

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

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**6-16 April 1987**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SECOND SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/42/8)**



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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.**

[22 May 1987]

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.
2. The report of the Commission on the work of its tenth (commemorative) session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.
3. The Commission consists of 58 members elected for a four-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****	Japan****
Bangladesh*	Jordan*
Bolivia**	Kenya*
Botswana*	Lesotho*
Brazil****	Madagascar****
Bulgaria****	Malawi**
Burundi*	Malaysia**
Cameroon****	Mexico*
Canada**	Morocco**
Chile*	Netherlands**
Colombia****	Nigeria**
Congo**	Norway*
Cyprus*	Pakistan****
Denmark*	Panama**
Dominican Republic**	Philippines****
Ecuador****	Poland**
Finland****	Sierra Leone****
France**	Sri Lanka*
Gabon****	Swaziland**
German Democratic Republic*	Sweden**
Germany, Federal Republic of*	Togo****
Greece*	Tunisia*
Hungary**	Turkey****
India*	Uganda****
Indonesia**	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic*
Iran (Islamic Republic of)****	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics****
Iraq**	United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Italy**	Northern Ireland****
Jamaica*	United States of America****

There is one vacancy among the Asian States.

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- \* Term of office expires on 31 December 1987.
  - \*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1988.
  - \*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1989.
  - \*\*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1990.

4. The tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at Nairobi from 6 to 16 April 1987 in accordance with section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140 17 December 1976.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mr. I. Safa Giray, Chairman of the Commission at its ninth session. A summary of his remarks is reproduced in annex V, section A. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion; the text is reproduced in annex IV.

6. The session was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Daniel T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P. A summary of his address is reproduced in annex V, section B. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, delivered an address at the session; a summary of his address appears in annex V, section C. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made a statement on the state of human settlements; a summary of his statement appears in annex V, section D. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made a statement; a summary appears in annex V, section E.

### B. Attendance

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

Argentina	Hungary	Pakistan
Bangladesh	India	Philippines
Bolivia	Indonesia	Poland
Botswana	Iran (Islamic	Sierra Leone
Brazil	Republic of	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Iraq	Swaziland
Burundi	Italy	Sweden
Cameroon	Jamaica	Togo
Canada	Japan	Tunisia
Chile	Jordan	Turkey
Colombia	Kenya	Uganda
Cyprus	Lesotho	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
Denmark	Madagascar	Republic
Finland	Malawi	Union of Soviet Socialist
France	Mexico	Republics
Gabon	Morocco	United Kingdom of Great
German Democratic Republic	Netherlands	Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany, Federal Republic of	Nigeria	United States of America
Greece	Norway	

8. In its resolution 41/189 of 8 December 1986, the General Assembly appealed to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to be represented at the tenth session of the Commission. The General Assembly also decided that for the duration of the tenth session no distinction should be drawn in the application of the rules of procedure between States members of the Commission and other participating States and for that purpose suspended for the duration of the session the operation of rule 56 of the Commission's rules of procedure. Consequently, the following States not members of the Commission participated in the session:

Algeria	Gambia	Rwanda
Australia	Ghana	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Austria	Guinea	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Haiti	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Holy See	Somalia
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Ireland	Spain
Cape Verde	Israel	Sudan
China	Kuwait	Thailand
Comoros	Liberia	Trinidad and Tobago
Côte d'Ivoire	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Malta	United Republic of Tanzania
Czechoslovakia	Mauritania	Uruguay
Democratic Yemen	Mauritius	Venezuela
Djibouti	Nepal	Yemen
Egypt	Oman	Yugoslavia
Ethiopia	Peru	Zaire
Fiji	Portugal	Zambia
	Republic of Korea	Zimbabwe

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/50 C of 12 December 1984, Namibia was represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

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

Department of Public Information  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
World Food Programme  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

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

World Bank

World Meteorological Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique)

Intergovernmental Committee for Migration

League of Arab States

Organization of African Unity

14. The African National Congress of South Africa, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People's Organization were also represented.

15. In addition, 36 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

#### C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 6 April, Mr. S. P. Stainov, Minister for Territorial and Human Settlements Development of Bulgaria, was elected Chairman. The following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. T. C. E. Gronberg (Finland)  
Mr. N. P. Lego Nirwhono (Indonesia)  
Mr. E. Peñalosa Camargo (Colombia)

Rapporteur: Mr. P. Mwanzia (Kenya)

#### D. Credentials

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

18. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the tenth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

#### E. Adoption of the agenda

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 6 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the tenth (commemorative) session, as contained in document HS/C/10/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

A new agenda for human settlements: review of future perspectives, major human settlements trends up to the year 2000, national action and international co-operation in the field of human settlements.

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989.

Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.

Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1988-1989.

Co-ordination matters:

- (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (b) Co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system;
- (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

Themes for future sessions of the Commission.

Other matters.

Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the eleventh session of the Commission.

Adoption of the report of the session.

Closure of the session.

#### F. Organization of work

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 6 April, the Commission established two main committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: agenda item 5;

Committee II: agenda items 7, 8, 9, 10 (a), 10 (b), 10 (c) (except business under this item on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields) and 11.

21. Committee I held 11 meetings, from 8 to 15 April, and Committee II held 7 meetings, from 9 to 15 April. The recommendations of both Committees have been incorporated into the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

22. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987.

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

23. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 16 April, the Commission decided that its eleventh session would be held from 6 to 12 April 1988.

24. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 April, the representative of India extended, on behalf of her Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its eleventh session at New Delhi.

25. At its 10th meeting, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of India for its generous invitation and decided to accept, in principle, the invitation to hold its eleventh session at New Delhi, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

26. The Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its eleventh session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: report of the Executive Director.
5. Global Shelter Strategy to the Year 2000.
6. Progress report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.
7. Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.
8. Outline of the theme for the twelfth session of the Commission.
9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twelfth session of the Commission.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

#### IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

27. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) stated that the session had been a landmark event because of the number of important steps that had been taken. Among them were the adoption by the Commission of a new agenda for human settlements, which set the goals and priorities for national and international human settlements activities to the year 2000, and a proposal for a global shelter strategy to meet the shelter needs of the poor in the developing countries within a framework of human settlements action. The Commission had also carried out a comprehensive and realistic review of its own role and performance within the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields. Those measures had laid the foundation for a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to human settlements development by national Governments, the international community at large and the United Nations system over the next 12 years. He stressed, however, the need to ensure implementation of the decisions adopted at the session.

28. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the hospitality that they had extended to all participants and for the excellent support that they had provided to the Commission at its tenth (commemorative) session.

29. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the chairmen of the regional groups and all delegates for their contribution to the successful completion of the work of the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission.

