies.

54. Secondly, the development of human settlements was a prerequisite for the growth of employment in many sectors of the economy, and in most developing countries there was a positive correlation between economic development and urbanization. Though there was no proof that economic development could not take place without urbanization, it was an observed fact that traditional agricultural activities generated few cash surpluses and had limited multiplier effects. Furthermore, the capital and the entrepreneurial skills necessary to sustain the growth of an efficient manufacturing sector and the range of services on which a

diversified economy depends were not likely to be available outside a few main urban centres. However, it was recognized that the process of developing a viable human-settlement system capable of supporting a diversified employment structure and of generating national economic growth and social equity was still poorly understood. The ineffectiveness of many national development plans could be attributed partly to failure to integrate economic and social planning for manufacturing and service activities with settlement planning.

55. Thirdly, the Executive Director stressed the role of human-settlement development as a direct generator of employment. Evidently, the development of human settlements was itself an activity which contributed directly and indirectly to the efficient generation of employment and income. Despite the fact that macro-economic planners usually accorded low priority to human settlements in national development plans, settlement-building investment in infrastructure, services and shelter could have a very high economic yield and important social benefits, if human settlements were planned to meet appropriate standards and use suitable technologies and local resources. The construction of dwellings and the production of building materials could make use of substantial numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers and provide them with on-the-job training. The capacity of the construction industry to generate employment made it probably the best single source of productive employment for rural migrants to urban areas.

56. Fourthly, the Executive Director defined settlement planning as a resource-allocation tool, based on the perception that decision-making concerning human settlements involved the balancing of resource-allocation demands for economic, social and physical development programmes in order to resolve conflicts between the goals of economic growth and equitable distribution of benefits generated by the growth process. The relationship of human-settlement patterns to socio-economic and environmental changes were reasonably well understood, but adequate ways had still to be found to avoid the inefficient use of resources and undesirable side effects. Unfortunately, there was still an insufficient recognition of the need to deal with the physical, fiscal, political and administrative needs of human settlements as an integral part of national economic and social development plans.

57. Fifthly, efficient settlement planning, he said, should be directed towards the goals of conserving energy and economizing on depletable fuel resources. Until recently, economic planning in developed countries had been based on the assumption that fuel consumption could continue to expand to an almost unlimited extent and that energy costs would remain low and stable. That view no longer obtained, and, in the field of human settlements, energy conservation could be achieved through two means: first, by developing building and infrastructure technologies which were fuel-efficient, and, second, and perhaps more important, by designing spatial patterns of settlements that minimized energy demand. It might well prove worth while to seek means of revitalizing and adapting traditional forms of settlement patterns in developing countries to replace unsatisfactory, imported settlement-planning concepts based on developed country models.

58. In conclusion, the Executive Director reiterated that human-settlement planning could contribute significantly to the goals of the new international development strategy, and he suggested that a broad strategy statement to that effect could be prepared for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and to the General Assembly.

4. Discussion

50. The Commission also used itself extensively and in detail to the review of the international situation of human settlements and the new international development strategy.
51. There was a general agreement that the development of human settlements could make a major contribution to the establishment of a new economic order and the implementation of the new international development strategy. In general, the Executive Director's conclusions and recommendations received support, and the delegations concurred with his suggestion to incorporate them in the strategy statement for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and to the General Assembly. The hope was expressed that the inclusion of the principles in the new international development strategy would, in return, provide a major stimulus to accelerate human settlement development. Some delegations pointed to the broad gap still existing between the objectives and ideals laid down in the principles and reality. They urged that increasing attention should be paid to the elimination of the obstacles for the proper implementation of the principles. The Centre should assist Governments in that respect.
61. A number of delegations cited examples from their own countries' experiences as to the importance of human-settlement policies and programmes for overall economic and social development. In particular, in terms of the generation of employment, one delegation stated that in order to make full use of the overall economic potential of human settlement programmes, a strong commitment of Governments at different levels was necessary. Several delegations suggested that an in-depth discussion on that complex issue take place at the next session of the Commission.
62. It was generally agreed that the provision of adequate shelter could be identified as a basic need, like food and clothing, and that the development of human settlements played a crucial role in the improvement of the quality of life and well-being. Reference was made to the Vancouver Plan of Action, which recognized human settlement activities as an integral part of national development.
63. Many delegations mentioned the role of human settlements development as an important vehicle in the promotion of social justice and equity.
64. In order for the development of human settlements to make an optimal contribution to the new international development strategy, especially since the matter was so broad and complex, many delegations recognized that it would be necessary for settlements development strategies to be comprehensive and developed at national governmental levels. Several delegations elaborated briefly on examples from their own countries concerning the inclusion of human settlements in national development planning and decision-making. In some countries, model areas had been designated to demonstrate a harmonized development process through comprehensive human-settlement planning. Many delegations referred to the need to take into account the general paucity of capital and technical resources in most developing countries when formulating comprehensive human-settlement plans.
65. Several delegations informed the Commission that their Governments were in the process of formulating national settlements policies as part of their national development plans. The general purpose of those policies was to provide a

framework for investment and to ensure a balanced distribution of development benefits.

66. Many delegations pledged support to the concept of settlements planning as an investment in economic and social development. The process of uncontrolled urbanization had brought with it important social problems, including high levels of unemployment and underemployment. Sound and comprehensive human-settlement planning could be instrumental in the creation of commercial activities needed to generate employment and income.

67. Some delegations saw birth-control, the deconcentration of population and the decentralization of industrial and commercial activities as useful policy measures to achieve a harmonized and well-balanced national development. They considered that particularly the development of rural areas and regional growth centres should be included in comprehensive human-settlement policies. One delegation, supported by others, warned that, in promoting decentralization, Governments should not forget to address the problems of major towns, in particular, in matters of spatial planning, employment and social segregation.

68. Many delegations emphasized the central role of the building materials and construction industry in the promotion of national development and the new international development strategy. If well guided and controlled the building industry could generate employment to a greater extent than most other sectors of a national economy. Several delegations reported that their Governments had taken steps to control and guide the activities of the building industry. In relation to that, many delegations shared the view that there was a need to establish appropriate standards for human settlements and to reflect them in building codes and regulations. Some of them stated that the lack of appropriate building codes and regulations was probably the single most important factor preventing the full use of building industries as a leading sector in economic development. Several delegations referred to the fruitful seminar on building codes and regulations, held in Sweden in March 1980. Follow-up meetings in the different regions were suggested. Emphasis was also put by many delegations on the need to further development and utilization of appropriate technology and indigenous building materials, in particular for the poor. Many delegations agreed with the observation of the Executive Director that markets for building materials among developing countries should be promoted. Several delegations suggested that the role of the construction industries in the promotion of national development should be discussed in depth at the next session of the Commission.

69. Given agreement among the delegates that settlements development was critical to national economic development and the new international development strategy, there was general consensus that rural areas have so far received disproportionately low attention in human-settlement planning and development. The Commission was informed of adoption of various forms of land settlement schemes in a number of countries. The general aims of those schemes were (a) to promote economic development, (b) to provide basic services to rural households, (c) to improve the housing conditions and (d) to control the rate of migration to urban areas. Several delegations pointed out that rural settlement development could produce unpredictable distortions in rural life styles, unless it was consistent with the cultural and traditional values of the rural inhabitants.

70. Several delegations reported on the less successful efforts of their Governments to work with concepts of spatial planning and rural development like

the growth centre strategy. It was stressed that spatial development planning must encourage the spread of economic opportunities, especially non-agricultural employment, and include the provision of services in areas with limited opportunities and inadequate infrastructure. Several delegations indicated their Governments' intention to improve substantially the provision of basic services to rural households. Some delegations indicated that, particularly in the rural areas, human settlement policies and programmes should be aimed at self-sufficiency and include aided self help schemes with respect to the construction of shelter.

71. According to the opinion of many delegations, the provision of adequate shelter, infrastructure and services to inhabitants of urban and rural areas was receiving increased attention in the national settlement programmes. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the provision of potable drinking water, while others stressed the need to create conditions for the development and effective implementation of low-cost housing programmes and projects. Others urged increased efforts in tackling the problems posed by the spread of slums and squatter settlements. There was recognition of the need, particularly in larger urban settlements, to undertake integrated projects aimed at the provision of infrastructure and services, along with employment opportunities. Some delegations mentioned that security of land tenure was of prime importance for the successful implementation of those projects.

72. A number of delegations referred to the fact that household consumption and transport made up about 50 per cent of the local energy consumption and that evidently shortages in the supply of energy had repercussions on the structure and functioning of human settlements. Those and other delegations made a strong plea that, in particular, and in the context of the new international development strategy, emphasis should be put upon energy conservation in human settlements, both in developed and developing countries. They also urged increased effort with respect to the development of alternative energy sources and a balanced and suitable use of the renewable and non-renewable natural resources in general. One delegation suggested that information exchange be fostered on energy research related to human settlements.

73. Many delegations stressed the need for popular participation in human-settlement development. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), held at Vancouver in 1976, recognized that in view of the magnitude of the development problems, the improvement in human-settlement conditions could not be achieved without the active and constructive involvement of all sectors of the population. People must be encouraged to participate and be given the opportunities to use their own ingenuity and skills to cope with their human-settlement problems. It was recognized that effective popular participation could also contribute to an equitable distribution of the economic and social benefits of human-settlement development.

74. One delegation expressed a desire for the recommendations for the new international development strategy to recognize and support the importance and the value of the full participation of women in improving human settlements. Further, programmes aimed at the improvement of human settlements should be especially geared to responding to the needs of women. Another delegation referred to the International Year of the Disabled (1981) and emphasized that especially in the field of human settlements, measures could and should be taken to eliminate or diminish physical barriers for the disabled.

75. Several delegations reported on the efforts of their Governments to devise policies in recognition of the links between the man-made and the natural environment. They emphasized that the viability of human-settlement programmes depended to a large extent on those efforts being compatible with the protection of the natural environment.

C. Special presentations

76. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Commission at its second session 2/ 20 member Governments made special presentations. Audio-visual presentations were made by the Governments of Algeria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yemen and exhibits were presented by the Governments of France, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Yemen (see annex III). The audio-visual presentations, which introduced a variety of human-settlement issues and practical problems, were followed by substantive discussions. It was agreed that special presentations were a useful tool for practical information exchange among the delegations and that the practice should continue. The Executive Director was requested to issue the necessary guidelines for the fourth session and to circulate them well in advance of the session.

D. Action by the Commission

77. At its 13th plenary meeting, on 14 May, the Commission on Human Settlements requested that special presentations for the fourth session and subsequent sessions should be specially related to the themes to be discussed, and these films should be presented, as much as possible, in a seminar-type format.

78. At its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Commission adopted a resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people (see annex I, resolution 3/1). The resolution was adopted by a vote of 21 to 2, with 13 abstentions. Statements in explanation of their vote were made by the United States of America and Papua New Guinea.

79. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution on the role of human settlements in the new international development strategy (see annex I, resolution 3/2).

2/ Ibid., para. 60.

VI. REVIEW OF SELECTED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS THEMES

80. In accordance with the decision of the Commission at its second session, the Commission had before it theme papers on four important issues related to human settlements: human settlements finance and management (HS/C/3/5, agenda item 6 (a)); energy requirements and conservation in human settlements (HS/C/3/6, agenda item 6 (b)), development of rural settlements and growth centres (HS/C/3/7, agenda item 6 (c)); and upgrading of urban slum and squatter areas (HS/C/3/8, agenda item 6 (d)).

A. Human settlement finances and management

(agenda item 6 (a))

1. Introduction

81. In his introductory statement on human-settlement financing and management, the Executive Director pointed out that the need for adequate financial and management resources for effective development of human settlements had become a crucial issue in most developing countries. Efforts to improve human-settlement financing had been focused mostly at the national level, where current investment policies tended to be concentrated on such development elements as roads, railways, electric power systems, irrigation schemes, ports and industrial installations. Since the benefits from those facilities were spread nationwide, it was accepted that they should be financed and provided by a central government, and there seemed to be a good case for applying the same reasoning to central government involvement in questions of settlement financing.

82. In some cases, and to a limited extent, national Governments were involved with housing finance, but the main concern had been limited to mobilizing resources for shelter, typically through savings schemes designed and administered by agencies of the central government and aimed at a limited target group. However, the financing and management of infrastructure and services in most settlements had received little attention, although the provision of infrastructure and services might be regarded as a more crucial need than the provision of shelter, particularly for the poorest families.

83. As slums and squatter settlements continued to grow and as the demands for infrastructure and services increased, the financial and management problems of the large cities had become seemingly insoluble. There were increasing shortages of the services which local governments typically were responsible for providing, e.g., primary education, sanitation, water supply, sewage disposal and local transportation. That situation raised some important policy questions concerning the financing and delivery of local services, including the following:

(a) Which services might best be delivered by central government and which by local government?

(b) What taxing powers should local government be given, and was it feasible for additional resources to be mobilized by local governments, even if their taxing powers were not expanded?

(c) How should central-to-local government grants be structured?

(d) How could central governments improve service delivery through administrative schemes for decentralization?

(e) Would locally provided services be more effectively delivered and financed by a general-purpose local government or by special-purpose agencies?

(f) Could user charges and self-financing schemes be used more effectively than at present?

84. The question of the assignment of taxing powers among levels of government had been studied in some of the developed countries, and it had been concluded that a decentralized system put decision-making closer to the people and made public officials more accountable to local interests. Decentralization might also induce greater resource mobilization at the local governmental level. On the other hand, a centralized structure for public service delivery was more likely to achieve economies of scale and was in a better position to harmonize local and national development objectives. An additional argument for centralization was that local governments often did not possess the management skills to finance and deliver many types of modern infrastructure and services.

85. Because country-to-country differences made it difficult to form a definitive policy view of the proper level of responsibility for settlement financing, the Executive Director noted that it might be more useful to focus on subsidiary issues, such as how to direct the "proper" amount of resources for the purpose and how to create institutional arrangements to manage those resources more efficiently. In order to reach conclusions on such issues, some fundamental decisions had to be made.

86. First, it was necessary to resolve the division of financing responsibility between central and local governments, in view of the increasing burdens on local governments. As part of national and subnational development planning exercises, central Governments needed to reconcile the imbalances between local responsibilities for financing human-settlement infrastructure and services and the revenue sources available for those purposes.

87. Secondly, there was often overlapping between different levels of government, and, at the same time, there were often inadequate procedures for co-ordination of their activities. There was considerable need to clarify the division of responsibilities and to establish effective co-ordination.

88. Thirdly, central government grants should be made a more predictable source of revenue to local governments, in order to avoid the waste which arose when local programmes and projects must be varied from year to year without sufficient notice for making efficient adjustments.

