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CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

JOINT PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Joint report of the Executive Directors

Summary

The present report was prepared jointly by the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/199, on co-operation between the Centre and UNEP, and as requested in resolution 8/14 of the Commission on Human Settlements and decision 13/12 of the Governing Council, on the same subject. After a brief introduction, the report highlights the co-operation between the Centre and UNEP in the four previously established subject areas (section I), and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations (section II) and then outlines future prospects (section III).

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Council may wish to:

1. Recall its decision 13/12 of 23 May 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
2. Also recall General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
3. Take note of the first joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
4. Recognize the need for continuous and increased co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with a view to promoting and achieving environmentally sound and sustainable human settlements development;
5. Request the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to continue and increase the co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 concerning institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, the General Assembly urged that the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements should meet biannually with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the bureau of its Governing Council "to review together their respective priorities and programmes for improving human settlements and to strengthen and extend co-operation between the two organizations". In its resolution 35/77 B of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly decided that the joint bureaux meetings should be held once a year rather than on a biannual basis. On 17 December 1985 the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/199, in which it decided to discontinue the joint bureaux meetings altogether.

2. The decision of the General Assembly to discontinue the joint bureaux meetings was taken on the joint recommendation of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of UNEP. The recommendation was based on Commission resolution 8/14 of 8 May 1985 and UNEP Governing Council decision 13/12 of 23 May 1985, in which both the governing bodies furthermore:

(a) Expressed satisfaction at the continuing co-operation between the secretariats of UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP, and urged intensification of that co-operation;

(b) Decided to include in the agenda of their future sessions an item on co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP and to discuss the item on the basis of a common progress report of the two Executive Directors.

3. The Governing Council of UNEP had no session in 1986. As a consequence no common progress report was prepared in that year. The Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session in May 1986, was apprised of the co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP, through the report of the eighth and last joint bureaux meeting which took place in December 1985 (HS/C/9/3, annex, appendix I).

4. The present report on co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the two organizations pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/199 and as requested in Commission resolution 8/14 and UNEP Governing Council decision 13/12.

I. CO-OPERATION UNDER THE FOUR SUBJECT AREAS

5. This section contains information on the joint activities of UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP under the four subject areas established by the joint bureaux meeting at its seventh session.

Subject area 1: Assessment of environmental conditions
in human settlements

6. One activity under this subject area is the preparation of the Global Report on Human Settlements. This was submitted in 1986 to the editors/printers for production in 1987.

7. Another activity is the publication of the final report of the joint project "Environmental impact assessment of urban development in the Valley of Mexico" (FP/7104-81-01/Rev.3). The report which includes summaries of case studies prepared by the Mexican team in conjunction with the project will, inter alia, serve as an input to the joint UNCHS/UNEP project on the "Application of environmental guidelines for settlements planning in selected metropolitan areas (see para. 9 below).

Subject area 2: Environmental aspects of policies, planning
and management of human settlements - both rural and urban

8. A major project under this subject area is "Guidelines on environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management" (FP/7104-81-02/Rev.3). The project has developed three volumes of guidelines:

- I. Institutionalizing environmental planning and management for settlements development
- II. Environmental considerations in metropolitan planning and management
- III. Environmental considerations in regional planning and management.

The guidelines have now been submitted to the editors/printers for production. Publication of the English version is expected to take place early in 1987, while publication of the guidelines in other languages is envisaged shortly thereafter.

9. As a follow-up to the joint project on environmental guidelines and taking into account the results of the Mexico Valley project (see para. 7 above), UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP have developed a joint project to apply the guidelines in four selected metropolitan areas of developing countries. The title of the project is "Application of environmental guidelines in selected metropolitan areas" (FP/7104-85-02(2585)). Its main objective is to assist the local authorities of the four selected metropolitan areas in improving and institutionalizing environmental planning and management in their settlements development efforts. The cost of the project (\$US 197,000) is shared as follows:

Cost to the Fund of UNEP	\$US 150,000
Cost to UNCHS (Habitat)	\$US 47,000

10. Pending the finalization of the guidelines, a number of developing countries with large metropolitan areas have been approached and have indicated their interest in participating in the project. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP are now reviewing the various candidatures according to criteria which include the desirability of adequate geographical distribution and taking into account earlier contacts and consultations held, with a view to selecting the four metropolitan areas and seeking the agreement of the governments concerned as to their active participation.