30. The Chairman then declared closed the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

# ANNEX I

## Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its tenth (commemorative) session

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>A. <u>Resolutions</u></b>			
<b>1. <u>Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly</u></b>			
10/1	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	16 April 1987	12
<b>2. <u>Other resolutions</u></b>			
10/2	Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and support for its activities	16 April 1987	16
10/3	Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme	16 April 1987	17
10/4	Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique) in promoting human settlements development in the African region	16 April 1987	18
10/5	Assistance to victims of <u>apartheid</u> and colonialism in southern Africa	16 April 1987	20
10/6	Assistance to the Namibian people	16 April 1987	21
10/7	Co-ordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system	16 April 1987	22
10/8	The goals and tasks of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the results of the International Year of Peace	16 April 1987	24
10/9	The procedure for and organization of work for the consideration of special themes at the future sessions of the Commission	16 April 1987	25
10/10	The work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between the sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements	16 April 1987	27
10/11	Regional institutions for human settlements	16 April 1987	28

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
10/12	Medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995	16 April 1987	29
10/13	Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories	16 April 1987	30
10/14	Shelter for the homeless in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon	16 April 1987	31
10/15	National shelter coalition for human settlements development	16 April 1987	32
10/16	Raising the funds needed to ensure the effectiveness of national action to solve the housing problems of the homeless up to the year 2000	16 April 1987	33
10/17	Participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems	16 April 1987	34
10/18	Dissemination of the experience of Mexico in solving housing problems resulting from seismic phenomena	16 April 1987	35
10/19	Shelter strategies and policies	16 April 1987	36
10/20	In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social field	16 April 1987	38
10/21	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	16 April 1987	51
10/22	The avoiding of homelessness in disaster-hit areas	16 April 1987	53

#### B. Decisions

10/23	Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989	16 April 1987	53
10/24	Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995	16 April 1987	53
10/25	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1988-1989	16 April 1987	54
10/26	Budgetary and accounting control	16 April 1987	54
10/27	Operational activities for development	16 April 1987	54

## A. Resolutions

### 1. Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly

#### 10/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless entitled "Shelter and services for the poor - a call to action" a/ and "A new agenda for human settlements", b/

Convinced of the necessity of a global strategy for shelter for all by the year 2000 as a follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

1. Takes note of the above-mentioned reports as well as the comments made by Governments at the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission;

2. Urges all States participating in this session to circulate the above-mentioned documents widely, encourage discussion on their recommendations and draw conclusions on their national application, which should be transmitted to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) not later than 30 November 1987;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue evaluating the activities undertaken by Governments in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless as a major input into a future Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, taking into account the reports submitted to the Commission on Human Settlements by Governments on their related policies, plans and strategies in the implementation of the objectives of the International Year;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure that within the limits of the financial resources of the Centre, an appropriate institutional arrangement is created for carrying out the tasks defined in paragraph 3 of the present resolution;

5. Also requests the Executive Director, when preparing the medium-term plan for 1990-1995 as well as future work programmes and budgets to accord priority to the objectives and experiences of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to involve Governments in the preparation of the future Global Strategy in an appropriate manner;

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a/ HS/C/10/3.

b/ HS/C/10/2 and Corr.1 and 4.

7. Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption at its forty-second session of the following draft resolution on a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000:

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements c/ and the recommendations for national action d/ adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

"Recalling its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which, inter alia, the importance of the provision of basic shelter and infrastructure was stressed,

"Recalling also its resolution 41/190 of 8 December 1986 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"Taking note of the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Shelter and services for the poor - a call to action" a/ and "A new agenda for human settlements", b/ as well as the comments made by Governments at the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements,

"Recognizing that adequate and secure shelter is a basic human right and is vital for the fulfilment of human aspirations,

"Recognizing further that a squalid residential environment is a constant threat to health and to life itself and thereby constitutes a drain on human resources, a nation's most valuable asset,

"Noting that this lamentable situation can adversely affect the social and political stability of countries,

"Deeply concerned about the present alarming situation in which, despite the efforts of Governments at the national and local levels and of international organizations, more than one billion people find themselves either completely without shelter or living in homes unfit for human habitation, and that, owing to prevailing demographic trends, the already formidable problems will escalate in the coming years, unless concerted, determined measures are taken immediately,

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

d/ Ibid., chap II.

"Fully aware of the multidimensional nature of the shelter problem, which has its main roots in poverty and, in many countries, is aggravated by the scarcity of resources, inadequate institutional capacities and the lack of a legal and financial framework for alleviating the problem,

"Realizing that the problem manifests itself in slums and shanty towns, with inadequate social and technical services, and in a general deterioration of the living environment in rural settlements,

"Conscious of the vital role of the self-help efforts of the poor to house themselves and the multiplier effects of shelter development, based on the full mobilization of local resources, and their importance to the economic development of a country, and the lost opportunities for development represented by the neglected shelter sector,

"Convinced that the continuous, co-ordinated and widely based efforts of all relevant agencies, bodies, organizations and individuals, when guided by an appropriate strategy, will reverse the alarming trends and produce clear and visible improvements in the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000,

"Encouraged by action already taken in many countries in order to prepare national shelter strategies and launch other measures that will promote achievement of the goal of shelter for all,

"1. Decides that there shall be a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, including a plan of action for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

"2. Further decides that the objective of the Strategy should be to stimulate measures that will facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000;

"3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a proposal for a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and its implementation, including its financial implications, for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eleventh session;

"4. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements to formulate a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, to be drawn up within existing resources, for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"5. Urges all Governments to commit themselves to the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 by adopting and implementing shelter strategies in accordance with the guidelines contained in section I of the annex to the present resolution, which will enable the mobilization of all forces and resources in the country for the attainment of the objectives of the strategy, and to renew this commitment annually by, inter alia, announcing

on World Habitat Day the concrete actions to be taken and targets to be achieved during each successive year;

"6. Requests all United Nations bodies and agencies, and the international community at large to support the formulation and implementation of the Global Strategy along the lines defined in section II of the annex to the present resolution.

## "ANNEX

### "I. GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL ACTION

"1. All Governments that have not already done so should endeavour to prepare national shelter strategies at appropriate levels as an integral part of development strategies.

"2. The shelter strategies should take into account the multidimensional nature of the problem and fulfil and reflect the wide socio-economic benefits of shelter development.

"3. The shelter strategies should also reflect the criteria of affordability and replicability, particularly for shelter for low-income population groups. Special attention should be paid to improving the access of the poor to land with secure tenure and appropriate building materials, as well as to developing housing finance institutions that will mobilize household savings and are responsive to the needs of low-income groups.

"4. All efforts should be made to involve, in full partnership, all concerned governmental, non-governmental, public- and private-sector bodies, agencies and institutions at all levels and, in particular, the communities and people concerned, in the planning and implementation of shelter strategies.

"5. In the shelter strategies referred to above, special attention should be paid to the problems faced and capacities represented by marginalized groups such as women and youth and disadvantaged groups such as the aged and the disabled.

"6. Governments should report biennially at the session of the Commission on Human Settlements on the progress made in implementing the measures mentioned above.

### "II. GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION

"1. All United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and institutions should support, as necessary, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the formulation and implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and ensure that their relevant country-specific activities are supportive of and co-ordinated with the shelter strategies.

"2. The regional economic commissions of the United Nations should encourage and assist in the formulation of shelter strategies in their respective regions and the exchange of information thereon, and the Executive Director is invited to make full use of contacts with Governments through the regional commissions and their subsidiary bodies.

"3. All countries in a position to do so and international funding agencies should give all possible support to national Governments in their efforts to plan and implement shelter strategies for the attainment of the goals of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and, within the framework of an enabling shelter strategy, endeavour to achieve improvement in the shelter situation of their inhabitants, in particular the poor and disadvantaged, and they should report to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) their actions in this respect."