89. The Executive Director suggested that the international community should promote the formulation of co-ordinated management and financing plans for settlement projects. Such plans could outline the existing overlap of the financing and management responsibilities among the different levels of government and identify those sectoral agencies in a country which required co-ordination. International agencies also could do a great deal for the financial health of local governments by providing training and technical assistance in property-

assessment practices, accounting procedures and financial-planning techniques as part of the regular budgetary process.

90. In conclusion, the Executive Director noted that the international agencies themselves knew little about the structure of human-settlement financing in developing countries and about the problems caused by current practices. The collection of public finance information at national and subnational levels in developing countries would facilitate discovery of significant solutions and allow all countries to benefit from the dissemination of that knowledge.

2. Discussion

91. The discussion of this theme focused, for the most part, on the assignment of responsibilities to central and local levels of government. Although no consensus emerged on a "best" solution and some representatives considered that no globally valid recommendation was feasible, the views of most representatives seemed to be that, in principle, local autonomy should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible but that, at the moment, in most developing countries, local governments lacked the technical and managerial skills to take on the tasks of human-settlement development in an effective way. Therefore, as an interim measure, there seemed to be no alternative to a strong central government involvement in settlement affairs. There was, however, general agreement that it was necessary to carry out a phased transition of responsibility from central to local governments.

92. In that context, a number of specific proposals were made to define responsibilities and powers with respect to human-settlement financing, including the following:

(a) Traditional local government sources of financing should be applied only to recurrent expenses, including salaries of local authority staff;

(b) Central government subsidies and grants, based on national development priorities, should be used to meet individually specified non-recurring investment requirements;

(c) Local governments should be encouraged to undertake self-financing projects and services that could be efficiently provided within their jurisdictions;

(d) Where projects had built-in repayment potential, local government authorities could be given powers to raise credit financing on the market, based on central government guarantees or on mortgage capacities of the local governments themselves.

93. One representative expressed disappointment that the report on this theme did not go more deeply into the question of managing the situation where a multiplicity of authorities was responsible for urban infrastructure and services. That representative also considered that separate attention should have been given to the problems of managing and financing medium-sized and small towns and rural villages. Another representative requested that attention be given to the establishment of property-registration systems without which he considered any planning programme could not be effective.

94. Differing views were expressed on the question of taxation. While there was broad support for a range of municipal tax measures which would increase the overall resources available to local governments, some representatives were opposed to taxing low-income properties, and others were opposed to any excess-profit tax on land transactions. It was also suggested that tax concession measures might be used as incentives for conservation of culturally-valuable properties and for the improvement of environmental standards. One representative mentioned that tax-collection procedures were seriously deficient in many developing countries, with the result that local governments did not even realize the full potential income from existing tax measures. He suggested that local government officials could be given a greater incentive to pursue collections vigorously if their salaries were scaled to the levels of tax income.

95. One representative thought that conditions in developing countries varied so widely that no general prescription of solutions was possible. He suggested that ideas for new and expanded tax measures should be related to groups of countries with close similarities of political structure and comparable needs. Studies of that type would be better conducted at the regional rather than the global level.

96. Nevertheless, there was general agreement that even the most promising measures which might emerge from such studies could not make the majority of local governments in developing countries financially self-sufficient in the short term. Therefore, continued fiscal support from the developed countries would be necessary for a number of years, before local government investment in developing countries could be expected to reach a self-sustaining level.

97. Most representatives stressed the importance of training staff in municipal administration procedures as a fundamental requirement for improving settlement management capabilities. However, it was agreed that the type of training provided had to be focused on the management constraints with which administrators of low-income settlements would have to contend. Some representatives of developed countries referred to their countries' experience in training personnel for those specific conditions and offered their facilities to assist Governments of developing countries in building up the necessary professional cadres for implementation of settlement programmes.

3. Action by the Commission

98. The Commission adopted a decision on the subject of human-settlement financing and management (see annex I, decision 3/11).

B. Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements

(agenda item 6 (b))

1. Introduction

99. In introducing the theme on energy requirements and conservation, the Executive Director noted that the impact of energy strategies would vary from country to country and within individual countries, and that the development of human settlements must be closely linked to energy planning, since each had profound effects on the other. The Habitat Conference had clearly recognized the

importance of energy conservation in human settlements and had made several recommendations for national and global action which should still be pursued.

100. The Executive Director emphasized that priorities at national and international levels related to the problems of energy and human settlements should be considered in the perspective of short-term, medium-term and long-term goals, and that critical evaluation indicators should be established so that short-term and medium-term solutions did not lead to even greater problems in the long run. Critical factors which would need to be monitored included changing patterns of energy consumption among the urban and rural poor, the economic and social impact of introducing new energy technologies in rural settlements, the problems of large-scale deforestation to meet fuel demands, increasing energy requirements for expanded food production and the impact of long-term, energy-intensive industrialization policies.

101. He also pointed out that domestic consumption of energy by the rural poor was currently being met largely by non-commercial fuels but that rising incomes and energy demands would make that practice difficult to sustain. The urban poor were already being significantly affected by the increasing scarcity of non-commercial fuels and the sharply rising costs of commercial fuels. It was, therefore, imperative that planning for rural settlements and upgrading of slums and squatter settlements in urban areas include appropriate measures for the economical supply of energy, at least for domestic use.

102. The Executive Director noted that local government decisions on infrastructure and community services profoundly influenced over-all national energy demands and consumption. The potential conflicts between decentralized settlement planning and centralized energy planning could ultimately result in failure to achieve intended development objectives. It was, therefore, important to co-ordinate energy planning with settlement planning at all levels. In that light, energy-conscious settlement planning should: (a) harmonize energy supply and demand with urban and regional spatial structures; (b) emphasize the needs of low-income groups; and (c) assess possible changes in future settlement patterns, building designs and technologies. However, in planning to meet those objectives, there was need for reliable data concerning future availability and prices of different forms of energy. Current information on the use of energy in human settlements had many gaps, and, hence, there were considerable uncertainties in calculating energy savings from different conservation measures. The development of an effective policy to conserve energy in human settlements depended on the ability to predict realistically the energy savings which could be expected from a range of possible actions.

103. The Executive Director then turned to the need to utilize locally produced building materials which were less energy intensive. Many of the building materials manufactured in the industrialized countries required highly energy-intensive processes, and some were derived from oil-based products, so that the cost of imported building materials into the developing countries was steadily escalating. Most developing countries could not depend indefinitely on imported building materials; therefore, components made from organic materials, such as

agricultural residues and natural fibres, which were plentiful in many developing countries, might well be exploited to replace imported energy-intensive building materials.

2. Discussion

104. In the discussion which followed, one representative drew attention to the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues entitled North-South: a Programme of Survival and to the conclusions drawn in that report on the global shortage of energy which could be expected to occur in the near future. The report emphasized the immediate need to economize on energy, in order to postpone the complete exhaustion of non-renewable energy sources and to use the intervening period to develop new methods of energy production. Since household and transportation demand accounted for 50 per cent of local energy consumption, human-settlement policies could have a significant impact on conservation efforts.

105. One representative expressed regret that the information given in the Centre's report on consumption patterns and conservation measures had been drawn almost entirely from free-market models. He pointed out that the socialist countries had extensive experience in energy-conservation practices and that their experiences could provide relevant guidance to many developing countries. He expressed the hope that that deficiency in the report would be remedied by the inclusion of suitable references in any updated version which might be produced.

106. Another delegate indicated that spatial settlement distribution models applied in the socialist countries bring about considerable energy economies in transportation and heating.

107. Another representative noted that the inequitable consumption patterns of developed and developing countries must be redressed, although such an adjustment did not necessarily imply a lowering of living standards in developed countries. On the contrary, the view was expressed that comprehensive conservation measures could equalize the consumption imbalance while simultaneously allowing the quality of life in developing countries to improve.

108. There was consensus that every possible effort should be made to conserve existing fuel resources and to seek out new, preferably non-depletable energy sources. Specifically, the following suggestions were made for actions which might be taken by non-oil-producing countries:

(a) The reduction and, eventually, the elimination of dependence on petroleum-based fuels, particularly for transportation purposes, an action which would bring the additional benefit of reducing the adverse environmental and public health effects produced by use of petroleum-based fuels;

(b) The maximum exploitation of hydroelectric power potential, including the production of power from unconventional sources;

(c) The expansion of research programmes which focus on energy-production systems suitable for localized use in isolated settlements, including systems based on the use of biogas and solar tidal and wind energy;

(d) Intensification of afforestation schemes, to ensure a continuous supply of raw materials in countries where wood and charcoal are used as cheap and accessible forms of fuel.

In respect of the last suggestion, representatives from some oil-producing countries expressed the view that the production of cheap cookers, using petroleum-based fuels, would help to solve problems of deforestation caused by demands for wood and charcoal fuels.

109. Several representatives pointed out that innovative energy-production systems were still largely in the experimental stage and that installation should be made in controlled situations, where results could be closely scrutinized. They pointed out that some systems required highly skilled and expensive maintenance and that less efficient systems which did not require sophisticated operation might be more suitable in developing countries. A number of representatives mentioned that their countries had extensive experience with unconventional energy systems, and they offered to make their knowledge available to developing countries interested in testing the suitability of various processes.

110. It was agreed that the question of energy requirements and conservation in human settlements be recommended as an important topic for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, scheduled for 1981. It was noted that the views of the Commission on the subject could become an input to the Conference.

3. Action by the Commission

111. The Commission adopted a decision on the subject of energy requirements and conservation in human settlements (see annex I, decision 3/12).

C. Development of rural settlements and growth centres

(agenda item 6 (c))

1. Introduction

112. The Executive Director introduced the topic of rural settlements and growth centres by noting that national and international development policies were giving higher priority to spreading the benefits of development to the inhabitants of rural settlements. That shift in the emphasis of development towards helping the rural poor was affirmed last year by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. So far, however, it did not appear to have led to a logically related shift in the settlement policies of most countries.

113. Many Governments of developing countries were aware of that gap, and had started ambitious programmes to provide at least primary education, health care,

drinking water, access roads, housing and electricity in some of their rural areas. Those programmes did have impact on the quality of life in rural areas, but often they did not attack the root cause of rural poverty. The poor living conditions in rural areas fundamentally reflected low productivity in most agricultural activities and in rural non-agricultural production. To bring about significant improvement in the quality of life of the hundreds of millions of rural poor, the "basic needs" approach must be supplemented by strategies to increase total production, employment and income, especially in the lowest-income countries.

114. Analysis of capital-intensive agricultural development strategies suggested that, in order for the rural poor to benefit significantly, complementary efforts were needed (a) to diversify the rural economy, (b) to redistribute the land and other natural resources more equitably, (c) to provide supporting services to those who acquired land in the process of land reforms, and (d) to provide more infrastructure amenities and economic and social services in small towns and rural villages. In recent years, the need for that type of integrated rural development, going beyond conventional agricultural programmes, had been recognized by an increasing number of Governments and international bodies.

115. The Executive Director pointed out, however, that an important component was usually missing from those integrated programmes, namely, the spatial framework for rural development which would be outlined by a national policy on the development of rural settlements. Currently, rural development in most countries tended to be a haphazard mixture of sectoral programmes and projects. By contrast, co-ordinated spatial planning for the different sectors could make better use of the limited resources available for installing transportation and communications infrastructure.

116. During the past two decades, several spatial strategies had been suggested as vehicles for improving the quality of life of rural people. The development of growth centres was perhaps the one which had received greatest attention and which had been implemented in various forms in several developing countries. Recently, there had been a revival of interest in that strategy, in the form of so-called rural service centres, rural growth centres and agropolitan or micropolitan centres to stimulate rural development, and a number of pilot schemes based on those concepts had been launched. Several countries had accepted some form of that strategy for rural development in general, although there appeared to be considerable uncertainty about the impact of the schemes and the chances of their implementation.

117. In that connexion, the Executive Director submitted two main issues to the Commission for consideration. First, there was the fundamental question of the feasibility of providing new or improved infrastructure, services and employment opportunities in the existing rural settlements, as opposed to the long-standing practice of focusing mainly on the larger cities. Secondly, there was the question of what size of settlement was the most economically efficient, in the sense of maximizing the value of output in relation to costs. However, the question must be considered in the context of a country's over-all industrial structure and its over-all spatial distribution of natural resources. In particular, it must be

recognized that the different settlements in a country, with the exception of very isolated rural settlements, were engaged in the complementary exchange of goods and services. Therefore, no matter whether a nation was more interested in maximizing total national income or in promoting equitable levels of services and consumption in different settlements, it would be better to promote a pattern of settlements which would have the highest combined output and income, and then redistribute some of the income directly (in cash or as subsidized goods and services) to the poorest people, wherever they lived.

118. With regard to the development of a greater number of small service centres based on the use of agricultural products and the provision of agricultural input, there was enough evidence in support of that approach to warrant further efforts to develop such centres. Those efforts would be more likely to succeed, however, if the interested countries had better information on the results and impact of the various rural industrialization programmes that had been attempted, as well as on the difficult question of what size of population and what income structure were needed in a settlement's market area to support the distribution of various types of goods and services. It seemed likely that the cost of new or expanded facilities for a full "hierarchy" of settlements would remain excessive for most of the developing countries in the foreseeable future.

119. The Executive Director said that there were a number of existing studies on the availability of various facilities in settlements of different sizes, and he suggested that it would be useful to carry out regional and interregional comparisons of those studies by relating the availability of the facilities to such factors as each settlement's per capita income and location, as well as its population size. However, such studies needed to be supplemented with information on the costs of building and operating new facilities, and with estimates of their likely benefits. To the extent that a few such rural centres had already been developed, it would be useful to initiate pilot projects for monitoring and evaluating their results, in order to provide early information on their successes and problems.

2. Discussion

120. In discussion, all representatives welcomed the new attention being directed towards the creation of rural settlement patterns and growth centres which would promote economic development and spread social benefits to rural populations. Many representatives referred to the preponderance of rural population in developing countries and stressed the lack of services available in rural regions, indicating that they considered the overcoming of deficiencies in rural areas a high-priority concern. Several representatives gave details of rural development programmes being implemented in their countries, with a strong focus on human settlements as the means of upgrading rural economic and social opportunities.

121. One representative questioned the argument that the dispersed nature of rural settlements, the low income of the population and the lack of viable markets made it uneconomical to provide adequate services to rural populations. He expressed the belief that, despite high initial costs in delivering such services, they could

be justified both as a long-term promotional investment and on the basis of non-cash benefits derived by a large number of rural households. He considered that many of the problems encountered by current programmes derived from the fact that the projected settlement patterns were based on administrative and political criteria, rather than on social and economic cost/benefit analyses and he proposed that the Centre should undertake pilot studies, in collaboration with selected Governments, to quantify the investment returns on some existing programmes.