Subject area 3: Environmentally sound and appropriate
human settlements technology

11. An important activity in this area is the "Pilot demonstration project on environmentally sound planning and development of human settlements in the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY)" (FP/7104-84-01). The total cost of the project (\$US 664,000) is distributed as follows:

Government contribution	\$US 166,000 (in cash and kind)
Cost to the Fund of UNEP	\$US 458,000 (in non-convertible currency)
Cost to UNCHS (Habitat)	\$US 40,000

12. The project, covering the design and construction of a model neighbourhood of housing units, was planned to demonstrate solutions to human settlements-related environmental problems in an arid region. During 1986 all the technical documentation, working drawings, bills of quantities and the design for planting and landscaping were completed. The UNEP Fund is financing three prototype units utilizing various local materials; these units are currently under construction. In the course of design of the project and construction of the demonstration unit, about 35 nationals of Democratic Yemen were trained in aspects of design and construction of the project by experts from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics who designed the project and supervised the construction. Training was undertaken both in Democratic Yemen and in the USSR. Preparation is now underway to publish a popular version of a report of the lessons learnt from the project. The report will describe the design approach and the construction techniques used with emphasis on solving critical environmental problems typical of the climate and resource base of a country such as Democratic Yemen.

13. UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) continued their collaboration in waste management in human settlements. During the past year UNCHS (Habitat) provided comments on draft guidelines on waste management prepared under the aegis of UNEP by the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. UNCHS (Habitat) participated in the Expert Group Meeting held by UNEP in Nairobi from 26-30 May 1986 to review the guidelines. As a result of this collaboration UNEP has now finalized a report entitled Policy Guidelines for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution in Urban Areas of Developing Countries. The report which is currently available in English will be issued in other languages, if financial resources permit.

14. Another joint activity in waste management is the project entitled "Integrated solid waste management in urban settlements in the Philippines". The objective is to demonstrate the potential for replicability of appropriate technologies applied to the collection, disposal and reuse of solid wastes in urban settlements and to develop a methodology for the design and implementation of integrated solid waste management programmes and projects in such settlements. Further action and/or implementation of the project awaits review by the Philippine Government.

15. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP are also collaborating in land-use planning in disaster-prone areas. Building upon the experiences of the various countries and relevant organizations and within the context of the Priority Actions Programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (set up within the framework of the Barcelona Convention of 1978), a co-operative programme in the Mediterranean region has been developed with the objective of promoting information exchange and co-operation between the Mediterranean countries in the field of seismic risk reduction, including the provision of services and technical assistance on specific topics. The project will be executed by UNCHS (Habitat), in association with UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. It will be managed from a selected host country of the Mediterranean region. The cost of the project is \$1.2 million over a period of three years and will be shared by UNDP, the participating agencies and the host Government.

Subject area 4: Research, training and the dissemination
of information on environmentally sound human
settlements planning and management

16. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP have been collaborating with the USSR Commission for UNEP (UNEP/COM) in preparing two reports, one on "Rational development of urban transport systems, with due consideration given to environmental protection", and the other on "Intermediate settlements - role in national development and monitoring the ecological balance". The two reports bring together information on intermediate settlements and urban transport from the point of view of countries with centrally planned economies, particularly the USSR. Publication and dissemination of the reports are foreseen in 1987.

17. Another joint activity under this subject area concerns a training course on planning of human settlements to improve environmental conditions for developing countries. The training course, which will be held in the USSR in February 1987, is especially designed to meet the needs of planners and decision-makers designated by their governments to address the shelter requirement of the homeless and the poorly housed, in the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH). The course will be carried out in collaboration with UNEP and is expected to provide government planners with the skills to incorporate environmental concerns in human settlements planning and management. The total cost of the project - \$US 113,000 - is largely in non-convertible currency.

CO-OPERATION IN SYSTEM-WIDE EFFORTS

18. This section contains information on the co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP in a number of United Nations system-wide efforts related or directly relevant to the work and activities of both organizations. The information is given for reference purposes only. Details on the actual state and implications, if any, of these system-wide efforts for the future co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP are given and/or incorporated elsewhere in the documentation for the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of UNEP.

A. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH)

19. The General Assembly, in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, proclaimed the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The objective of IYSH is to secure a measurable improvement in the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor, particularly in the developing countries, by 1987 and to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving shelter conditions for all. To that end the General Assembly, in its resolution 38/168 of 19 December 1983, endorsed a specific programme of measures and activities for IYSH. The programme provides for the identification of demonstration projects addressed to the problem of shelter for the poor, the dissemination of information, and the undertaking of national shelter assessments by governments in order to formulate long-term strategies to tackle the shelter problem to the year 2000. The Commission on Human Settlements has been designated as the intergovernmental body responsible for organizing IYSH and UNCHS (Habitat) as the secretariat and lead agency for co-ordinating activities for IYSH.

20. Among the contributions to the IYSH programme by UNEP are the training course mentioned under section I of this paper and the designation of the demonstration project on the environmentally sound planning of human settlements in Democratic Yemen as an IYSH demonstration project. In addition, UNEP decided to relate the theme World Environment Day activities in 1987 to the topic Environment and Shelter. A major objective is to inject a greater degree of consciousness of the environment into national action in the field of human settlements within the context of IYSH.

B. Joint thematic programming on training for human settlements

21. Within the context of its co-ordinating mandate UNCHS (Habitat) has undertaken an analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of training for human settlements. The analysis was welcomed and its conclusions endorsed at the second regular session of the Consultative Committee for Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The exercise has paved the way for improved exchange of information and increased co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and its counterpart organizations in this area.

22. UNEP, among other agencies and organizations, participated in the preparation of the analysis. Further information on UNCHS/UNEP collaboration in the field of training can be found in section I of this paper.

C. Follow-up on cross-organizational programme analysis (COPA) on human settlements

23. At its twenty-fourth session in 1984 the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination considered a cross-organizational analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements. As a follow-up to COPA and at the request of the Commission on Human Settlements (resolution 8/17 of 8 May 1985), UNCHS (Habitat) is undertaking a comprehensive study of the human settlements related activities of the United Nations system, indicating possible areas for co-ordination.

24. UNEP, among other agencies and organizations of the United Nations, contributed to the preparation of COPA on human settlements and the comprehensive study on the human settlements mentioned in paragraph 23 above.

D. COPA on the environment

25. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), at its twenty-fifth session decided to consider, at its twenty-eighth session in 1988, a cross-organizational programme analysis (COPA) of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of the environment. The UNEP Governing Council in decision 13/11 of 24 May 1985, welcomed the initiative of CPC, suggested that the System Wide Medium Term Environment Programme be used as the structure of COPA, and requested the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to assist the UNEP secretariat in the preparation of COPA. It also requested the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM) to participate actively in the preparatory process.

26. UNCHS (Habitat) has been contributing to the preparation of COPA on the environment and will continue to do so, through written submissions and participation in relevant meetings, including those of DOEM.

E. Follow-up Cairo Conference

27. As a follow-up to the First African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Cairo, December 1985), UNEP has been seeking inputs and contributions of other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. The recommendations include efforts to assist 150 villages and 30 semi-arid stock-raising zones to orient their development efforts towards self-sufficiency in energy and food and the establishment of a number of regional networks to enhance co-operation between the technical and research institutions of African States, *inter alia*, through exchange of information and the conducting of the basic studies and scientific research necessary for the environmentally sound utilization of African resources.

28. A UNCHS (Habitat) representative participated in and addressed the Cairo Conference. UNCHS (Habitat) was also represented at the first meeting of the inter-agency Working Group on the follow-up of the Cairo Conference, and has designated a focal point to co-operate with UNEP in the follow-up on the implementation of the relevant Conference decisions.

III. FUTURE PROSPECTS

A. Preparation of programme budget document 1988-1989

29. UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) have held consultations on the preparation of their respective programme budgets for the 1988-1989 biennium. The focus of these joint activities in the 1988-1989 biennium will be on the application and dissemination of guidelines on environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management.

B. Medium-term Plan on Human Settlements, 1990-1995 and the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme, 1990-1995

30. Preparations have started for the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme 1990-1995 and the 1990-1995 Medium-term Plan on Human Settlements. The preparations for the former are being conducted within the context of DOEM. UNCHS (Habitat) has agreed to assist in the preparation of the chapter on human settlements. UNEP has agreed to contribute and participate in the preparations for the Medium-term Plan for Human Settlements which are being conducted through an intensified process of prior consultations including the holding of an inter-agency meeting in July 1987.