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

## 2. Other resolutions

### 10/2. Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and support for its activities

#### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements e/ and General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and 34/116 of 14 December 1979 on strengthening of human settlements activities,

Noting that 1987 marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and that it was proclaimed the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982,

Aware of the excellent work undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to meet the needs of the developing countries in spite of the limitations of resources,

Having considered and approved the various reports presented by the Executive Director since 1979 on the work and achievements of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

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

Recognizing the efforts of the Executive Director to implement the relevant resolutions and decision of the General Assembly, of the Economic and Social Council and of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Further recognizing the financial difficulties of the developing countries, especially those with considerable external debt,

1. Decides with satisfaction to associate itself with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

2. Reaffirms its support of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in its search for world-wide solutions to the serious and increasing problem of human settlements;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General should take the necessary measures to strengthen the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

4. Urges Governments:

(a) To make and fulfil their pledges to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and to maximize their voluntary contributions;

(b) To strengthen their human settlements policies and activities by providing resources with special emphasis in favour of the lowest-income population;

5. Invites all countries, especially developed countries, international co-operation agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to render all possible assistance to meet the challenge of the world-wide inadequacy of human settlements and shelter in order to improve living conditions with dignity for all income groups;

6. Urges that co-operation continue between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and existing United Nations regional commissions and subregional committees or those which might be created, and reaffirms that the Commission on Human Settlements, besides implementing and monitoring world-wide human settlements projects, should retain the responsibility for formulating global policies and strategies.

9th plenary meeting

16 April 1987

10/3. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/14 of 8 May 1985 on meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the

bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the first joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, f/

Recognizing the need for continued and increased co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to promoting and achieving environmentally sound human settlements and sustainable development,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue and increase co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme both in support of system-wide efforts of mutual interest and in the following four subject areas identified at the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council, held on 22 and 23 November 1984: g/

- (a) Assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements;
- (b) Environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements - both rural and urban;
- (c) Environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology;
- (d) Research, training and dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/4. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique) in promoting human settlements development in the African region

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 5/6 of 6 May 1982, 6/7 of 5 May 1983 and 7/6 of 9 May 1984 as well as the memorandum of understanding signed on 17 September 1984

f/ HS/C/10/8/Add.1.

g/ See HS/C/8/INF.3, annex I, para. 30.

concerning co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Company for Habitat and Housing for Africa (Shelter-Afrique),

Recalling also its resolution 5/14 of 6 May 1982 and General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Bearing in mind that the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa h/ and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, i/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in 1985 and subsequently submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fortieth session, both strongly call for regional co-operation to achieve optimum use of available natural resources in Africa,

Emphasizing the need for African Governments to accord high priority to urban development and shelter in their plans aimed at economic development while giving similar consideration to rural housing,

1. Urges African Governments and relevant international organizations that have not done so to accord high priority to urban development and shelter in the African region;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Managing Director of the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique), in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa, to assist African Governments to find ways and means of promoting domestic savings and to mobilize loans on the most favourable terms possible and grants from bilateral and multilateral sources for urban development and shelter projects in Africa;

3. Calls upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Managing Director of the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique), in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional organizations concerned, to promote the production and use of low-cost technology and indigenous building materials in Africa and the use of local experts as consultants in various urban development and shelter projects;

4. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to strengthen further the co-operation of the Centre with the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique) in promoting the role of urban development and shelter in the African region, while giving similar consideration to rural housing;

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h/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

i/ A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI), annex.

5. Requests the Executive Director to provide a preliminary report to the Commission at its eleventh session and a full report to the Commission at its twelfth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/5. Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa

The Commission on Human Settlements,

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

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983, 7/3 of 9 May 1984, 8/18 of 8 May 1985 and 9/7 of 16 May 1986,

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

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

Further aware of the fact that 1987 is the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the tenth commemoration of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

Concerned about the delays in the approval of project proposals relating to human settlements submitted to the United Nations Development Programme by the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations,

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

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

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

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

4. Further commends States members of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving

efforts in support of the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa;

5. Also commends the Executive Director for having facilitated, within existing resources, participation by more than one observer of each national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission;

6. Calls upon the international community to extend political and material support to the front-line States to enable them to combat the Pretoria régime's acts of aggression and destabilization;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue and intensify his efforts for the provision of increased technical and other forms of assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism, pursuant to Commission resolution 9/7;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to continue assisting the national liberation movements in the approval of their human settlements project proposals in a reasonable time.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/6. Assistance to the Namibian people

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 9/6 of 16 May 1986 on assistance to displaced Namibians in settlements in neighbouring countries,

Regretting that in the past year the human and political condition of the Namibian people has not improved,

Bearing in mind the various relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, particularly resolution 435 (1978),

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

Recalling also its resolution 9/7 of 16 May 1986, in which it strongly condemned the Pretoria apartheid régime for its illegal occupation of Namibia and for its continued forced removal of the African population from their homes,

Noting with great concern the unilateral actions taken by the racist régime of South Africa purporting to create solutions to a problem that that régime refuses to recognize which are wholly outside the spirit and the specific terms of the Security Council resolution 435 (1978),

Encouraged by the resolve of the brave Namibian people in their struggle, undaunted by the violent repression of the racist régime of South Africa,

1. Rejects as unacceptable and condemns strongly any unilateral action by the racist régime of South Africa with regard to Namibia outside the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978);

2. Expresses its concern that, twenty-one years after the termination by the General Assembly of the Mandate of South Africa over Namibia, the Commission should find itself unable to invite Namibian representatives from a democratic and free Namibia to its sessions and to offer its assistance and co-operation in the development of human settlements in an independent Namibia;

3. Declares that all laws and proclamations issued by the apartheid régime in Namibia are illegal and therefore unacceptable and calls for their abandonment;

4. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made so far by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement Commission resolution 9/6, and requests that those efforts be continued;

5. Reaffirms its requests to the Executive Director to ensure the strengthening and enhancement of all forms of assistance, particularly scientific, technical and financial, to Namibian refugee settlements, specifically in regard to ensuring an optimum level of shelter conditions in those settlements;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in regard to assistance to the Namibian people to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/7. Co-ordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/13 and 8/17 of 8 May 1985 and 9/15 of 16 May 1986 on cross-organizational programme analysis,

Noting the concern of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the need for improved priority-setting and co-ordination in the policies and programmes of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system and on human settlements activities within the United Nations system, j/

Welcoming the progress made in co-ordination and co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other United Nations

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j/ HS/C/10/8.

agencies and organizations, in particular within the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting the necessity of full and equal membership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in the light of the Centre's mandate to co-ordinate all human settlements issues,

Also noting the steps being taken for the preparation of a comprehensive study of the activities in the field of human settlements and priorities attached to them by the United Nations system,

Noting further the analysis of the problems encountered and solutions reached in assisting the Commission to co-ordinate human settlements activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness,

Emphasizing the need for a further strengthening of co-ordination in the field of human settlements at both the national and international level,

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) of convening a meeting with the United Nations agencies and organizations concerned, within available financial resources, coinciding with the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1987, to enable the completion of the comprehensive study to facilitate a coherent medium-term plan in human settlements;