122. Many representatives spoke in support of the concept of growth centres as a means of achieving spatial balance in national development. Some representatives expressed the view that the definition of growth centres as a separate category of settlement was an artificial distinction and that growth centres might be settlements of any size or character in a total network of human settlements defined according to national goals and priorities.

123. Some representatives felt that the report on the subject did not contain sufficient practical suggestions for improving rural settlements and that the concept of "basic needs" had to be further elaborated. One representative felt that the suggested investigation of optimum settlement sizes was not valuable and that a more useful exercise would be to carry out case studies on infrastructure-investment returns for settlements of different sizes in different contexts. In that connexion, another representative suggested that a range of "threshold size" studies might be more valid than an "optimum size" study and would give more realistic guidance to programme implementation.

124. A representative put forward the view that integrated rural development programmes designed to reduce disparities between rural and urban areas could be successful only if there was public control of land. He contended that such control was also a prerequisite for the development of an integrated settlements programme as part of any national planning process.

125. A number of representatives drew attention to the experiences of their Governments in the promotion of rural settlements and growth centres, and expressed a willingness to share those experiences with other interested Governments. Such collaboration could be carried out on a bilateral basis or by using the Centre as the means of co-ordinating their efforts. It was considered that the Centre could make a particularly valuable contribution by establishing a systematic monitoring and evaluation procedure for following up controlled pilot schemes and by disseminating information on the successes and failures of current programmes.

3. Action by the Commission

126. The Commission adopted a decision on the subject of rural settlements and growth centres (see annex I, decision 3/13).

D. Upgrading of urban slums and squatter settlements

(Agenda item 6 (d))

1. Introduction

127. In introducing the subject of upgrading urban slums and squatter settlements, the Executive Director pointed out that the question of how to deal with those settlements had occupied the minds of an increasing number of Governments and planning officials for more than a decade. That concern reflected the growing inability of central governments and local authorities to promote forms of urban development which would provide an acceptable living environment for every inhabitant. The Governments of developing countries faced serious challenges from the sheer magnitude of slum and squatter areas and the limitations of governmental administrative, financial and technological capacities. Attempts to deal with the problems of such low-income settlements through massive public housing projects and resettlement programmes had had little success. Upgrading was viewed as a more effective method of dealing with the situation, in terms of both the financial and social costs and the likely benefits.

128. The Executive Director stated that comprehensive programmes for the upgrading of slums and squatter settlements appeared to be highly effective for social and economic development of low-income communities for two main reasons. First, the social and economic survival of slum and squatter residents depended to a large extent on their community organizations and neighbourhood relationships. Destruction of their existing housing also destroyed the socio-economic structure of low-income settlements, because, given the precarious nature of the informal economic sector, few of its activities could survive dislocations. Secondly, the burden of upgrading on public funds could be much less than the cost of relocation in publicly financed housing, especially if upgrading programmes were designed to be affordable by the residents and to stimulate popular action. By providing security of tenure and access to credit, much of the residents' own savings and labour could be mobilized for upgrading programmes.

129. The Executive Director was pleased to note that an increasing number of Governments were committed to upgrading their low-income urban settlements, but he observed that the programmes still encountered severe shortage of funds, lack of adequate data for planning and inadequate institutional structures to implement projects. In that connexion, the Executive Director posed several points for consideration by the Commission.

130. First, the formulation of upgrading policies should be part of the broader process of generating an over-all settlements policy that aims at mobilizing the socio-economic potentials of slum and squatter residents. While continued existence and growth of slums and squatter settlements were problems with obvious physical and legal dimensions, the roots of those problems were socio-economic. Upgrading programmes which stopped with the provision of public utilities, community services and allocation of land titles, and which did not improve the socio-economic conditions of the residents would fail in the long run.

131. The need to deal comprehensively with basic socio-economic needs of households was closely related to a second issue, namely, how to stimulate and make effective

use of popular participation. The people's contribution to improving living conditions through community efforts and according to individual aspirations was often hampered by administrative and legal restrictions. Perhaps the main obstacle to residents' full participation in all aspects of the planning and implementation process was the belief that the professionals knew best, whenever the issues involved technical and policy matters. Slum populations sometimes seemed resigned to their fate and, consequently, apathetic about the possibility of improvement. On the other hand, where the residents had some hope of improving their lives, dissatisfaction with existing living conditions provided the impetus for creating effective social and political organizations in slum and squatter communities.

132. A third issue was how to deal with the question of tenure. The granting of security of tenure was generally believed to be the key to success in an upgrading project, as it removed the fear of eviction and thereby mobilized individual and community contributions of money and labour for various improvements. It was a common practice, however, for government agencies to keep squatters in an illegal status of land occupation with the hope of thus discouraging additional squatting. There was widespread fear that granting any form of security of tenure, whether through freehold ownership or some type of leasehold, would legitimize an illegal act and encourage further squatting. Furthermore, the process of upgrading increased the value of the land, and recipients of newly granted freehold titles were often enticed to sell their plots to higher-income households. Because of such displacement of original target groups, the granting of outright ownership had been considered unsuccessful in some cases. A more effective form of tenure might be a leasehold system, perhaps with an option to buy the plot from the Government after 10 or 15 years - enough time for the lessee to benefit from the upgrading and to make substantial additional improvements.

133. A fourth issue was related to whether upgrading should be considered a type of social welfare service for the poor or an investment designed to integrate under-productive parts of the urban society into national socio-economic development. To the extent that it was an investment, the question arose of how the costs of upgrading might be recovered from those who benefited from the investments, since the total costs of providing infrastructures and services to the urban poor were too high for most Governments to absorb as a social welfare disbursement. The main argument against full or even partial cost recovery from the residents of upgraded areas was that the latter were too poor to pay for the improvements. Moreover, it seemed unjust to require the poor to pay directly for local facilities, such as drainage ditches or roads, when many of the higher-income groups were not required to do so.

134. In conclusion, the Executive Director pointed out a fifth issue of appropriateness of physical standards to be applied in upgrading. Standards used should reflect not only the need of residents but their ability to pay, so that it seemed inappropriate to apply building regulations and other standards of physical development which specified types and quantities of materials that could not be afforded by the beneficiary groups. The need for appropriate standards was perhaps the most urgent issue in upgrading programmes.

2. Discussion

135. In the discussion, several representatives stressed the crucial issue of land tenure as the foundation of squatter upgrading programmes. However, one representative pointed out that to deal with this issue Governments must first address themselves to the problem of public acquisition of squatter sites and of relocation or expansion sites. It was not clear how such a programme could be financed, particularly if, as one representative suggested, land titles would have to be transferred to squatters at no cost or at subsidized prices in recognition of the limited repayment capacity of squatter households. In addition to the proposal to provide free land to squatters, one representative suggested that Governments should also subsidize the supply of building materials for the upgrading of squatter dwellings.

136. Emphasis was placed on the view that squatter programmes must be formulated as an element of over-all shelter policies, and attention was drawn to the role of the informal sector in both construction and socio-economic improvement programmes. The informal sector was seen as an essential vehicle for the implementation of upgrading programmes, but one representative expressed the opinion that political support was essential to the kinds of actions most likely to be successful in carrying out upgrading programmes. A separate strategy for fostering growth of the informal sector was seen as necessary.

137. There was agreement on the need for adjustments to conventional building regulations and control procedures for applications in squatter areas. Such changes were required because the types of materials and structural conditions embodied in standard building codes were beyond the financial reach of squatter households and unattainable by self-help construction processes. Because upgraded squatter structures could not normally conform to generally established requirements, they were usually excluded from attaining legal status, thus casting doubt on the security of tenure which squatter households could achieve and seriously undermining one of the basic tenets of upgrading programmes. As well as depriving squatter households of security of tenure, the lack of legal status also normally excluded them from conventional housing-loan programmes. That underscored the need either for special loan programmes geared to upgrading conditions or for adjustments to conventional loan requirements to direct flows of finance to upgrading schemes.

138. Most delegates directed attention to public participation as an essential feature of upgrading measures, although it was recognized that, at least in the initial stages, that would delay the timing and increase the costs of upgrading schemes. Nevertheless, there was wide acceptance of the fact that only the full consent, support and participation of the community could make upgrading effective and that proper communication is an essential step in the process. That implies a heavy demand for the training of community leaders to carry out liaison and interpretation functions, and some representatives of developed countries offered support in meeting that need.

139. Representatives of developed countries also referred to the upgrading experience obtained in completed upgrading projects and pointed out that access

to that information could save much time and effort for development authorities embarking on upgrading schemes for the first time. Many representatives offered to share such experience and suggested that a useful effort by the Centre would be the compilation of an upgrading manual, incorporating a broad range of experience in projects throughout the world.

3. Action by the Commission

140. The Commission adopted a decision on the subject of upgrading of slum and squatter settlements (see annex I, decision 3/14).

VII. REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN
THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A. Preparation of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

(agenda item 7 (a))

1. Introduction

141. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 7 (a) at its 1st meeting, on 8 May.

142. The Executive Director informed the Committee that the 1982-1985 medium-term plan, which had been included in the Commission's agenda, was no longer required as a result of a decision by the General Assembly. In that regard, he referred to the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 34/224 of 20 December 1979. As a consequence, he proposed that the Commission discuss the preliminary ideas for the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, which the General Assembly required in lieu of the 1982-1985 medium-term plan.

143. He also informed the Committee that the calendar adopted for the preparation of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan included the review of the proposed plans by the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. Thus, the Commission would have an opportunity, at its next session, to consider the draft medium-term plan for 1984-1989, which would be submitted for its review.

144. He indicated that that plan would focus on major substantive areas of high priority in which the Centre has already acquired experience, on areas where the Centre could make a significant contribution to development problems and on new concerns of high priority, such as the development of rural settlements, energy conservation, infrastructure, transport systems and innovative water supply and sanitation and waste disposal systems. He also mentioned the need for the Centre to devote attention to institutional and management aspects of human settlements. In these areas emphasis would be placed on the administrative mechanisms associated with the delivery of public services. Further, the Executive Director observed that the strategies for implementing projects in the above programme areas would consist of technical co-operation, pilot projects, research, training and information collection and dissemination. The latter two activities, he noted, were functional areas that would require expansion from the Centre's previous work programme.

145. In concluding his remarks, he urged delegates to offer their views on what the substantive thrust of the plan should be, so that the Commission's ideas might be reflected in the draft proposal.

2. Discussion

146. A number of delegates, referring to the importance of the medium-term plan in guiding the activities of the Centre during the current decade, proposed that great care and attention should be devoted to its preparation.

147. Recognizing that the medium-term plan would comprise the policy framework within which the biennial work programmes would be developed, delegates concurred that the plan should focus on major policy considerations reflecting the high priority needs of developing countries. Moreover, the preparation of the medium-term plan should reflect the recommendations of the Vancouver Conference and it was stressed that the medium-term plan should be elaborated and based on national and regional development plans in the field of human settlements.

148. A number of priority areas of work were identified by the Committee not only in connexion with the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, but the biennial work programmes. There was a broad consensus on shelter, infrastructure and services, with particular emphasis on the conduct of research regarding technical and financial aspects. Methods and techniques for improving the existing housing stock were also mentioned. In addition, priority was attached to the construction industry; the development of rural areas and the provision of services in them; the provision of potable water and sanitation, including ways of reducing water consumption, for example, by use of non-water-borne sanitation systems; the elimination of the pollution resulting from waste disposal; employment generation; and the provision of services in rural areas. Other speakers emphasized land-use planning and management and the management and control of urban growth centres, focusing on the economic and efficient provision of such services as transportation, public utilities and sanitation. In that context, it was also pointed out that such efforts should place importance on the social integration of the population and on the training of national cadres.

3. Action by the Commission

149. The Commission, on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, adopted a decision on the preparation of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan (see annex I, decision 3/15).

B. 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

(agenda item 7 (b))

1. Introduction

150. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 7 (b) at its 1st meeting, on 8 May.

151. The Executive Director explained that the report on the work programme for 1980-1981 (HS/C/3/10) dealt only with the substantive aspects of the Centre's activities and corresponded to section 19 C (Human settlement activities) of the United Nations proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 as approved by the General Assembly. Document HS/C/3/CRP.1 reproduced the entire section 19, which comprised the programme budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements for the biennium.

152. The Executive Director pointed out that the total amount and distribution of regular budget resources in the programme budget for the 1980-1981 biennium were approximately at the same level as that of the 1978-1979 biennium but adjusted to

account for the revised rates of inflation. It was noted that it did not include the eight Professional posts and the four General Service category posts originally requested for implementation of the regional component of the Centre's work programme as approved by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session. However, the report on the work programme for 1980-1981 (HS/C/3/10) included the provision approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session under temporary assistance for deployment to the regions. Further, he pointed out that the extrabudgetary resources included in the work programme were limited to those already available, and included the extrabudgetary posts being retained from the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements. He indicated that the views and selection criteria recommended by the Commission at its second session had been fully adopted, and he drew attention to the relevant parts of the report in which the Commission's criteria were applied to each programme component.

153. In conclusion, he solicited the views of the Committee on what they would propose for incorporation into the 1982-1983 work programme. The current medium-term plan for 1980-1983, together with the work programme for 1980-1981, would provide the context for developing the work programme for 1982-1983 and would be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its fourth session.

154. In responding to a question from the floor regarding the rationale for separating projects into categories A and B, he explained that those placed in category B were projects for which the funds necessary for implementation were not yet fully available and thus were not necessarily of lower priority than those placed in category A. Moreover, category B embraced those projects having a broad scope which required implementation over a protracted period of time. The Executive Director drew attention to the fact that, as stated in the document, those projects were open-ended and as resources became available they would be carried out, together with those listed under category A.

2. Discussion

155. A number of delegates suggested that, in view of the Centre's budgetary constraints and limited resources, it should make a realistic appraisal of its capacities to implement the many activities contained in its 1980-1981 work programme. In emphasizing the need for selectivity in choosing topic areas and activities, many delegates were of the opinion that the Centre should focus its resources and efforts on high-priority activities.

156. It was noted that the complexity of the issues, the broad mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements' embracing virtually all aspects of human settlements and the difficulty of reconciling the resolutions and recommendations put forth by diverse sources, posed difficult choices in establishing priority areas of activity. It was suggested that the Centre should avoid fragmenting its activities, which would dissipate resources and prevent them from having maximum impact on the over-all programme.

157. Several delegates recommended that the Centre should adopt a performance review system to monitor accomplishments against objectives, targets and time horizons. The monitoring process, according to those delegates, would help in formulating the biennial work programme, as well as updating the medium-term plans on a regular basis.