2. Decides to consider the results of the study in the context of the medium-term plan, particularly the question of priorities for co-ordination, at its eleventh session;

3. Appeals to Governments to increase their efforts to ensure, in their national policy- and decision-making process, adequate co-ordination and integration of human settlements concerns;

4. Recommends, pending full and equal membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and with a view to strengthening co-ordination in the field of human settlements at the inter-secretariat level, the establishment of appropriate arrangements, such as a task force on human settlements within the context of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the meetings of which should coincide with other international meetings, without additional cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

5. Requests the Executive Director to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1987, when it discusses the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 40/202 C of 17 December 1985 on co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/8. The goals and tasks of the International Year of Shelter  
for the Homeless and the results of the International  
Year of Peace

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/9 of 24 October 1986 entitled "International Year of Peace", in which the Assembly invited Member States to persevere in their efforts in the promotion of peace and in ensuring that humanity reaches the threshold of the twenty-first century in the full enjoyment of a stable and lasting peace,

Recalling also its resolutions 8/11 of 8 May 1985 and 9/13 of 16 May 1986,

Bearing in mind the earlier reports prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the discussion on the subject at the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission and the respective activities of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organizations,

Convinced that peace and development will promote effective economic and social development of all States, including the solution of housing problems, particularly those of developing countries,

1. Stresses that among the prerequisites for the successful implementation of the programmes of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless is a peaceful environment, which will make it possible to assign greater resources to improving human living and solving global problems that affect the fate of civilization as a whole and in particular will contribute to the implementation of the tasks of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Recognizes the importance of continuing the work of the Commission and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in strengthening their contribution to economic and social development as an essential pre-condition for achieving the goals of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

3. Stresses the importance of acknowledging the relationship between the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the achievement of an overall environment of peace;

4. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take that relationship fully into account in the future activities and programmes of work of the Centre aimed at meeting the objectives of the Year, especially within the process of elaboration of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/9. The procedure for and organization of work for the consideration of special themes at the future sessions of the Commission

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Mindful of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, in particular those concerned with stimulating and disseminating information on efficient methods of construction, design and technology for infrastructure,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985, expressed the need to intensify the role of the United Nations system as a forum for conducting a constructive dialogue and for adopting joint action to solve international economic, scientific, technological and social problems, particularly those confronting developing countries,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, entrusted the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with the responsibility to serve as the unit of the Secretariat to promote collaboration with, and involvement of, the world scientific community concerned with human settlements and to initiate public information activities on human settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 4/9 of 6 May 1981, 5/16 of 7 May 1982, 6/9 of 5 May 1983 and 7/15 of 10 May 1984 concerning the need to accord high priority to information activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in particular in the field of human settlements development research,

Recalling in this connection its resolutions 7/7 of 10 May 1984 and 8/24 of 10 May 1985 and its decision 8/26 of 10 May 1985 in relation to the selection of special themes to be considered at the sessions of the Commission,

1. Deems it necessary to intensify the role of the Commission and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in increasing the efficiency of the exchange of experience between countries in the field of human settlements in the context of improving the organization of work in considering the specially selected themes at the sessions of the Commission;

2. Decides to consider, beginning with the twelfth session, two special themes at each session, one of which should be of a general character related to the problems of human settlements, and the other, of a more specific character;

3. Calls upon member States, with a view to making the exchange of experience in the field of human settlements more efficient, to prepare monographs, reviews and reports reflecting national experience on themes to be considered at the sessions, and to submit the reports to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), on the basis of materials received from States in regard to

the themes that are to be considered, to prepare, within the available resources, analytical reviews reflecting world experience and trends;

5. Decides to include in the agenda of the twelfth session the theme: "The roles, responsibilities and capabilities of different levels and organizations in the government and non-governmental sectors, and opportunities for co-operation and partnership among them at both national and international levels in the field of human settlements";

6. Suggests that consideration be given at the twelfth session of the Commission to the question of including in the agenda of the future sessions the following themes proposed at the tenth session:

(a) Problems of comprehensive development of rural settlements under various natural and climatic conditions;

(b) Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery;

(c) The use of new and renewable sources of energy in human settlements and for construction and production of building materials;

(d) Cultural problems raised by the modernization of societies and their impact on human settlements;

(e) Any other theme previously discussed during the sessions of the Commission or to be proposed later;

7. Requests the Executive Director to prepare outlines on the above themes, except that mentioned in paragraph 6 (d), for consideration by the Commission at its twelfth session with a view to enabling the Commission to select the themes to be considered in depth at its subsequent sessions.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/10. The work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between the sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985, in which it decided that, on an experimental basis, sessions of the Commission would be held only during odd-numbered years, as of 1987,

Further recalling its resolution 9/5 of 16 May 1986 on the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between sessions of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, in which the Assembly decided, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, to discontinue the annual meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council,

Bearing in mind that many States Members of the United Nations have accredited permanent representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and that the Executive Director holds informal consultations with these permanent representatives on a regular basis to brief them on, inter alia, the implementation of the relevant decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements and the work programme of the Centre,

Convinced of the value of these informal consultations,

1. Urges all missions at Nairobi to participate in these informal consultations, whether they are members of the Commission on Human Settlements or not;
2. Further urges all Governments without representation at Nairobi to send representatives to participate in the consultations, whenever possible;
3. Decides that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should:
  - (a) Extend all possible support to the Governments represented at the consultations;
  - (b) Inform Governments not represented at the consultations about the outcome of the consultations;
  - (c) Include in his progress report to the Commission at its twelfth session the results of the consultations;
4. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution, within available resources.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/11. Regional institutions for human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977, on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, and 37/221 of 20 December 1982, on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recalling also its resolution 7/14 of 10 May 1984 on a systematic and comprehensive approach to training for human settlements,

Noting with concern that, despite the efforts of Governments at the national and local levels and of international organizations, the living conditions of the majority of the people in slums and squatter areas and rural settlements, especially in certain developing countries, continue to deteriorate in both relative and absolute terms,

Convinced of the need for urgent action to improve the quality of life of all people in human settlements,

Bearing in mind that the lack of skilled human resources is one of the major obstacles to the improvement of human settlements and the development process in developing countries,

Recognizing the urgent need of developing countries for training as a basic prerequisite for the development of their human settlements,

Further recognizing the need for increased research in technology and building materials appropriate to each geographical region and the need for sharing information, knowledge and experience among the countries of the region,

Recognizing furthermore that the training of cadres should be firmly rooted in the social and economic milieu in which human settlements programmes are undertaken,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in consultation with the member countries of each geographical region and appropriate United Nations bodies:

(a) To identify specific institutions in each region that could be used as centres for regional human settlements research and training;

(b) To identify research programmes and training requirements that would respond effectively to the specific needs of each region, including the resource requirements for each such regional institution;

(c) To provide on a continuous basis appropriate information to previously trained participants;

(d) To promote co-ordination and exchange of information and experience among the institutions;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its twelfth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/12. Medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered proposals put forward by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on a new agenda for human settlements k/ and on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, l/

Bearing in mind the new programme structure proposed by the Executive Director in his report on preparations for the medium-term plan 1990-1995 m/ and the arguments behind these proposals,

Conscious of the precarious housing situation of most developing countries,

Conscious also of the weak financial positions of most developing countries, including their problems of servicing foreign debt,

1. Recommends that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in the formulation of the medium-term plan for 1990-1995, take into account the simultaneous preparations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Recommends also that the experiences with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless be an integral part of that Strategy and be reflected in the medium-term plan;

3. Requests that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other international agencies give high priority to assisting Governments and voluntary agencies in the following tasks:

(a) Provision of land for building, with a satisfactory service standard and accessible to low-income groups;

(b) Providing full utilization of local resources for building materials, based on a technique that will benefit low-income groups, including for those countries involved in the support to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, carried out

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k/ HS/C/10/2 and Corr.1 and 4.

l/ HS/C/10/3.

m/ HS/C/10/6 and Corr.1.

under the co-ordination of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; n/

(c) Promoting full participation of women in all human settlements activities;

(d) Promoting construction of shelter, including self-help building, and community participation, including organization of co-operatives;

(e) Establishing or strengthening a pattern of institutions that could promote the goals of the previous points;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take the priorities mentioned in paragraph 3 into consideration in preparing the work programme and the medium-term plan of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as well as in his endeavours to co-ordinate the human settlements work of the United Nations system.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/13. Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories\*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/181 of 8 December 1986 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recalling also its resolution 9/11 of 16 May 1986 on activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on institutions and instruments needed for financing and implementing a housing programme in the occupied Palestinian territories, o/

Recalling Security Council resolution 465 (1980), in which the Israeli settlement policies were considered illegal and a serious obstacle to peace,

Noting with grave concern the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies in the occupied Palestinian territories,

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\* Adopted by 60 votes to 6, with 20 abstentions.

n/ See Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, Tropical Forestry Action Plan (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1985).

o/ HS/C/10/3/Add.3.

1. Strongly deplores the settlement policies of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories;
2. Calls for an immediate halt to the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and for the dismantling of existing ones;
3. Strongly opposes the demolition and sealing off of Palestinian houses by the Israeli occupation authorities;
4. Reiterates its request to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the actions taken by him for implementing the proposals contained in his report on activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories submitted at the ninth session; p/
5. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a study on housing requirements of a future independent Palestinian State on the Palestinian national soil;
6. Also requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts for the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization;
7. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/14. Shelter for the homeless in the Palestinian camps  
in Lebanon\*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Strongly opposing the destruction of shelter, particularly in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Gravely concerned that a number of Palestinian camps in Lebanon have been besieged for six months,

Taking into account the fact that the siege of the Palestinian camps has caused the destruction of shelter and infrastructure, in addition to the loss of lives through, inter alia, starvation and disease,

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\* Adopted by 59 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions.

p/ HS/C/9/6/Add.4.

Aware of the appeals made by the victims of the siege to world leaders to lift the siege,

Aware also that the besieged camps have suffered from, inter alia, massacres and destruction of shelter and infrastructure as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon,

1. Expresses its unreserved support of and solidarity with the victims of the siege imposed on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon;
2. Strongly condemns all the parties involved, directly or indirectly, in imposing the siege;
3. Strongly appeals to world leaders to take urgent actions for lifting the siege;
4. Calls for provision of emergency humanitarian assistance, including emergency shelter units, to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon;
5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a study on the reconstruction needed in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and to submit it to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/15. National shelter coalition for human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Concerned about the widespread problems of human settlements and shelter faced by a significant portion of humanity,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held from 31 May to 11 June 1976, g/

Taking into account new perceptions of issues and priorities that have emerged since that Conference,

Acknowledging the statements made by the delegations to the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission and the deliberations therein as valuable contributions to the formulation of a new agenda for human settlements,

1. Calls for the creation of national shelter coalitions through which Governments may help to mobilize all non-governmental resources in a partnership

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

devoted to the provision, expansion and improvement of shelter for all, with special attention to the problems confronting low-income families;

2. Urges Governments to put forth explicit national urban and rural shelter policies as part of national development strategies stressing the vital importance of housing policy formulations and programmes that reflect affordability and replicability to maximize benefits;

3. Recommends that, to the greatest possible extent, responsibility and resources for the development and management of human settlements be given to local authorities and the respective partners;

4. Encourages Governments to concentrate on the problem of facilitating land development to ensure the provision of land to house low-income families of the nation at affordable prices, with security of tenure, in conformity with its decision 6/15 of 6 May 1983 on land for housing the poor;

5. Urges Governments to enlist, in the implementation of their programmes, the participation of the formal and informal private sector, non-governmental organizations, co-operatives and community groups in the provision of shelter by facilitating, through the public sector, the availability of land, infrastructure, building materials, finance, skilled human resources, appropriate technologies and a supportive legal and regulatory environment;

6. Calls upon all countries to develop housing finance policies and institutions that stimulate development of capital markets by mobilizing institutional funds and corporate and household savings from all income groups, and to provide loan opportunities for all such groups;

7. Appeals to Governments to take into account recommendations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) when formulating national policies and strategies.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/16. Raising the funds needed to ensure the effectiveness of national action to solve the housing problems of the homeless up to the year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Considering the aims and objectives laid down in United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/171 of 17 December 1984 concerning the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Bearing in mind that the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on shelter and services for the poor r/ contains a call for specific action by countries to establish national

r/ HS/C/10/3.

shelter strategies to the year 2000 in order to solve the problems of the homeless, currently numbering one billion and expected to double over the next fifteen years unless specific solutions are implemented immediately,

Considering that strongly increased resources would have to be channelled into human settlements work in order to change the ongoing deterioration into a gradual improvement of the shelter situation and to use shelter development as an incentive to employment and growth,

Mindful of the serious limitations placed on the possibilities for financial action of many developing countries by their external debt situation,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), acting in consultation with the developing countries as well as the developed countries and international financial institutions, to draw up a report on the financial constraints and needs of the developing countries and possible solutions for obtaining the funds required to attain the human settlements aims and goals set by the Commission;

2. Decides to include consideration of the above-mentioned report in the agenda of the twelfth session of the Commission so that it can formulate proposals for submission to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/17. Participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 9/9 of 16 May 1986 on participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems,

Cognizant of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women <sup>s/</sup> adopted at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Convinced that women and organizations that represent them play an important role in the long process of development,

Recognizing that a significant number of poor women are the important providers of their family's income, whether they are the sole bread-winners of the households or not,

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<sup>s/</sup> See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

1. Urges the full implementation of its resolution 9/9;

2. Further urges:

(a) That specific information concerning the role of women and their participation in the conception, execution and maintenance of human settlements be included in the reporting system used by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

(b) The full implementation by Governments of measures to avoid the marginalization of women, particularly by creating conditions for access to employment, training, land, housing, credit, information and full involvement of women in policy- and decision-making;

(c) The continuation of regional seminars initiated during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in order to exchange experiences on projects and to define and evaluate the role of women and the organizations that represent them, in the conception, financing and execution of such projects.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/18. Dissemination of the experience of Mexico in solving housing problems resulting from seismic phenomena

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Taking into consideration the aims and objectives laid down in General Assembly resolution 39/171 of 17 December 1984 concerning the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Considering that the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was formulated in order to help countries to establish or revise national strategies for solving their housing problems and to acquire knowledge or exchange experience enabling them to take the necessary action to that end,