158. Some delegates indicated that among the functional means or instruments for addressing the priority needs of developing countries research and the dissemination of knowledge and information required the highest priority. Particular emphasis was placed on practical training directed towards problem-solving in connexion with areas of priority concern. Technical co-operation was also singled out, especially demonstration projects to improve the living conditions of the urban and rural poor. The provision of advisory assistance to help countries solve specific problems was also emphasized. Action-oriented research was mentioned by some delegates as being of great importance in order to support the work of the Commission and facilitate the discharge of its responsibilities. The role of Vision Habitat in communications, particularly in the collection and dissemination of human settlements information, was also stressed.

159. Several delegates observed that the current system of reporting on the activities of the Centre might be too fragmented and that it was difficult for delegates to obtain a clear idea of the totality of the Centre's programme of activities. Several delegates supported the proposal that, in the future, reports on the Centre's substantive activities should be contained in a single, comprehensive document to the Commission and that periodic progress reports be presented.

3. Action by the Commission

160. The Commission, on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, adopted a decision on the 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (see annex I, decision 3/16).

C. 1980-1981 work programmes and the 1982-1985 medium-term plans of the regional commissions

(agenda item 7 (c))

1. Introduction

161. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 7 (c) at its 2nd meeting, on 8 May.

162. In his introductory statement, the Executive Director pointed out that the work at the regional level should be composed of the regional commissions' own work programmes in the field of human settlements and the regional component of the work programme of the Commission on Human Settlements. Since the latter formed part and parcel of the Centre's work programme, they were set forth in document HS/C/3/10 and had been discussed under item 7 (b).

163. Inasmuch as document HS/C/3/11 reported on the regional commissions' own work programmes, the Executive Director invited the representatives of each commission to expand on the descriptions contained therein.

164. Concerning the medium-term plan, the Executive Director indicated that, since the decisions of the General Assembly regarding the medium-term plan also applied to the regional commissions, their 1982-1985 medium-term plans were not required. However, the Executive Director indicated that he would make every effort to

ensure that the 1984-1989 medium-term plans of the regional commissions and that of the Centre were in harmony and mutually supportive. In addition, he indicated that, assuming schedules were met, he would endeavour to transmit for information purposes the medium-term plans of the regional commissions to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session.

2. Discussion

165. Delegates affirmed the importance of co-operation between the Centre and the regional commissions for implementing the Vancouver Plan of Action. It was also suggested that the Centre had an important role to play in transmitting the experiences and initiatives developed by one commission to the others.

166. Some delegates expressed satisfaction with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to strengthen further the regional component of the human settlements work programme by making available a lump-sum allocation for deployment to the regions. It was felt that these resources should be incorporated into the United Nations regular budget for 1980-1981 to ensure continuity.

167. Delegates noted with satisfaction the establishment by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) of a separate intergovernmental committee on human settlements, and urged that other commissions which did not have a separate intergovernmental committee on human settlements should follow that example, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162.

168. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) informed the Commission that the revised terms of reference for the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning had been adopted in 1979, thus bringing the human settlements activities of ECE into line with General Assembly resolution 32/162. He also reported on changes in the work programme agreed to by the ECE Committee in 1979, which included the initiation of a regional survey of the situation concerning human settlements, to be co-ordinated with the Centre's global survey and a study on the role of the construction industry in economic development, to be carried out in co-operation with the Centre. The ECE human settlements programme comprised some 50 projects and subprojects which had been regrouped in 1979 into four work areas: (a) integrated settlements policies and strategies; (b) urban and regional planning; (c) housing policies and (d) building, corresponding to the activities of the Committee itself and those of its three working parties. He called attention to the Fourth ECE Conference on Urban and Regional Research, held at Paris from 2 to 7 June 1980, the seminar on citizen participation in the planning, implementation and management of human settlements, to be held at Split, Yugoslavia from 6 to 10 October 1980, and the comprehensive range of projects on energy aspects of human settlements policies carried out by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as a follow-up to the Ottawa seminar, held in 1977.

169. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) discussed the collaborative activities between the Centre and ESCAP, and acknowledged with appreciation the funds made available by the Centre that permitted ESCAP to participate in and prepare theme papers for the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference on Human Settlements Finance and Management, held at Manila in June 1979. Similar assistance, the representative noted, had been given to ESCAP to prepare input for the four theme papers for the current session of the Commission

on Human Settlements. The ESCAP representative mentioned that, at the 1979 session of ESCAP, it was decided that the content of the human settlements work programme would be expanded and reclassified in accordance with the six subprogramme components adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements.

170. Referring to the human settlements work programme of ESCAP, the representative indicated that the programme component, integration of physical planning with social and economic planning, had already been initiated in co-operation with the Centre. He noted that ESCAP had completed a study on guidelines for standards for human settlements, with emphasis on water supply, sewage systems, dwelling, community facilities and transportation. That study, he pointed out, would probably be followed by another recommending standards for human settlements in accordance with the different conditions of each member country. The ESCAP representative also mentioned a study on guidelines for rural centre planning which was published in 1979 and another study on slums and squatter settlements which was being prepared, with assistance from the Netherlands. He noted that slums and squatter settlements were a major issue in the ESCAP region. In respect of the subprogramme, Institutions and Management, he mentioned that an expert group meeting had been held in 1979 on information system networks concerning human settlements in the ESCAP region.

3. Action by the Commission

171. The Commission, on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, adopted a decision on the work programmes and medium-term plans of the regional commissions (see annex I, decision 3/17).

D. Co-ordination of activities of other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements

(agenda item 7 (d))

1. Introduction

172. The Executive Director recalled that at the second session, the Commission, in its resolution 2/3, requested the Executive Director to prepare a biennial report on the subject, with an interim report to the Commission at its fourth session. The Executive Director reported that, pursuant to that request, the Centre had expanded and strengthened its contacts and co-operation with other United Nations organizations, as a matter of priority, since the second session and would continue to do so during 1980-1981.

173. The Commission was informed of the specific contacts and negotiations that had taken place during the past year. The Executive Director pointed out that he had already dealt with the results of the meeting which he had held with each Executive Secretary of the regional commissions under an earlier agenda item. He also reported that there had been considerable progress in strengthening the co-operation and collaboration with UNEP, as recommended by the Commission at the previous session. In fact, several official meetings had taken place since the second session between officers of the Centre and UNEP concerning the implementation of their respective work programmes for 1980-1981.

174. In addition, the Joint Bureaux of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Governing Council of UNEP had met with the two Executive Directors (see HS/C/3/INF.3) and welcomed the identification of the nine areas in the respective work programmes in which future activities of both organizations would be developed in close co-operation with each other and with other relevant United Nations agencies. Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by the two agencies, agreeing to collaborate in a project on guidelines for incorporating environmental considerations in human-settlement planning. Discussions were also under way on other joint projects.

175. The Executive Director informed the Commission that the Centre had also had other constructive and productive discussions with the executive heads of the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank and IFAD, and senior officials of the Department of International and Social Affairs and the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, of UNDRO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, UNHCR, the United Nations University, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the World Tourism Organization. In some cases, those meetings had resulted in the identification of specific areas for co-operation, as well as some joint projects.

176. In addition, discussions had been held with UNDRO on how the two organizations could work together more closely on preventative measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters on human settlements. Regarding the Centre, he pointed out that projects have been identified for early co-operation on refugee settlements in a number of African States. Also, in concluding his introductory statement, the Executive Director explained that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) was the principal Secretariat organ that considered programme priorities for the United Nations system and co-operation and co-ordination among the various major organizations, and pointed out that the Centre was not represented in the ACC.

2. Discussion

177. Following questions raised by several delegations, the World Bank representative provided an extensive overview on World Bank programmes in the field of human settlements, describing their nature and scope, as well as some specific examples. He emphasized World Bank support for training activities, citing, in particular, the training courses on which the Centre and the World Bank were collaborating in both East Africa and West Africa. He also offered the World Bank's assistance to the Centre in the review and evaluation of programmes.

178. Several delegations welcomed the prospects of increasing co-operation between the Centre and the World Bank, and it was proposed that further consultations be held with a view to developing co-operation between the two organizations. It was further suggested by another delegation that consultations for that purpose also be held with the regional development banks.

179. In the discussion, several delegations also stressed the importance of continuing co-operation and collaboration between the Centre and UNEP. A delegation expressed satisfaction with the fact that a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation had already been signed by the two organizations.

180. In its intervention, UNICEF stressed the importance of co-operation, namely, to act jointly. Its representative informed the Committee about joint projects on rural and squatter settlements. Also mentioned were the urban projects of UNICEF. There were already urban projects in 30 countries, with projects in 13 more countries in the pipeline.

181. Four regional commissions briefly described co-operation efforts with the Centre and some of their programmes relating to human settlements.

182. The representative of ECA stated that the regional problems of human settlements had been integrated into the general context of regional economic development. That integration, according to the ECA representative, had been achieved as a result of having institutionalized within the decision-making body of ECA the policy-making functions governing human settlement programmes in the region. In view of the importance accorded by ECA to human settlements, the number of professionals working on human settlements has been augmented from 3 to 10, and three experts have been posted to the subregions. However, he pointed out that the resources allocated to the human settlement programme were not sufficient for the needs of the region, for which reason co-operation with the Centre was indispensable. Currently, co-operation between the Centre and ECA was concentrated primarily on a project for improving rural areas in connexion with a project of fluvial planning, and the Centre had made clear its intention to participate actively in a programme to develop the building materials industry.

183. The representative of ECE reported that the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning had repeatedly shown its willingness to co-operate with other United Nations bodies in the implementation of programmes on human settlements. The Committee appreciated the participation of the Executive Director in its 1979 session and had taken note with satisfaction of the arrangements made for co-operation between ECE and the Centre in areas of mutual interest. Progress was further reported on the various co-operative projects listed in paragraphs 15 to 17 of document HS/C/3/12, in particular, the study on the role of the construction industry in the economy of ECE countries. In general, the pragmatic and informal approach to co-operation between ECE and the Centre had proved effective and given results which were satisfactory to both bodies. Effective co-operation on human settlements had also been established between ECE and the other regional commissions.

184. The representative of ECWA explained to the Committee the work programme of the Commission and urged collaboration, co-ordination and assistance from the Centre in implementing the programme effectively. He emphasized that the work programme, which had recently been approved by ECWA at its seventh session in Baghdad, in April 1980, was in compliance with the Centre's general framework of activities in the ECWA region. He mentioned the human settlements regional meeting on housing finance and management which had been held in Al-Ain, from 25 to 29 November 1979, as an excellent example of co-ordination with the Centre. Concerning the establishment of an intergovernmental committee, the ECWA representative expressed optimism that an intergovernmental committee would be established in 1981.

185. The representative of ESCAP informed the Committee that there had been considerable co-operation with the Centre and that ESCAP considered that the process of regionalization was well under way. He informed the Committee of the decision of the ESCAP Commission that the existing composite committee on industry,

human settlements and technology, with certain modifications would for the time being continue to serve as an intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements. He said that there were currently 17 joint activities between ESCAP and the Centre. He stressed that, if the work of his Commission in human settlements was to continue, additional resources would be required, and some of those resources could be provided through deployment.

186. One delegation informed the Committee that a resolution concerning the relationship between the Centre and the regional commissions would be introduced. That resolution would request the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and the Executive Director to adhere strictly to General Assembly resolution 32/162 which included the formation of intergovernmental committees on human settlements in all the regional commissions. It would recommend that the regional commissions provide more resources for human settlement activities in their respective regions, complementing those of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and that the regional commissions give human settlements the importance it deserves. It would also recommend that joint Centre-regional commission units should be established, that resources should be made available from the Centre to those units and that annual working sessions should be carried out by those units.

187. The same delegation explained that, in response to General Assembly resolution 32/162, ECLA, by its resolution 407 (XVIII), decided to establish special committees on human settlements during the session of the Commission. The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements, convened in Mexico City in November 1979, requested the Executive Secretary of ECLA to study the financial implications of setting up an intergovernmental committee on human settlements. This delegate also pointed out that paragraphs 7 and 18 of the report of the Executive Director did not completely reflect that the Mexico meeting was an intergovernmental meeting. He further indicated that a number of constructive recommendations were adopted at the ECLA meetings in Guatemala and at La Paz demonstrating preoccupation for human settlements in the region.

188. In response to the intervention by one delegation, the Executive Director concurred that the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements, held in Mexico City during November 1979, had been, in fact, an intergovernmental meeting, but he pointed out that that did not constitute an intergovernmental committee, as called for in General Assembly resolution 32/162. In response to a question from another delegation, the Executive Director detailed the implementation of regional programmes and the deployment of resources to the regions.

189. In summarizing the discussions, the Chairman stated that there was a clear expression of satisfaction on the part of the delegates with the Executive Director's report (HS/C/3/12) and his introductory statement on the agenda item, and on the progress made since the second session in expanding and strengthening contacts and co-operation with other United Nations organizations.

190. The Committee noted that many speakers had expressed special satisfaction with the close co-operation and joint activities which had developed between the Centre and UNEP. Also, delegations appreciated the steps that had been taken to collaborate with the World Bank, noting especially the joint Centre/World Bank activities in the area of training.

191. It was noted that the Executive Director had pointed out in his introduction

that the Centre was not represented in ACC. Some delegations were working on a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly recommending that the Centre should be represented in ACC and its relevant subsidiary machinery.

192. The Committee noted that the Executive Director could submit to the Commission to the next session an interim report on the human-settlement activities of the United Nations system, according to the objectives, format and content agreed to at the second session.

193. The Chairman noted that the Committee recommended that more resources should be made available to the United Nations system for work on human settlements. He recommended that UNEP and the Centre should consider holding joint bureaux meetings once a year and explore the possibility of holding them once every two years.

194. One delegate, however, questioned the usefulness of the joint bureaux meetings.

3. Action by the Commission

195. At its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted a resolution on membership of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (see annex I, resolution 3/5).

196. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (see annex I, resolution 3/6).

197. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution on co-operation and organization at the regional level (see annex I, resolution 3/7).

VIII. CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS
OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Intergovernmental organizations outside the
United Nations system

(agenda item 8 (a))

1. Introduction

198. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 8 (a) at its 5th meeting, on 12 May.

199. The Executive Director noted that the inventory and analysis of the major programmes and projects of the intergovernmental organizations under review by the Centre, as requested by the Commission at the second session in its decision 2/8, was considered to have been superseded by the report requested in Commission resolution 2/3 of 4 April 1979. Consequently, the Centre would submit an interim report to the Commission at its fourth session in 1981 and a biennial report to the Commission at its fifth session in 1982.

200. Regarding co-operation with multilateral financial institutions, the Executive Director emphasized that the improvement of human settlements in the various countries could be substantially accelerated through the Centre's participation in joint projects with the regional development banks. He explained that under such arrangements, and in view of the limited resources of the Centre, the joint projects could be financed by the banks themselves or by the banks securing parallel financing from financial institutions outside their regions, while the Centre could provide the requisite technical assistance. He then cited several instances where such co-operation was already under way or was being discussed. He proposed to conduct further consultations and to strengthen co-operation with the multilateral financial institutions as a matter of priority during the 1980-1981 biennium.

201. In concluding his introductory statement, the Executive Director pointed out that the Centre had organized a series of four regional meetings on human settlements finance and management in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific region, and the West Asia region.

2. Discussion

202. Several of the delegations commended the Executive Director's efforts in establishing contacts and initiating arrangements for co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system. One delegation expressed the wish that ties be strengthened with those organizations, especially the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). The same delegation requested the Executive Director to assist in negotiating a greater flow of resources from the multinational financing institutions of the Latin American and Caribbean region, particularly the Inter-American Development Bank, with a view to supporting the activities of the

Centre and the Economic Commission for Latin America. Another delegation praised the Executive Director's efforts to assist the human settlements activities of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and requested him to continue his efforts in that area.

203. The Chairman, in his summary remarks, noted with satisfaction the progress made since the second session in establishing closer co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, notably the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, OAS, OAU, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

204. The Committee endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to give priority during 1980-1981 to expanding and strengthening co-operation with national and multilateral financial institutions, and the regional development banks in particular, using as a basis the results of the regional meetings on human settlements finance and management which had been sponsored by the Centre in 1978-1979.

205. The Committee also noted that the Executive Director would submit an interim report to the Commission at its fourth session on the human settlement activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and on co-operation between them and the Centre.

B. Non-governmental organizations concerned
with human settlements

(agenda item 8 (b))

1. Introduction

206. The Executive Director recalled that at its second session the Commission, in its resolution 2/3, had requested a report on activities and collaboration between the Centre and non-governmental organizations as part of the biennial report to be submitted in 1982, with an interim report at the fourth session in 1981. He referred to the previous report on the subject (HS/C/2/10), which described the general nature, activities and contacts between the Centre and more than 40 non-governmental organizations, and to the report on progress since the second session (HS/C/3/14), prepared for the current session of the Commission.

207. The Executive Director reported on the discussions between the Centre and representatives of the Habitat International Council. He pointed out that the Council representatives had presented a report on possible non-governmental organization contributions to the Centre's work programme and that their proposals were currently under review by the Centre. The discussions also resulted in an understanding to include information provided by the non-governmental organizations on their human settlement activities and on major meetings in issues of the Habitat News. With regard to the preparation of technical reports for use by non-governmental organizations engaged in community development and projects, it was agreed that detailed proposals would be submitted to the Centre for consideration. In concluding his introductory statement, the Executive Director paid special tribute to the Chairman of the Habitat International Council and his colleagues for their dedication and support. He also referred to the many other examples of contact and co-operation between the Centre and the non-governmental

organizations, which were briefly described in the annex to document HS/C/3/14, and welcomed their co-operative efforts towards the common goal of improving human settlements conditions around the world.

2. Discussion

208. The delegates noted with satisfaction the progress made in establishing contacts with the non-governmental organizations. In particular, the efforts of the Habitat International Council was noted. One delegate stated the view that co-operation with non-governmental organizations should be based on lists of those organizations provided by the Governments concerned. Another delegation expressed the view that non-governmental organizations should be utilized to assist the Centre in collecting information on human settlements activities. The same delegation also stated that its Government was prepared to provide assistance to discuss further possibilities for support to joint activities of the Centre and the organizations, particularly in the area of training for improvement of rural settlements.

209. The Chairman, in summarizing the debate, praised the introductory statement by the Executive Director and noted with satisfaction the progress made since the second session in establishing closer contacts and co-operation with non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements. He also noted that the Executive Director would submit an interim report to the Commission at its fourth session on activities and collaboration between the Centre and the non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGEMENT AND
BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. Introduction

210. Agenda item 9 was considered by the Committee of the Whole at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 9 May.

(a) Progress report on administrative and budgetary matters

211. The Executive Director informed the Committee that the transfer of staff from New York to Nairobi had been completed and that the Centre had established its own financial, personnel, recruitment and related services. The provisional organization of the Centre based on grouping of related functions had just been reviewed by the Administration and Management Service of Headquarters (AMS). Changes, if any, will be made in the light of the recommendations of AMS.

212. The AMS team was also in Nairobi to study the possibility of establishing common services in the United Nations Centre in Nairobi, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/233. The Executive Director fully supported the concept of shared facilities, such as conference services, security, building and grounds maintenance, telex and cable services, goods receipt, storage and dispatch, printing, reproduction, catering and health services, but considered that other administrative and financial services should be common only if it was demonstrated that that would result in economy and improved efficiency. He expected that the AMS study would contain alternative proposals with options that would be cost effective.

213. Currently, the administrative and financial functions of the Centre were being carried out with only the posts initially requested by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to supplement the existing UNEP establishment in providing a joint administrative service. By closely integrating the activities of the Centre, the administration and common services costs had been kept to a low level of 7.4 per cent of its total resource allocation.

(b) Proposals for the utilization of the resources of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the biennium 1980-1981

214. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission at its second session, the Executive Director reported that the activities of the Foundation had been fully integrated into the work programme approved by the Commission. The staff previously engaged in various services currently formed part of the technical co-operation, research and development, information, documentation and audio-visual services of the Centre. However, for the time being, no changes were being made in the management and fund-raising functions of the Foundation, which remained the same as outlined in paragraph 3 of document HS/C/2/7, which was submitted to the Commission at its second session. The post of Administrator of the Foundation was being kept vacant temporarily and the Executive Director was discharging its management and fund-raising functions. The post would be filled only when the amount of voluntary contributions and the level of activities justified the appointment of a high level official. That position was endorsed by the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 8 of its report (HC/C/3/16/Add.1).

215. On considerations of economy, the Executive Director had limited his request for resources to the same level as the previous year, except for the increase justified by the integration of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre into the Centre's over-all information activities. Against the 85 posts approved for the Foundation by the Governing Council of UNEP, he had requested only 23 posts (excluding the 10 for Vision Habitat), and would continue to exercise strict austerity in the utilization of those resources devoting the maximum resources to direct project activities.

216. With regard to the activities of the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre the Executive Director had submitted a detailed report on the establishment of a unified information service, in pursuance of a recommendation of the Commission at its second session, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 34/115, the Executive Director had held discussions with the Canadian authorities, who had agreed that, on the expiry of the existing agreement on 31 March 1980, the Centre could use the balance of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre funds for activities extending beyond 31 March 1980. As at 31 March 1980, those funds were expected to amount to \$607,000 but remained committed to continue activities of Vision Habitat within the framework of the unified work programme already approved by the Commission. The increase in extrabudgetary staff resources from 23 to 33 for the biennium 1980-1981 was to be seen in that context.

217. With regard to the commitments of the Foundation to direct project activities, the Foundation, during the financial year 1979, had initiated 13 projects, involving a commitment of \$547,000. For the biennium 1980-1981, six projects had so far been initiated involving a commitment of \$662,800. In addition, a number of projects relating to the work programme of the Centre were being undertaken involving a financial commitment of \$776,000, thus bringing total project commitments so far in the current biennium to \$1,439,400.

218. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 5 of its report (HS/C/3/16/Add.1), recommended that the Commission should be provided with additional information on the definition of programme as opposed to programme support expenditures. With the integration of the activities of the Foundation into the unified work programme of the Centre, all but four of the Foundation posts were currently engaged in work programme activities in four of the six subprogrammes of the approved work programme, leaving vacant only the Assistant Secretary-General, one D-1 posts and two General Service posts for fund-raising and fund management activities which constitute the programme support element of the Foundation.

219. Staff resources allocated to the Division of Information, Documentation and Audio-Visual Services were the same as those listed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 of its report, except that the editorial unit, comprising one P-4, one P-3, two P-2 and four General Service posts funded from the regular budget originally sanctioned by the General Assembly under administration and common services were currently shown under that service. Those eight posts, provided primarily to accommodate the language requirements of the Commission, would in addition be utilized for the translation of various technical publications of the Centre. For that reason, they were located under the information and

documentation services of the Centre. The exact location for the editorial unit would be decided in the light of the AMS report.

220. On another point raised by the Advisory Committee regarding staff, that of the five Professional and five General Service in the field, the Executive Director stated that their principal function was to participate in the production and distribution of audio-visual training material, case studies and information packages. That substantive information function of the field officers was related to the transfer of technical expertise and training programmes.

221. Except for the Vancouver office, which shared premises allocated free of charge by the Government of Canada, all the other offices were located either in a UNDP office or in the offices of the regional commissions, as in the case of Bangkok and Mexico, or in the premises of the United Nations Office at Geneva. On the question of the costs of running those offices, the Executive Director reported that the Government of Jordan had made a generous contribution to the costs of the establishment and running of the office located in Amman. He also stated that the Canadian Government had announced, in the 2nd plenary meeting of the current session, that the Government of Canada would continue to support the Vancouver office for a further period of three years, from September 1980, to facilitate the dissemination of information for the North American region.

222. The Executive Director also stated that following careful consideration of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the timing for the submission of the budget proposals for the Foundation for the biennium 1982-1983 contained in paragraph 15 of document HS/C/3/16/Add.1, he believed that such an early preparation of budget proposals would affect the accuracy of the budgetary estimates. He would consult with the Advisory Committee to arrive at a mutually acceptable date for the submission of those proposals.

223. Concerning the resources of the Foundation, the Executive Director stated that, to date, 42 developing countries and only 8 developed countries had made contributions to the Centre. Those figures confirmed the importance developing countries attached to human settlement activities, which were mainly directed to the alleviation of the living conditions of the urban and rural poor. Even though there had been a substantial increase in the amount of pledges made last year as compared to the pledges made in 1978, they were still far too small to have any meaningful impact. Accordingly, he renewed his appeal to all member Governments, especially those of the developed and developing countries with resources, to contribute generously to the Foundation. He requested the Commission to approve his budget proposals for the biennium 1980-1981 as contained in documents HS/C/3/16 and Corr.1 and HS/C/3/16/Add.1.

(c) Establishment of a unified information service

224. The Executive Director stated that matters relating to a unified information service were also covered in documents HS/C/3/3 and HS/C/3/16 as the establishment of such a service had both administrative and financial implications.

225. Given the important role of information exchange in solving many human settlement problems, the Information Division of the Centre was responsible for project support communications, information exchange, audio-visual services and strengthening information systems at the national, regional and global levels, and would work closely with the other sections of the Centre, especially in relation

to technical co-operation activities, research, training and education. Both the Habitat Conference and the resolutions establishing the Centre had emphasized that the exchange of information should be given high priority. In addition to exchange information the service would provide assistance in the establishment of information systems at both the national and regional levels.

226. In the short period of its existence, the unified information service of the Centre had been able to produce a series of publications for use by Governments and professionals concerned with human settlements. He informed the Committee that an audio-visual production on upgrading squatter settlements in the Philippines would be shown during the Commission's session as a case study undertaken jointly by the Centre and the Government of the Philippines.

227. He stated that, in integrating the functions of the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre into the unified information service, he retained only 50 per cent of its staff, mainly for the field offices. Support for the unified information service had been clearly demonstrated by contributions from the Governments of Canada and Jordan for the field offices in their respective regions. Negotiations were also under way with the Government of Hungary regarding the establishment of a depository film library to be located in Budapest for eastern Europe.

2. Discussion

228. The Committee expressed its appreciation and satisfaction at the efforts made by the Executive Director towards the establishment of a fully operational Centre in Nairobi with its own support services. It noted that the secretariat of the Centre was fully integrated and that the Executive Director had managed to keep the administration costs of the Centre within reasonable limits. The discussions which followed the Executive Director's statements dealt with four main areas: (a) documentation, (b) use of resources, (c) programme implementation and (d) audio-visual information services.

229. In addressing themselves to the question of documentation, most delegations expressed satisfaction at the quality of the presentation and the contents of the documents issued, which they found to be both informative and comprehensive. Two delegations suggested that, to facilitate understanding, the information provided in some of the financial tables should be supplemented by objects of expenditure. One delegation indicated that the document did not clearly identify the overhead income of the Centre or how it was utilized.

230. On the utilization of the resources of the Foundation, all the delegations commended the Executive Director for the restraint shown in his budgetary proposals and had no difficulty in approving the proposals he had submitted. One delegation expressed concern that the budgetary proposals indicated a negative rate of growth when compared with the expenditure of the preceding biennium. As the Centre was a new organizational unit, it should have a higher rate of growth, at least in the initial years of its existence. He called upon the Executive Director to develop a higher level of programme than had been proposed for the 1980-1981 biennium. In that representative's view, the Centre was attempting to fulfil the human needs of the urban and rural poor, whose problems and difficulties needed to be resolved within their lifetime, and that was not possible with the

proposed resources. He indicated that his Government, in spite of resource constraints, had consistently contributed to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

231. While expressing their appreciation to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada for their pledges at the current session of the Commission, several delegations appealed for voluntary contributions to the Centre.

232. Two delegations expressed the view that the Centre should be a small, effective secretariat, and several delegations pointed out that the Centre should be provided with larger resources to enable it to discharge its mandate.

233. One representative mentioned that, although document HS/C/3/15 contained a provisional organizational chart for the Centre, it did not provide information on the geographical distribution of the posts of the Centre. He had previously expressed concern at the fact that except for his own country no other socialist country from the Eastern European region was represented. It also sought information on vacancies in the Centre. Several delegations, noting that the Centre was small, suggested that it should be selective in filling vacancies and that only the best of available professionals should be recruited. One delegation expressed concern at the delay in filling the existing vacancies.

234. A number of delegations inquired about the progress made in the utilization of existing resources for the implementation of the regional component of the Commission's work programme. Two delegations, referring specifically to the Latin American region, expressed their concern about the slow pace at which the regional programmes were being implemented and their disappointment at the limited resources allocated for those programmes. One delegation wanted precise information as to the level and recruitment status of the posts being assigned to the regions. In deciding on the location of those resources in the Latin American region, consideration should be given to the existence of two linguistic groups and the problems of distance and communication between them. One delegation felt that the formulation of the regional programmes for Latin America was too ambitious, given the means available for their implementation.