Further considering that natural disasters, especially earthquakes, seriously affect human settlements, and that it is important for experience acquired by countries in coping with the consequences of such phenomena not to be wasted and to be brought to the knowledge of the international community,

Recognizing that the Government of Mexico, with the extensive participation of the population, carried out technical, financial and social programmes of reconstruction to meet the urgent housing needs of more than ninety-six thousand families affected by the earthquake of September 1985, mostly in Mexico City,

Considering the wide international concern and solidarity on the serious and sudden effects of earthquakes,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the appropriate dissemination of the experiences of Mexico and other countries in solving the

problem of massive housing destruction resulting from seismic phenomena and other natural disasters;

2. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/19. Shelter strategies and policies

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Expressing its full satisfaction with the positive results achieved by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in assisting member States in the elaboration of strategies and plans for the development of housing policies,

Inspired by the declared humanitarian goals of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and in an effort to achieve these goals,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and to guarantee increased effectiveness and productivity for its present and future activities,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) encourage and facilitate the formulation of integrated and comprehensive strategies and policies for shelter and all the related infrastructural requirements as well as the creation of job opportunities in order to advance economic and social development, and that the formulation of such policies involve the concerned population in their elaboration and implementation so as to bring about a change in the attitude of people from one of expectation and petition to one of participation in and responsibility for the process of sustained economic and social growth;

2. Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with Commission resolution 7/15 of 10 May 1984, to collect, analyse, periodically and regularly circulate to all States and send information in the field of statistics, studies and documentation, including lists of experts by specialty who have been assigned or may be assigned to technical assistance projects, vacant positions and educational and training programmes in order that advantage may be taken of them immediately and in a comprehensive manner;

3. Recommends that the Centre organize technical workshops on the basis of field surveys on progress achieved in projects undertaken within the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in order to take advantage of their positive results and avoid their negative ones;

4. Further recommends that the Centre ensure co-ordination of the various programmes of organizations within the United Nations system concerned with human settlements, particularly housing, labour, the environment, education and culture in the context of promoting a new integrated and comprehensive approach to human settlements;

5. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report to the Commission at its twelfth session on measures taken in follow-up to the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/20. In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social field\*

The Commission on Human Settlements

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987, entitled "In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields", in which the Council decided to establish a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields,

Recalling in particular paragraph (i) of that decision, in which the Economic and Social Council requested all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Special Commission, within thirty days of the conclusion of their next sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations t/ regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery,

Having considered all the issues raised in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, especially as they relate to the existing institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

1. Adopts the statement by the Commission on Human Settlements regarding objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, annexed to the present resolution;

2. Recommends that the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), remain separate and distinct within the United Nations system to continue their important work in this critical area;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit the present resolution together with its annex, to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council as the Commission's response to the request contained in Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112.

10th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

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\* After adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Uganda, Colombia, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Argentina and Tunisia. The representative of France made a statement expressing reservations regarding the amount of time that had been available to delegations to consider the resolution, which she felt had been too short.

t/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 24.

## ANNEX

### Statement by the Commission on Human Settlements regarding objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts

1. The Economic and Social Council has established a Special Commission to undertake an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields and its Secretariat support structures, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986. In its decision 1987/112, by which the Special Commission was established, the Economic and Social Council requested all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Council to submit to the Special Commission their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery.
2. The Commission on Human Settlements, sitting at its tenth (commemorative) session at Nairobi from 6 to 16 April 1987, at which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/189 of 8 December 1986, over 100 Member States are represented, 46 at the ministerial level, fully associates itself with the decision to carry out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields in the context of the overall review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations initiated by General Assembly resolution 40/237 of 18 December 1985. The Commission finds every reason to support a review exercise designed to reshape the United Nations in a way that will improve its efficiency and its effectiveness as an instrument for advancing human economic and social welfare and supporting the development objectives of Member States. Such an exercise, if successful, will undoubtedly render the Organization that much more capable as an institution of discharging the functions that Member States have entrusted to it, and in a manner that is affordable to them.
3. Central to recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts is the idea of a contraction in the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields (through mergers, consolidation and other means of existing bodies) with a view to rationalizing and simplifying the structure and making it more responsive to current needs. In essence, therefore, the question posed of each intergovernmental body is whether a sound case can be made for its separate existence, with the implication that only those should continue to exist for which such a justification can be found. The Commission does not disagree with this view and accepts that a critical examination should be made of the work of each body and programme.
4. In the case of an intergovernmental body such as the Commission on Human Settlements, which exists primarily to provide policy guidance to, and to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation of, a United Nations programme or activity, it can be suggested that the justification for its continued separate existence must rest on (a) the need for continued United Nations involvement in the sphere of activity in question; (b) the need for such involvement to take the form of a separate programme; (c) the undesirability or impracticability of having the supervisory, policy guidance and co-ordinating functions performed by some other existing intergovernmental body; and (d) evidence that the existing programme

(i.e. the intergovernmental body and its support structure) is cost-effective in the sense of producing the desired level of positive impact on the needs of those whom it was established to serve.

5. For the reasons given below, the Commission is firmly convinced:

(a) That there is a compelling case for strong United Nations involvement in promoting the cause of human settlements development;

(b) That only through the work of a major substantive programme specifically directed at human settlements problems can the United Nations make any significant impact in this field of development activities and thus discharge the responsibility implied in (a) above;

(c) That because human settlements activities have a uniquely national and local focus, international action in support of national action is best channelled through, and supervised by, a specific intergovernmental body bringing together representatives from the substantive ministries and agencies at the national level and possessing thereby the requisite technical expertise to deal with the extremely vast and complex issues of human settlements development;

(d) That the existing institutional arrangements established by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 appear to be working effectively and making the requisite impact.

A. Human settlements development as an appropriate and deserving area of United Nations priority concern

6. There can be no doubt that the living conditions of human beings are an appropriate and deserving subject of concern for the United Nations. Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations specifically sets out the achievement of "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character" as one of the purposes of the Organization, while among the objectives that Article 55 enjoins the United Nations to promote are "a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; b. solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems ...".

7. It follows from the foregoing that decent shelter (including related infrastructure and services), being a basic human need essential to the attainment of the condition of well-being envisaged in the above-cited provisions of the Charter, falls squarely within the ambit of the mandated concerns of the United Nations.

8. Not only is human settlements development thus a fitting area of United Nations involvement, but there are also sound reasons for according priority to such work. First, since shelter, as a basic human need, is generally accepted to rank only next to food in the hierarchy of such basic needs, there can be no rational measure of priority that would exclude it. Secondly, there is a sense in which the provision of decent shelter lies at the heart of the objective of improved quality of life so clearly espoused in Articles 1 and 5 of the Charter. As the Secretary-General stated in his message inaugurating the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless on 1 January 1987, "the conditions in which people live

determine to a great extent their health, well-being and ability to engage in gainful occupation, to pursue self-improvement through education and recreation and, in consequence, to attain a better standard of living". Thus, for example, the World Health Organization, in a number of recent publications and in statements at sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements, has stressed the critical linkage between decent living conditions and attainment of the objective of health for all.

9. A third and particularly important reason for according priority to human settlements activities at this time is the fact that investment in such activities can play a leading role in lifting the economies of developing countries from the present stagnation in which many are bound. The important contributions that human settlements activities can make to national economic development have long been recognized and widely acknowledged: their "multiplier" effect, with backward and forward linkages to other economically important activities; their employment-generation characteristic and facilitation of capital formation; and the fact that they provide the very physical structure and infrastructure necessary to sustain other activities. Of even more significance for the present, however, is the view, which is beginning to receive a sympathetic hearing by many Governments, that developing countries should use investment in human settlements as the integrating framework of their economic development strategy. This view stems from two cardinal lessons derived from the experience of the developing countries over the past decade or so, during which they have been faced with an overwhelming burden of foreign debt, unfavourable terms of trade for most export commodities, expanding population and stagnant economies. These lessons are that radically different strategies and policies are sorely needed, and that such strategies and policies must favour greater self-reliance through maximum use of domestic factor-inputs and a selective choice of indispensable imported factor-inputs in order to ensure that a country's economy is not totally at the mercy of exogenous market shifts or currency-rate fluctuations. Such a "self-reliance" strategy, therefore, requires emphasis on investment sectors that require minimal foreign exchange, selection of locally appropriate production technologies and standards and preferences for labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive forms of production.

10. If a critical look is taken at the situation of developing countries, it must be concluded that their capacities and needs point, in most cases, to a national development strategy based on two leading sectors - agriculture and construction. Leaving aside the issue of food security and agricultural productivity, the concerns that can be expected to dominate policy-making in the developing countries over the next decade are:

- (a) Generation of economic growth;
- (b) Reduction of balance-of-payments burdens and foreign debt;
- (c) Expansion of employment opportunities;
- (d) Guidance of population-distribution and population-growth trends;
- (e) Increased output of infrastructure and buildings to support national production;
- (f) Establishment of processes to deliver housing, health and educational services.

In the context of the developing countries, all these concerns can be integrated by using a framework of human settlements and construction management, particularly in view of the proved capacity of these activities to utilize both unskilled and semi-skilled labour. Because there are huge deficits in infrastructure and buildings in the developing countries and because population increases generate rapidly expanding needs, the demand for construction output is virtually limitless. Since it is unlikely that any foreseeable effort could close the gap in this century, economic planning can be based on constant demand assumptions.

11. All this suggests an even more critical role for human settlements activities in the economic life of developing countries in the coming years, which, in turn, reinforces the need for a co-ordinated human settlements programme at the international level to provide research and technical support to the national effort and to assist in mobilizing financial resources for that effort. Only the United Nations system can meet this need.

#### B. Need for a distinct and specific human settlements programme

12. The case for a distinct United Nations substantive programme effectively directed at the problems of human settlements development derives from three simple factors: the importance of the subject-matter, the scale of the problem and the character of the subject-matter. The importance of human settlements activities is clearly brought out in the discussions under the preceding heading: they are concerned with a basic necessity of life and an essential ingredient of an improved quality of life, and they can be instrumental in the achievement of overall economic and social development. The importance of the subject-matter thus justifies the work of the United Nations in this area.

13. As to the scale of the problem, one of the most striking and disturbing features of the state of human settlements today is the sheer immensity of the problem of homelessness and inadequate shelter. With an estimated 1 billion or more of the world's population currently living in inadequate, unsanitary and unhealthy shelter conditions, millions of these literally having no shelter at all and thousands more being added to this number almost by the day, owing mostly to a high population growth rate and rapid urbanization in the developing regions of the world, the global shelter situation slides inexorably from bad to worse.

14. Rising population and rapid urbanization are the twin forces accentuating the shelter crisis in the developing countries, and there is no indication of a let-up in these in the near future. The current world population of nearly 5.0 billion will reach 6.1 billion by the year 2000, with the developing countries - the very societies least able to afford the absorption of the extra population - accounting for fully 92 per cent of the growth. At the same time, the impact of the urbanization phenomenon will be such that by the year 2000 even Africa, currently the least urbanized region, will have been propelled to a situation in which as much as 40 per cent of its population will be living in urban areas.

15. Thus, the next decade or so will be critical for the global human settlements situation and the efforts to arrest and reverse its continuing deterioration. In the developing countries, the combined effect of high population growth and rapid urbanization has all but overwhelmed the resource and managerial capacity of the major urban centres, as evidenced by the growth - in numbers and size - of slums and squatter settlements and the near collapse of municipal services in many such

centres. Contemporaneously, the shift from a rural to an urban-based economy has also meant a shift of the poor (and the manifestations of poverty) from the relatively quiescent rural areas to the more politically active and sometimes volatile urban centres, with incalculable consequences for the long-term political and social stability of the affected countries.

16. Similarly, in the advanced industrialized countries the rising phenomenon of homelessness brought about by a variety of factors, including unemployment due to "skill obsolescence" relative to the technology revolutions, has created a highly visible and contentious political issue that seems just as threatening in the long run to the political and social equilibrium of these countries.

17. All this will ensure that human settlements issues will remain, in one way or another, a major preoccupation of virtually all Governments in the coming years. It also suggests that it is only through a major substantive programme focusing directly and specifically on the human settlements problem in all its ramifications that the United Nations can hope to make any impact at all on the situation and thus to contribute measurably to the efforts of Governments to contain - and defuse - the looming shelter crisis. The Commission firmly believes that there is a critical level of effort required to make a meaningful United Nations contribution in this field; anything less would be of doubtful value and hardly worth the effort.

18. Human settlements activities are concerned with the development of settlements structures and infrastructures and the management of settlements operations. The fundamental objective is to promote orderly settlements development, both urban and rural, through the production of housing, including supporting infrastructure and services required to make such housing liveable (water supply, sanitation, sewerage, drainage, waste disposal, transport facilities, etc.) and the establishment of sound administrative and management systems to run these operations. Two conclusions of interest emerge from the character of human settlements activities. They are, at heart, "operational", since they are fundamentally concerned with the production and management of systems of shelter, infrastructure and services. Secondly, they are multidisciplinary in nature, bringing together a wide range of disciplines and expertise: planners, architects, engineers, economists, social scientists, administrators and others.

19. This suggests strongly that the most logical and effective approach to human settlements development activities is a holistic, multidisciplinary and integrated approach. This would benefit from, and harmonize the contributions of, the various disciplines involved and integrate into a simple, cohesive whole operations involving research, project-oriented technical assistance, training and information dissemination. With regard to United Nations institutional arrangements, such an approach points to the establishment of a substantive and distinct human settlements programme of the sort currently represented by the Commission on Human Settlements and its support structure, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

C. Need for a distinct and separate intergovernmental body for human settlements

20. Existence of a substantive human settlements programme as discussed in the preceding section implies the existence of a corresponding intergovernmental

supervision arrangement. The question therefore is not whether there should be such an arrangement but whether it should take the form of supervision by some other existing intergovernmental body or the form of a separate and distinct intergovernmental body for human settlements matters.

21. The Commission is in no doubt that a separate and distinct intergovernmental body for human settlements is both necessary and desirable. The critical importance of this area of activity, the scale of the problem to be addressed and the potential danger that it poses to the political and social stability of nations if unattended clearly make this a priority area for specific focus at the intergovernmental level and justify the existence of a specific forum in which policy-makers and technical experts from countries the world over can come together to exchange experiences and discuss avenues of mutual support in tackling what is undoubtedly among the most critical problems facing Governments today. The Commission notes in this connection that delegations to its sessions are typically led at the ministerial or other policy-making level, and that virtually all such delegations are headed by or include someone from the substantive ministry responsible for human settlements matters in the country concerned.