235. With regard to the audio-visual information services, all delegations expressed satisfaction and supported the integration of the activities of the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre into the work programme of the Centre. Most delegations considered the dissemination of information and exchange of experiences important components of the unified information services, particularly in view of the need to disseminate to all countries information on experiences acquired at the national, regional and subregional levels. In that context, the importance of audio-visual presentations was stressed. Several delegations supported the continuation of the field offices of the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre and suggested that the non-governmental organizations could assist the Centre in its information-gathering and dissemination functions. One delegation requested that the audio-visual information material should include not only information on the Centre's technical assistance projects, but also experience concerning others as well.

236. Following the discussion, the Executive Director replied to a number of questions raised by various delegations in the course of the debate.

237. The Chairman of the Committee then summarized the discussions.

3. Action by the Commission

238. The Commission, on the recommendation of the Committee, adopted two resolutions on administrative, management and budgetary matters (see annex I, resolutions 3/8 and 3/9).

X. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

239. At its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Commission decided that its fourth session would be held from 27 April to 6 May 1981.

240. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines extended, on the part of his Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its fourth session at Manila.

241. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for its generous invitation and decided to accept in principle the invitation to hold its fourth session at Manila, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

242. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following draft provisional agenda for its fourth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Activities of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director:
 - (a) Research, development and training;
 - (b) Technical co-operation;
 - (c) Information, audio-visual activities and documentation.
5. Review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social developments.
6. Review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements.
7. Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989:
 - (a) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
 - (b) Regional commissions.
8. Work programme for the biennium 1982-1983:
 - (a) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

(b) Regional commissions.

9. Periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements: interim report of the Executive Director on Commission resolution 2/3 of 4 April 1979:

(a) Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations system;

(b) Activities and collaboration between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Information on activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and collaboration between them and the Centre.

10. Budgetary matters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1982-1983: report of the Executive Director.

11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fifth session of the Commission.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

243. The proposal was made that the Bureau of the Commission should discuss the organization and the structure of the work of the fourth session, with a view to making the debate of the Commission more policy-oriented. It was further proposed that the Bureau should look into the possibility of having a plenary meeting and two Committees instead of one.

XI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

244. In closing statements, representatives of the regional groups and other delegates expressed their appreciation to the Government of Mexico for hosting the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements. The representative of Mexico replied on behalf of his Government. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director thanked the representatives for the valuable guidance provided on the substantive issues before the Commission.

245. The Chairman thanked all participants for their contribution to the work accomplished, and declared closed the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human
Settlements at its third session

<u>Number</u>		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>A. Resolutions</u>			
3/1	Assistance to the Palestinian people	15 May 1980	55
3/2	Role of human settlements in the new international development strategy*	15 May 1980	55
3/3	Assistance to Zimbabwe	15 May 1980	57
3/4	Arabic as an official language*	15 May 1980	58
3/5	Membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination*	15 May 1980	58
3/6	Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme**	15 May 1980	59
3/7	Co-operation and organization at the regional level	15 May 1980	60
3/8	Administrative, management and budgetary matters	15 May 1980	62
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<u>B. Decisions</u>			
3/10	Rules of procedure of the Commission	15 May 1980	64
3/11	Human settlement financing and management	15 May 1980	79
3/12	Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements	15 May 1980	80
3/13	Rural settlements and growth centres	15 May 1980	80
3/14	Upgrading of urban slums and squatter settlements	15 May 1980	81
3/15	1984-1989 medium-term plan	15 May 1980	81
3/16	1980-1981 work programme	15 May 1980	82
3/17	Work Programme and medium-term plans of the regional commissions	15 May 1980	83

* Requires action by the General Assembly.

A. Resolutions

3/1. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction the introductory report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the Commission at its third session,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, and General Assembly resolution 34/133 of 14 December 1979 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people,

1. Requests the Executive Director to make every effort to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/133 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people within the responsibility and competence of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

2. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its fourth session.

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/2. The role of human settlements in the new international development strategy

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting that the broad objectives of the new international development strategy are to promote economic and social development in developing countries and to extend the benefits of development to all sectors of society,

Recognizing the important role of human settlements, broadly conceived, as a tool in helping to achieve these objectives of the new international development strategy,

Noting that the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy is in the process of finalizing a draft on the policy measures of the new international development strategy, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session,

Also noting the recommendations made by the Executive Director for consideration by the Preparatory Committee,

Taking note of the views expressed by many delegations of developing countries at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and the subsequent amendments thereto,

Welcoming the conclusions of the report of the Executive Director on human settlements and on the new international development strategy, a/

Recognizing the contribution human settlements policies and programmes provide for attaining over-all economic and social development through:

(a) Development of equitable national and regional spatial plans, in order to co-ordinate the distribution of population with the resource base to optimize development output and minimize social costs,

(b) Provision of the physical infrastructure in human settlements - for example, water supply, sewerage, transportation, communication networks, shelter, public facilities and services - in order to promote industrialization, provide for investment opportunities and serve as a lever for stimulating economic and social development and increasing employment,

(c) Provision of housing, extension of services and facilities targeted to the least advantaged sectors of society,

(d) Development of the construction industry, including building materials as a means of generating diversified employment, reducing import dependence, reducing construction costs, upgrading skills and incorporating the informal sector into the total economy,

(e) Development of suitable settlement planning and building standards, to minimize energy consumption, conserve depletable resources and reduce balance-of-payment deficits,

(f) Development of appropriate environmental standards and conditions,

Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, that it should include human settlements development as a distinct and intrinsically important framework of development efforts recommended for commitment by all Governments for improvement of the quality of life:

(a) Through, inter alia, the formulation and implementation of appropriate physical planning and physical development policies designed to ensure a better balance between rural and urban development;

(b) Through strengthening, in the context of human settlements planning, of measures to improve living conditions for the most disadvantaged groups and regions - access to infrastructure, land and employment - and, in particular, through upgrading programmes;

(c) Through formulation of national policies for the provision of basic shelter and infrastructure; to this end, countries will develop their construction industry, particularly for low-cost housing, support relevant financing institutions, stimulate research and disseminate findings on efficient methods of construction, low-cost design and technology for infrastructure, indigenous building materials and environmental protection.

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

a/ HS/C/3/4.

3/3. Assistance to Zimbabwe

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3421 (XXX) of 8 December 1975 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in which the Assembly urged the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to extend assistance to the newly independent and emerging States,

Deeply concerned at the damage to the economy of the newly independent Republic of Zimbabwe and to much of its limited infrastructure as a result of the long war which preceded independence and the problems caused by the return of large numbers of refugees,

Taking note of the statement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the Commission at its third session, informing it of the mission he had sent to assess the urgent needs of Zimbabwe,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation for the initiative taken by the Executive Director in sending a mission to assess the urgent needs of Zimbabwe;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the responsibilities contained in section III, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and on the basis of the recommendations of the mission, to undertake further discussions with the Government of Zimbabwe, with a view to assisting the Government in:

(a) Generating capital investment from international funding agencies for the construction and improvement of human settlements, shelter and infrastructure, to make good the damage suffered during the independence struggle;

(b) Obtaining technical support to government programmes in human settlement development from bilateral and multilateral sources in order to prepare the country for a sustained effort to achieve economic growth and social improvement;

(c) Assessing the training requirements for professional and technician-level staff needed to develop and manage human settlements;

(d) Setting up the administrative and organizational structures necessary to implement programmes designed to generate employment, protect the natural and man-made environment, improve the quality of life and increase efficiency in the functional operation of human settlements;

3. Invites the specialized agencies, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to give all necessary assistance, within their respective fields of competence, to the Government and people of Zimbabwe, so as to enable them to meet both their short-term and long-term development needs;

4. Appeals to Member States to provide effective and continuous financial, material and technical assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe, so as to permit the implementation of the agreed projects and programmes arising from the discussions mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/4. Arabic as an official and working language of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its decision 3/10 of 15 May 1980, by which it adopted its rules of procedure,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3190 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, in which the Assembly decided to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committee,

Noting the growing concern and interest of the Arabic-speaking countries in the Commission, as reflected in their participation at high level,

Recognizing that their effective participation and contribution is hampered because of language difficulties,

Noting their indication of their willingness to meet the cost of the introduction of Arabic as an official language of the Commission for three years,

Recommends that the General Assembly should consider favourably at its thirty-fifth session the financial implications to the regular budget of the introduction of Arabic as an official working language of the Commission after that period.

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/5. Membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, especially section II, paragraph 4 (b), and section III, paragraph 5 (a) and (b),

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is now a fully integrated organization with a programme of work, including technical assistance, research, training and the dissemination of information in the field of human settlements,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

"Recalling section II, paragraph 4 (b), of that resolution, in which it called upon the Commission on Human Settlements to follow closely the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the over-all policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved,

"Recalling also section III, paragraph 5 (a) and (b), of that resolution which calls upon the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) 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,

"Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is now a fully integrated organization with a programme of work, including technical assistance, research, training and the dissemination of information in the field of human settlements,

"Invites the Secretary-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to become a member of that body and its relevant subsidiary machinery."

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/6. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the joint meeting 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, held at Nairobi on 7 December 1979, b/

Noting the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighth session on co-ordination with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), c/

b/ PS/C/3/3, para. 106.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25).

1. Concurs with the recommendation of the joint meeting of the Bureaux with the Executive Directors that the General Assembly be asked to approve the holding of joint meetings of the Bureaux on an annual basis rather than on a biannual basis as now required by General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

2. Decides to recommend to the General Assembly on its own behalf, and on behalf of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in particular section VI, paragraph 1, thereof,

"Noting the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its third session d/ and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth session, e/

"Approves the holding of 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 once a year rather than on a biannual basis."

15th plenary meeting

15 May 1980

3/7. Co-operation and organization at the regional level

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, and Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 2/5 and 2/6 of 4 April 1979,

Noting the resolutions adopted at the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements, held at Mexico City in November 1979,

Considering that the recommendations on regional organization contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 have not been fully implemented, particularly the provisions of section IV thereof,

Considering the great social importance of human settlements for mankind,

Considering that human settlements problems in the least developed countries require immediate practical and effective solutions,

Considering that the least developed countries require stronger support from the United Nations,

Considering that it is necessary to mobilize additional resources from the United Nations system and to encourage contributions from other organizations concerned with human settlements development,

d/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/35/8).

e/ Ibid., Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25).

Considering that it is necessary to encourage voluntary contributions from all countries, especially those in a position to do so,

Recognizing that problems vary in their specific nature from one region to another and even within regions,

Recognizing further that less developed countries need to increase rapidly the human resources engaged in improving the quality of the habitat,

Considering the great disparity between resources required for implementing the 1980-1981 work programme and the resources which are available,

Considering that the effectiveness of the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) can be enhanced by the establishment of joint units with the regional commissions with regard to regional policies and programmes,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, the regional commissions and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement fully General Assembly resolution 32/162, Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 2/5 and 2/6 and other resolutions such as those adopted at the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements, held at Mexico City in 1979;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to consider reprogramming of budget funds to allocate more resources to human settlements activities and programmes in his budget proposal;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly that the temporary assistance approved for deployment to the regions for 1980 be converted into established posts;

4. Calls upon all countries, especially those in a position to do so, to increase their voluntary contributions in the area of human settlements;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to renew his requests to governmental and non-governmental organizations so as to increase the resources available to the Centre;

6. Calls upon the Executive Director of the Centre and the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions to take the necessary steps to set up, as soon as possible, as appropriate, joint units with the regional commissions in order to comply with the spirit and objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

7. Recommends that the regional commissions should set up as soon as possible intergovernmental committees on human settlements in those regions where these do not yet exist;

8. Reiterates that the Executive Director of the Centre should deploy available resources to the joint units, taking account of the needs of the least developed countries; this procedure should apply both to new resources which the Centre may obtain and to resources which have already been allocated by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for this purpose;

9. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre, when preparing the budget proposals for the Centre, to take full account of the priorities established by the region;

10. Recommends that manpower training, complemented by research, technical assistance and prompt action where required, should be the area of greatest priority for the least developed countries;

11. Requests the Executive Director to convene annual working meetings with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, or their representatives, in order to co-ordinate work programmes and plans in the area of human settlements;

12. Requests the regional commissions to ensure that the question of human settlements is accorded the specific treatment and importance it deserves, and calls upon the Executive Director of the Centre to express to the regional commissions the concern of the Commission with regard to the priority given to human settlements;

13. Recommends that the Executive Director of the Centre should bear in mind that the formulation of regional policies and programmes is a responsibility of the regions and that there must therefore be a regional programme incorporating both the regional component of the over-all programme of the Centre and the programmes of the regional intergovernmental committees, which should take into account subregional and regional interests;

14. Recommends that the countries of each region should participate actively in the work of the joint units by providing those units with human and financial resources and services and through the establishment of joint working groups.

15th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/8. Administrative, management and budgetary matters

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the administrative, management and budgetary matters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements since the second session of the Commission, f/ the proposals for the utilization of the resources of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation g/ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relating to the above-mentioned proposals, h/

Noting with satisfaction that, in accordance with the decision of the Commission at its second session, the activities of the Foundation have been functionally integrated into the work programme of the Centre and its resources utilized for its implementation, as well as for technical assistance projects,

Having reviewed the proposals of the Executive Director on the utilization of the resources of the Foundation in the biennium 1980-1981,

f/ HS/C/3/15.

g/ HS/C/3/16 and HS/C/3/16/Corr.1.

h/ HS/C/3/16/Add.1.

Taking note of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relating to these proposals,

1. Takes note of the functional integration of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the continuation by the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements of the audio-visual activities previously undertaken by the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre;

2. Approves the proposed allocation of funds for programme, programme support and reserve purposes for the biennium 1980-1981, i/ in accordance with financial rule 303.1;

3. Appeals to member States which have already made voluntary contributions to increase their contributions, and to the other member States, particularly the developed and developing countries with resources, to make voluntary contributions to the Centre through its Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

14th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

3/9. Unified information service

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment of a unified information service within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Canada for its generous support of the audio-visual information and dissemination activities of the Centre and to the Government of Jordan for its support of the field office in Amman,

Reaffirming the importance of information exchange in providing solutions to human-settlement problems,

1. Approves the continuation of the activities of the field offices of the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre as an integral part of the unified information service of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the information activities of the Centre in research, training and technical co-operation;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure that audio-visual materials produced within the work programme for 1980-1981 are widely distributed;

4. Also requests the Executive Director, among others, in collaboration with the non-governmental organizations to assist in the establishment of information networks and systems at the national and regional levels.

14th plenary meeting
15 May 1980

i/ HS/C/316, HS/C/3/16/Corr.1 and Add.1.

B. Decisions

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted its rules of procedures as set forth below:

3/10. Rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements

RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. SESSIONS

Number of sessions

Rule 1

The Commission shall normally hold one session each year. In addition, a special session of the Commission may be requested by the General Assembly.

Date of opening and duration

Rule 2

1. The date of opening and duration of each session shall be decided by the Commission at the session immediately preceding the one in question, subject to confirmation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Committee on Conferences of the General Assembly.

2. The sessions of the Commission shall be so timed as to enable both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the report of the Commission on the work of each session in the same year in which the session is held.

Place of sessions

Rule 3

Sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) unless otherwise decided by the Commission at a previous session, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/140 of 17 December 1976.

Notification of session

Rule 4

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Director") shall send notification of the date and place of each session of the Commission to:

(a) All States members of the Commission;

(b) All other States Members of the United Nations or of specialized agencies;

- (c) The specialized agencies and appropriate United Nations bodies;
- (d) The intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 58;
- (e) The organizations referred to in rule 59;
- (f) The national liberation movements referred to in rule 60.

2. Copies of such notification shall be addressed to the President of the General Assembly, if the Assembly is in session, to the President of the Economic and Social Council and to the organizations and institutions referred to in rule 61.

3. The notification referred to in this rule shall, in the case of a regular session, be sent in the working languages of the Commission as stipulated in rule 24 not less than 60 days prior to the opening of the session and, in the case of a special session, not less than 14 days prior to its opening.

II. AGENDA

Drawing up of the provisional agenda

Rule 5

1. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Bureau of the Commission, shall draw up and place before each session of the Commission a provisional agenda for its next regular session.
2. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by:
 - (a) The Commission at a previous session;
 - (b) The General Assembly;
 - (c) The Economic and Social Council;
 - (d) A State Member of the United Nations or a specialized agency: j/
 - (e) The Executive Director.
3. In drawing up the provisional agenda, the Executive Director may consult with other appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and any intergovernmental organization entitled to notification under rule 4; he may also consider suggestions from the non-governmental organizations and institutions referred to in rule 61.
4. The provisional agenda of a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session.

j/ When the term "specialized agencies" is used in these rules, it refers to specialized agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations; it also includes the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Communication of the provisional agenda

Rule 6

1. The notification referred to in rule 4 shall include a copy of the provisional agenda of the session to which such notification relates.
2. The provisional agenda of a special session shall be transmitted to the authorities mentioned in rule 4 at the same time as the notice convening the Commission.

Supplementary items

Rule 7

1. After the Commission has adopted the provisional agenda of a future session of the Commission, any person or authority entitled under rule 5 above to propose an item for the provisional agenda may propose supplementary items for inclusion in such agenda. Such proposal, unless made by the General Assembly, shall be accompanied by a supporting statement from the party proposing it, explaining the urgency of the consideration of the item.
2. The Executive Director shall promptly circulate to all States members of the Commission all requests received under the provision of this rule, with the accompanying supporting statements where applicable, together with any comments or observations which the Executive Director may wish to make on such requests.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 8

1. The Commission shall at the beginning of each session elect the Bureau as may be required under rule 12, and adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda and the supplementary items referred to in rule 7.
2. Any person or authority listed in paragraph 2 of rule 5 which has proposed a supplementary item for inclusion in the agenda shall be entitled to be heard by the Commission on the inclusion of the item in the agenda for the session.
3. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, an item shall normally be included in the agenda at the time of adoption only if the documentation related to that item has been circulated to members in all the working languages of the Commission not less than 42 days in advance of the opening date of the session.
4. The Commission may allocate items among the plenary meetings of the Commission and subsidiary organs, if any, set up in accordance with rule 17, and may refer items without preliminary debate in the Commission to:
 - (a) One or more of its subsidiary organs, if any, set up in accordance with rule 17, for examination and report at a subsequent session of the Commission;
 - (b) The Executive Director, for study and report at a subsequent session of the Commission;
 - (c) The proposer of the item, for further information or documentation.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 9

The Commission may, during a regular session, make changes in its agenda for that session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only items which the Commission considers to be important and urgent may be added to the agenda during a session.

III. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Representatives

Rule 10

Each State member of the Commission shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required by the member.

Credentials

Rule 11

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director at the latest before the end of the first meeting of the session of the Commission.
2. The credentials submitted under this rule shall be examined by the Bureau, which shall report without delay to the Commission.

IV. BUREAU

Election

Rule 12

1. Each year, at the commencement of the first meeting of its regular session, the Commission shall elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Commission.
2. The offices of Chairman and Rapporteur of the Commission shall be rotated among the following regional groups of States: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American States, and Western European and other States. The Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau shall be elected on the basis of one from each of the regional groups other than the ones to which the Chairman and the Rapporteur belong.

Functions

Rule 13

1. The Bureau shall assist the Chairman in the general conduct of the business of the Commission. The Bureau shall also carry out the task referred to in section IV of paragraph 1, General Assembly resolution 32/162, and the function referred to in paragraph 2 of rule 11.
2. The Commission, upon the recommendation of the Chairman, shall designate from among the Vice-Chairmen a Chairman for any sessional committee of the whole established under rule 17.

Terms of office

Rule 14

1. The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall, subject to the provisions of rule 12, be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which he is a representative.
2. If the Chairman ceases to be a representative of a State member of the Commission or is unable to perform his functions, or if the State of which he is a representative ceases to be a member of the Commission, the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Chairmen as Acting Chairman until a new Chairman is elected by the Commission.

Acting Chairman

Rule 15

1. If the Chairman finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting, or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Chairmen to act in his stead.
2. A Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Voting rights of the Chairman

Rule 16

The Chairman, or a Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, may delegate his right to vote to another member of his delegation.

V. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Establishment

Rule 17

1. The Commission may, during a session, set up such sessional committees or working groups composed of States members of the Commission as it may deem necessary and refer to them any items on the agenda or any other question for consideration and report.

2. A committee established by the Commission under this rule may set up such sub-committees or working groups as it may deem necessary for the efficient conduct of its work.

Officers

Rule 18

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of rule 13 above, subsidiary organs of the Commission shall elect their own officers.

2. A committee of the whole established under rule 17 may, in addition to its Chairman designated pursuant to paragraph 2 of rule 13, elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

3. All other subsidiary organs shall have a Chairman and, if the subsidiary organ deems it necessary, a Rapporteur.

Applicable rules of procedure

Rule 19

The rules of procedure of the Commission shall, to the extent appropriate, govern the proceedings of any subsidiary organ set up under rule 17.

VI. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Executive Director

Rule 20

1. The Executive Director shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary organs, if any, and may for this purpose designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place.

2. The Executive Director shall be responsible for providing and directing the staff required by the Commission or any subsidiary organ and for making all necessary arrangements for the Commission's meetings, including the preparation and distribution of documents in the working languages of the Commission at least 42 days in advance of the session of the Commission and its subsidiary organs, if any.

3. The Executive Director shall keep the States members of the Commission informed of any matters that may be brought before it for consideration.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 21

The secretariat shall ensure that statements made at meetings are interpreted, shall receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Commission and its subsidiary organs, and shall publish and circulate the resolutions, reports and

relevant documentation for the Commission in all working languages. It shall have the custody of the documents in the archives of the Commission and generally perform all other work which the Commission may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 22

The Executive Director, or a member of the secretariat designated by him, may at any time, upon the invitation of the Chairman, make either oral or written statements to the Commission concerning any matter under consideration by it.

Statement of financial implications

Rule 23

Before any proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations funds, including funds of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, is approved by the Commission, or by any of its subsidiary organs, the Executive Director shall prepare and provide to the Commission, or the subsidiary organ concerned, a statement of the financial implications of implementing the proposal. The Chairman shall draw attention to that statement and invite discussion on it when the proposal in question is considered by the Commission or the subsidiary organ involved.

VII. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Official and working languages

Rule 24

1. Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Commission. Speeches made in any of these languages shall be interpreted into the other languages of the Commission.

2. A representative may make a statement in any other language provided he arranges for interpretation of the statement into one of the official and working languages of the Commission. Interpretation into the other official languages by the interpreters of the secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first official language.

Languages of resolutions and other formal decisions

Rule 25

All resolutions, recommendations, other formal decisions and reports of the Commission shall be made available in the official languages of the Commission.

Circulation of formal decisions and reports

Rule 26

As soon as reasonably practicable, the resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Commission shall be communicated by the secretariat to all

members of the Commission and to any other participants in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions, as well as the report of the Commission to the General Assembly, shall be distributed in all the working languages of the Commission after the close of the session to all States Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 58.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 27

Sound recordings of meetings of the Commission shall be made and kept by the secretariat in accordance with the applicable rules and practice of the United Nations. Such recordings may also be made of the proceedings of any subsidiary organ if the Commission so decides.

VIII. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principle

Rule 28

Meetings of the Commission, its sessional committees and other subsidiary organs, if any, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 29

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Commission are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Commission shall, however, be required for any decision to be taken by the Commission.

General powers of the Chairman

Rule 30

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairman, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Commission and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He shall rule on points of order. He may propose to the Commission the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The Chairman, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Commission.

Speeches

Rule 31

1. No one may address the Commission without having first obtained the permission of the Chairman.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission and the Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to that question.

3. Subject to rules 33 and 35, the Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

4. At the request of the delegations concerned, the order of speakers may be altered.

Time-limit on speeches

Rule 32

With the approval of the Commission, the Chairman may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each delegation may speak on any question, provided that an intervention on a procedural question shall be limited to five minutes. When a speaker has exceeded his allotted time, the Chairman shall promptly call him to order.

Points of order

Rule 33

1. During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a State member of the Commission may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the Chairman in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairman shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

2. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 34

In the course of a debate, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Commission, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Commission, declare the debate closed.

Right of reply

Rule 35

The right of reply shall be accorded by the Chairman to any State member of the Commission which requests it. Representatives should attempt, in exercising this right, to be as brief as possible and preferably to deliver their statements at the end of the meeting at which this right is requested.

Motions to suspend or adjourn meeting

Rule 36

A representative of a State member of the Commission may at any time during the discussion of any matter move that the meeting be suspended or adjourned. The Commission shall, without discussion, immediately decide on such motion.

Motions to adjourn debate

Rule 37

A representative of a State member of the Commission may at any time move that the debate on the item under discussion be adjourned. Permission to speak on the motion shall be granted only to one other representative in favour of the motion and to one opposing it, after which the Commission shall immediately decide on the motion.

Motions to close debate

Rule 38

A representative of a State member of the Commission may at any time move that the debate on the item under discussion be closed, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the Commission shall immediately decide on the motion.

Order of motions

Rule 39

Subject to the right to raise a point of order under rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated over all other proposals and motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 40

1. Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies thereof to the States members of the Commission.
2. In principle, no such proposal or amendment shall be discussed or voted upon at any meeting of the Commission unless copies of it have been made available to all States members of the Commission not later than the day preceding that in which the meeting is to be held. The Commission may, however, decide to waive this requirement in a particular case or cases.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 41

1. A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced or a decision on it has been taken or an amendment to it has been adopted.
2. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by another member.

Decisions on competence

Rule 42

A motion raising the issue of the competence of the Commission to adopt a proposal or an amendment before it shall be decided upon first before any decision is made on the proposal or amendment in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 43

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Commission so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

X. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

General principles

Rule 44

Subject to the provisions of rule 33, the Commission may decide any question without a vote and shall normally make decisions by consensus. A vote shall, however, be taken if a representative of a State member of the Commission so requests.

Voting rights

Rule 45

Each State member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 46

1. Subject to any relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly related to voting, decisions of the Commission taken by vote shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting. If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, the proposal or amendment shall be considered rejected.

2. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" refers only to members casting affirmative or negative votes and does not include members abstaining from voting.

Method of voting

Rule 47

1. Except as provided in paragraph 3 of this rule and rule 53, the Commission shall normally vote by show of hands; any State member may, however, request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of States members of the Commission, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by the Chairman.

2. The vote of each State member participating in a roll call shall be inserted in the appropriate record of the Commission.

3. Any State member of the Commission may request that the Commission vote on any matter by secret ballot. When such a request is made, a roll-call vote shall be held on the question of whether to proceed by secret ballot. If a majority of the members present and voting so decide, the vote shall proceed by secret ballot.

Conduct during voting

Rule 48

Once the Chairman has signalled the commencement of voting, no representative may interrupt the voting except on a point of order related to the actual process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 49

The Chairman may permit a State member of the Commission to make a brief statement in explanation of his vote either before or after the voting on the proposal or motion being voted upon.

Division of proposals or amendments

Rule 50

A representative of a State member of the Commission may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Decisions on amendments

Rule 51

1. An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from or revise part of another proposal.
2. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Order of decisions on proposals

Rule 52

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall be decided on in the order in which they were submitted, unless the Commission decides otherwise. The Commission may, after a decision on one proposal, decide whether or not to go on to consider the next proposal.
2. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of a proposal shall be decided on first before that proposal.

Elections

Rule 53

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless there is an agreed candidate or slate of candidates and the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot.

Rule 54

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the majority required and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, provided that if only one place remains to be filled the procedures in rule 55 shall be applied. The ballot shall be restricted to the unsuccessful candidates having obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, but not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number; if a tie again results among more than the required number of candidates, the Chairman shall reduce their number to that required by drawing lots.

3. If such a restricted ballot (not counting a special ballot held under the conditions specified in the last sentence of para. 2) is inconclusive, the Chairman shall decide among the remaining candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 55

1. If, when only one elective place is to be filled, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held among such candidates for the purpose of reducing their number to two; similarly, in the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held. If a tie again results in the special ballot, the Chairman shall eliminate one candidate by drawing lots, and thereafter another ballot shall be taken among all the remaining candidates. The procedure prescribed by these rules shall, if necessary, be repeated until one candidate is duly elected.

XI. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

States not members of the Commission

Rule 56

1. A State which is a Member of the United Nations or a member of a specialized agency but not a member of the Commission may participate in the deliberations of the Commission in the capacity of observer.

2. An observer State shall not have the right to vote or make a procedural motion, but may submit proposals which may be put to a decision at the request of a State member of the Commission.

Other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies

Rule 57

1. Representatives of other United Nations bodies and of the specialized agencies may, with the permission of the Chairman, participate, without the right to vote or make proposals, in the deliberations of the Commission on matters within the scope of their activities.

2. Such United Nations bodies and specialized agencies may circulate written statements relating to items on the agenda of interest to them to State members of the Commission.

Other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 58

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on a continuing basis by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council or invited by the Commission may participate, without the right to vote or to make proposals, in the deliberations of the Commission on matters within the scope of the activities of such organizations.

Other organizations recognized by the General Assembly

Rule 59

Representatives of those organizations which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly as observers may participate in the deliberations of the Commission in the same capacity.

National liberation movements

Rule 60

The Commission may invite any national liberation movement recognized by or in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote or to make proposals, in the deliberations of the Commission on any matters of particular concern to that movement.

Non-governmental organizations and institutions

Rule 61

1. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council dealing with problems of human settlements may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs. Entities referred to in section VIII of General Assembly resolution 32/162 may have representatives present at such meetings when matters within their field of competence are discussed.
2. A non-governmental organization attending a meeting of the Commission may, upon the invitation of the Chairman and with the approval of the Commission, make oral statements on matters within the scope of its activities.
3. Written statements provided by a non-governmental organization or institution referred to in paragraph 1 above, relating to an item on the agenda of interest to that organization, may be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Commission in the quantities and languages in which the statements were made available to the secretariat for distribution.

XII. SUSPENSION, AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Suspension of rules

Rule 62

A rule of procedure may be temporarily suspended by the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for suspension has been given to members. The requirement of notice may be waived if no State member of the Commission objects.

Amendment of rules

Rule 63

The Commission may amend any of these rules, but only after it has received a report on the proposed amendment from a working group established for that purpose.

Supplementation of rules

Rule 64

1. Whenever the Commission finds that a procedural question on which it must decide is not covered by these rules, it may adopt on a temporary basis an ad hoc rule to deal with such question for the remainder of the session.
2. The Bureau shall, at the session immediately following, present for the Commission's consideration one or more alternative rules on the question, with accompanying explanations and recommendations. The Commission shall then decide which of the rules, including the previously adopted ad hoc rule, to adopt on a permanent basis.

3/11. Human settlement financing and management

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements, noting that there was a shortage of reliable information on the financing of human settlement development in developing countries and the problems caused by current practices, and aware that unless new and innovative ways of raising funds were found fiscal resources constraints would continue to impair the abilities of the developing countries to solve the massive problems relating to human settlements and that failure to generate required funds would constitute a serious obstacle to the national economic and social development of those countries decided to request the Executive Director:

(a) To give priority attention to the development of human settlement finance and management, with a view to providing public-finance information at national and subnational levels in developing countries, exploring methodologies and techniques for development strategies for financing public services and disseminating that knowledge as obtained;

(b) To convene a high level ad hoc group of experts, not exceeding 10 members to study ways and means of establishing or strengthening financial institutions for human settlement financing and investment and mobilizing finance, in order to help solve settlements problems, particularly in the developing countries;

(c) To submit the report of the ad hoc group of experts to the Commission at its fourth session.

3/12. Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements decided that:

(a) Since energy is a scarce resource and its consumption is very unevenly distributed between countries and within countries, it is the responsibility of Governments to conserve the use of energy, in particular in human settlements where a large proportion of total energy is used;

(b) Recognizing the importance of energy conservation in human settlements and the significant impact of such programmes on the ability of nations to realize the objectives of the new international development strategy, the Executive Director should incorporate that substantive area into the work programme of the Centre, consistent with available resources in order to provide developing countries with guidelines for developing energy-efficient human settlements, with emphasis on transportation; techniques for using energy pricing measures; approaches for the development and use of renewable energy sources; and strategies for energy conservation in the building materials and construction industries; and further requested him to make every effort to collect relevant information on energy requirements, supplies and usage in human settlements and ensure that such information is broadly disseminated;

(c) The Executive Director should pursue the matter of energy requirements and conservation in human settlements in conjunction with the efforts of the regional commissions and, in particular, explore the modalities for future co-operation with and support of the efforts currently under way in the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific regions.

(d) The Executive Director should recommend to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy scheduled for 1981 that the subject of energy requirements and conservation in human settlements be included as a discussion item at the forthcoming Conference, and that steps be taken to ensure that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) participated in and contributed to the deliberations of that Conference.

3/13. Rural settlements and growth centres

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements, recalling that the Guidelines for Action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, called for a reduction of disparities between rural and urban areas and for public control of land use and tenure as an essential basis for integrated rural development, recognizing the influence of rural-settlement improvements on the integrated development of rural areas with respect to increasing agricultural production and income and raising living standards, and the significance of rural settlement development as an integral part of over-all settlement planning and national development efforts, and considering that the development of rural settlements is an integral part of the

implementation of appropriate national human settlement programmes, decided to request the Executive Director, within the resources available to him (a) to give high priority to investigating the possibilities and methods of improving rural settlements, in collaboration with Governments, the regional commissions and relevant United Nations organizations, and (b) to attach special priority to rural-settlement matters in the Centre's work programme for the 1980-1981 period and in medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

3/14. Upgrading of urban slums and squatter settlements

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements, commending the Executive Director on his efforts to develop methods and techniques for the upgrading of slums and squatter settlements and noting with satisfaction the important contribution and analytical work of the past efforts of the Centre in helping countries solve those problems, decided that the subject should continue to receive high priority attention within the work programme and medium-term plan of the Centre and that efforts should continue to be made in developing and improving the research, demonstration work and training efforts and dissemination of information.

The Commission on Human Settlements also decided to request the Executive Director:

(a) To place high priority on the development of approaches to the design of appropriate physical standards to be used in the upgrading process, especially as such standards would apply to the use of appropriate technologies and local materials in structure and to the fostering of public participation;

(b) To give priority attention to (i) developing follow-up action based on the findings and recommendations of the United Nations Seminar of Experts on Building Codes and Regulations in Developing Countries, held in Tallberg and Stockholm from 17 to 24 March 1980, with particular emphasis on further articulating programmes for the improvement in the quality of life of the least advantaged and (ii) exploring the feasibility of holding similar seminars in other regions;

(c) To place emphasis on assisting countries in practical programmes and pilot demonstration projects geared to the gradual improvement of slum and squatter areas.

3/15. 1984-1989 medium-term plan

At its 15th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to request the Executive Director:

(a) To direct the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 towards solving the problems and priorities of the developing countries, with emphasis on meeting the needs of low-income populations;

(b) To give careful consideration to the priority areas which the medium-term plan should address, bearing in mind the wide range of needs to be served and the Centre's limited resources;

(c) To develop the medium-term plan, with minimal overlap and duplication with other agencies and programmes, and with emphasis on those areas in which the Centre can make a unique contribution.

3/16. 1980-1981 work programme

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements:

(a) Commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on his efforts to incorporate into the Centre's work programme the views of the Commission on Human Settlements regarding relative priorities and the criteria for project selection as expressed at the Commission's second session;

(b) Decided to authorize the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to establish priority areas of work within the context of the 1980-1981 work programme and to utilize resources as they become available to implement high-priority programme elements, bearing in mind the views expressed by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second and third sessions;

(c) Decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):

- (i) To contact Member States and urge them to increase their voluntary contributions to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to bridge the gap between programme needs and resources available to implement the work programme for the 1980-1981 biennium;
- (ii) To give high priority to the development of training programmes in the human settlements programmes;
- (iii) To make efforts to secure the approval of the General Assembly for the conversion of eight professional and four local level posts presently sanctioned under temporary assistance to the regular budget for deployment to the regions, in order to implement the regional components of the work programme approved by the Commission on Human Settlements;
- (iv) To make every effort:
 - a To streamline future programme related documentation into a single comprehensive document for submission to the Commission;
 - b To submit periodic progress reports which are based on a sound performance review system measuring accomplishments against objectives, targets and time horizons.

3/17. Work programme and medium-term plans
of the regional commissions

At its 14th plenary meeting, on 15 May 1980, the Commission on Human Settlements took note of the steps taken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement General Assembly resolution 32/162 and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 2/3 in providing financial and other assistance to the human settlement activities of the United Nations system generally and, in particular, to the regional commissions, and requested that he strengthen the modalities of co-operation and collaboration which he has already established, with emphasis on low income settlements in rural and urban areas, especially in developing countries.

ANNEX II

Message from the Secretary-General to the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to the participants at the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements. On this occasion, I would also like to send my sincere congratulations to the Commission on the work it has accomplished within so short a time since its establishment in 1978. These achievements have brought us closer to the realization of the objectives and goals of the Vancouver Declaration and Plan of Action.

We are deeply appreciative of the kind invitation extended by the Government and people of Mexico to the Commission to hold its third session in Mexico City. It is indeed befitting that the first substantive session of the Commission to be held outside the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in Nairobi should take place in Mexico - a country whose Government has for a long time been in the forefront of many international initiatives in the search for a just and equitable social and economic order. One need only recall in this regard the inspiring address delivered by His Excellency President Lopez Portillo to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, which continues to guide our efforts towards the launching of a new round of global economic negotiations. His commitment to the cause of development is exemplified by his agreeing to participate personally in the opening of this important United Nations meeting.

Human settlements activities can play a significant role in realizing the over-all goals and objectives of the New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Through their specific and immediate impact, human settlements programmes provide a direct mechanism for redressing economic and social imbalances. They can also transform the quality of life for a large segment of humanity.

A vast majority of the people of the world live either in miserable and squalid rural settlements or in over-crowded and unhygienic urban slums. Determined and urgent efforts need to be made to ameliorate these conditions, especially through the provision of adequate shelter and related facilities. It is in these matters that the international community looks to the Commission, as the main United Nations instrument in this field, for clear, decisive and innovative guidance.

I welcome the selection of four major themes of vital concern to human settlements activities for review at this session of the Commission. These questions, finance and management, energy requirements and conservation, rural development and the improvement of slum conditions, are clearly of key importance for the success of human settlements programmes. Your consideration of questions relating to energy, in the context of the Commission's mandate, is particularly timely in view of the fact that the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy will be held next year in Nairobi.

A tremendous amount of work remains to be done in the field of human settlements, if we are to begin to meet even our modest aspiration of providing a better world through decent living and working conditions for the vast majority of humanity. I am confident that you will make a substantial contribution to the realization of these objectives in your deliberations on ways to assist countries in increasing and strengthening their own efforts towards solving human settlement problems.

I wish you every success for a fruitful third session.

ANNEX III

List of special presentations

Audio-visual presentations

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):

"Upgrading of squatter settlements in the Philippines" - film combined with a written case study (cost-benefit analysis) in an educational package, 45 minutes (English).

Governments

1. ALGERIE
"Habitat rural integre et fixation de populations, l'expérience du périmètre de mise en valeur d'Abadla", 12 minutes (Arabic).
2. BULGARIA
Examples of Bulgarian settlements - Open Air Museums in Bulgaria, 14 minutes (No commentary).
3. CANADA
"Sun, Wind and Wood", 24 minutes (English).
4. ECUADOR
"Ahora Hablemos de Nosotros - Nucanchic - on rural development", 28 minutes (Spanish).
5. FINLAND
"Finnish Housing Policy in the 70's", 15 minutes (English).
6. INDIA
"Better Home", 15 minutes (English).
7. INDONESIA
"Delta Upang, Sivila and Transmigrasi Lewat Udara", 30 minutes (English).
8. KENYA
"Agro Industries", 25 minutes (English).
9. PHILIPPINES
"A Nation at the Crossroads", 20 minutes (English).
10. SRI LANKA
"Slum and shanty improvement", 17 minutes (English).
11. UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
"The Centre of Tasjkent City - after the earthquake", 10 minutes (English).
12. VENEZUELA
"Shelter for everyone", 15 minutes (Spanish).
13. YEMEN
"Life and work in human settlements", 30 minutes (Arabic).

14. CHILE
"Millalemu - upgrading of squatter settlements", 10 minutes (English).
15. MOROCCO
"Fès - Cité des Hommes", 20 minutes (French).
16. MEXICO
"Habitat Mexico - the application in Mexico of the recommendations of the Habitat Conference", 15 minutes (Spanish).
17. LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
"Rural settlements in Libya", 45 minutes (Arabic).

Exhibits

1. FRANCE
L'Habitat à cout modère dans la pays en voie de développement, 4 panels.
2. INDONESIA
Transmigrations programme in Indonesia, 2 panels.
3. JORDAN
Examples of human settlements in Jordan, 1 panel.
4. MOROCCO
Action du Royaume du Maroc dans le cadre des établissements humains et de lutte contre les bidonvilles, 9 panels.
5. PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Human Settlements Development in Papua New Guinea, 2 panels.
6. SRI LANKA
Upgrading of slums, 1 panel.
7. YEMEN
Growth Centres in Yemen, 6 panels.

ANNEX IV

List of documents before the Commission
at its third session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
HS/C/3/1	Provisional agenda for the third session <u>a/</u>	2
HS/C/3/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda <u>a/</u>	2
HS/C/3/2	Draft rules of procedure for the Commission <u>a/</u>	3
HS/C/3/3	Progress report of the Executive Director <u>a/</u>	4
HS/C/3/4	Human Settlements and the New International Development Strategy	5
HS/C/3/5	Human settlements finance and management	6
HS/C/3/6	Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements	6
HS/C/3/7	Development of rural settlements and growth centres	6
HS/C/3/8	Upgrading of urban slum and squatter areas	6
HS/C/3/9	Preparation of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan. Note by the Executive Director	7(a)
HS/C/3/10	Report of the Executive Director on the 1980-1981 Work Programme of UNCHS	7(b)
HS/C/3/11	1980-1981 work programmes and the 1982-1985 medium-term plans of the regional commissions	7(c)
HS/C/3/12	Co-ordination of activities of other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements	7(d)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
HS/C/3/13	Co-operation and co-ordination with inter-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system	8(a)
HS/C/3/14	Co-operation and co-ordination with non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements	8(b)
HS/C/3/15	Administrative, management and budgetary matters. UNCHS. Report of the Executive Director	9
HS/C/3/16 and Corr.1	Administrative, management and budgetary matters. UNHHSF. Report of the Executive Director	9
HS/C/3/16/Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	
HS/C/3/17	Establishment of a unified information service	9
HS/C/3/INF.1	Note by the secretariat: Geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Commission	1
HS/C/3/INF.2	List of documents before the Commission	
HS/C/3/INF.3	Collaboration and co-operation with UNEP*	7(d)
HS/C/3/INF.4	General Assembly resolution 32/162	3
HS/C/3/INF.5	State of preparedness of documents for the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements as at 11 March 1980	
HS/C/3/INF.6	Technical co-operation projects under implementation during 1978-1979 and status in 1980-1981*	7(b)
HS/C/3/INF.7	List of participants*	
HS/C/3/INF.8	Note by the secretariat: extracts from the submissions of the regional groups on human settlements and the new International Development Strategy*	

* Issued in English only.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
HS/C/3/CRP.1	Proposed programme budget 1980-1981 United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Section 19	
HS/C/3/CRP.2	Proposed programme budget 1980-1981 Regional Commissions Section 10 to 14	7(c)
HS/C/3/CRP.3	Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 - Regional Commissions	7(c)

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