22. The Commission notes also that there is no other intergovernmental body within the United Nations system that provides the same kind of forum or brings together the same category of policy-makers. It follows, therefore, that there is no other intergovernmental body possessing comparable knowledge or expertise in human settlements development matters, and hence no other body with the technical competence to provide guidance and substantive support to Governments in their human settlements development efforts or to provide effective supervision of the substantive human settlements programme of the United Nations, as well as effective co-ordination of such activities at the system-wide level.

23. The Commission is convinced that the heightened interest that national Governments and the international community have been taking in issues of human settlements development in recent times is in good measure attributable to the very existence of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which provide an institutional identity for issues relating to human settlements and a focal point for all those concerned with those issues, ranging from Governments to non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In this connection, the Commission notes the marked difference between the current interest in these matters and the striking neglect of them prior to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976, which led directly to the establishment of the Commission and the Centre.

24. For the foregoing reasons, the Commission maintains that the continued separate existence of the Commission on Human Settlements and its support structure, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), is both necessary and justified.

#### D. Effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements

25. The Commission firmly believes that the present institutional arrangement for international co-operation in the field of human settlements is sound in principle and has worked well and effectively in carrying out its mandated task. Indeed, the Commission is of the view that the only change that should be contemplated in the present arrangement is to strengthen the Commission's support structure, the United

Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). An overview of the work of the Commission and the Centre in recent years substantiates this position.

# 1. Commission on Human Settlements

26. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 with the mandate, inter alia, to "assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems" and to "promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries". u/ In addition, since 1982, the Commission has been designated by the General Assembly (in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982) as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and has carried out this function to its successful culmination in its observance this year.

27. The Commission on Human Settlements has held annual meetings since 1978 and is holding its tenth (commemorative) session this year. By its resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985, the Commission decided to go on a biennial cycle of sessions, meeting only in odd-numbered years after 1987. The report of the Commission is submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

28. It seems correct to say that almost from the very beginning the Commission on Human Settlements has enjoyed a reputation for productive and serious-minded deliberations, concentrating on substantive discussions of technical matters out of which emerge cogent policy guidelines on topical issues for Governments and others involved in the human settlements sector. Not only has the Commission been commended for its practice of selecting one or two important theme topics on which to focus its substantive discussion at each session, but the choice of themes that the Commission has considered is itself indicative of a systematic approach to the search for solutions to the most pressing human settlements issues of the time. v/

29. The degree and level of participation by Governments in the work of an intergovernmental body, as well as their responses to its recommendations, have to be considered key measures of the body's success and an indication of its impact. The Commission on Human Settlements, by this measure, can perhaps claim to be among the more successful intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields, as indicated by the following:

(a) Although the Commission has only 58 members, and not all can attend every session, the average number of State delegations participating in Commission sessions is about 80; this means that a large number of States not members of the

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u/ An excerpt from General Assembly resolution 32/162 showing the mandate and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Settlements and its support structure, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), has already been placed before the Special Commission.

v/ The agenda of sessions of the Commission for the past five years have already been made available to the Special Commission by the secretariat.

Commission are sufficiently interested in the work of the Commission and consider it worthwhile to send delegations at their own expense to its sessions;

(b) Although Commission sessions are not ministerial meetings per se, delegations to these sessions are typically led by ministers, assistant ministers, permanent secretaries or other senior policy-level civil servants; furthermore, virtually all such delegations are headed by or include professionals from the substantive ministry responsible for human settlements matters in the country;

(c) It is perhaps equally indicative of the high reputation enjoyed by the Commission and the importance attached to its work by Governments that it is constantly receiving invitations from Governments in every region that are prepared to host its sessions at their own cost, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976;

(d) Resolutions of the Commission are generally adopted by consensus and have invariably been endorsed or accepted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(e) Reports received regularly from the experts of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the field support the conclusion that many of the Commission's policy recommendations are being heeded by Governments and are having substantial impact on their policies and approach to human settlements issues;

(f) Furthermore, as noted below, the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, for which the Commission has organizing responsibility at the intergovernmental level, has already made a major impact on national human settlements policies and programmes, with well over 60 countries reporting new or substantially revised national shelter strategies in implementation of the objectives of the Year.

## 2. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

30. Parallel to the establishment of a separate intergovernmental body to promote and oversee international co-operation in the field of human settlements was a provision in General Assembly resolution 32/162 for "a small and effective secretariat" - the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) - to provide secretariat support to the Commission on Human Settlements and to serve at the secretariat and inter-agency levels as the focal point for human settlements activities of the United Nations system.

31. There is good reason to believe that the Centre has made a success of its work so far: its programme performance has consistently received an "A" rating from the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; its performance in technical co-operation (as measured by delivery) has ranked among the highest in the United Nations system year after year. The programme administered by the Centre remains one of the most cost-effective of its kind, as measured by the proportion of resources devoted to actual programme activities in relation to administration and other support structures. The most telling indication of the positive impact made by the Centre on the global human settlements scene, however, is the large number of requests for assistance that it continues to receive from Governments of virtually every form of political and economic persuasion. Thus, for example,

while the Centre is currently executing 170 technical assistance projects in 80 developing countries, it already has an additional 155 projects in 77 countries, prepared at the request of Governments, that are awaiting funding for their implementation.

32. The Commission believes it particularly noteworthy in this context that while the bulk of funding for the Centre's technical co-operation activities comes from United Nations Development Programme allocations in accordance with country indicative planning figures, as much as 25 per cent comes directly from the developing countries themselves, which are prepared to put up their own funds for projects executed by the Centre.

33. Thus, the Centre has evolved in its barely nine years of existence from a small and little-known United Nations unit into a respected global institution that is looked upon by Governments, institutions and concerned professionals as a major source of ideas and of technical assistance in the field of human settlements.

### 3. Programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

34. The awareness that the living conditions of the vast majority of people in slums and squatter areas and rural settlements, especially in developing countries, were continuing to deteriorate in both relative and absolute terms and that a special effort was needed to address this fundamental problem prompted the General Assembly in 1982 to launch a new initiative in the human settlements field by proclaiming 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The objective was to secure an improvement in the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by 1987 and to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged.

35. Two important points emerging from this resolution are that it indicates that the principal objective of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless is not merely to raise awareness about the problem but to achieve concrete results on the ground even as early as 1987, and that it contemplates continuing action to tackle the problem at least until the year 2000.

36. As a result of the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) relating to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, a very encouraging response has been elicited from Governments to the programme of the Year. Thus, to date, 139 Governments have constituted national focal points to oversee national programmes for the Year, and over 600 projects have been designated by Governments and organizations in the context of the Year. Furthermore, no less than 30 Governments reported to the Commission at its current tenth session on their national shelter strategies designed to achieve the long-term objective of the Year of improved shelter and services for all the poor and disadvantaged.

37. Thus, it will remain the task of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) well beyond 1987 to provide impetus to and to monitor and assist the national efforts in this critical area of shelter and services for the poor.

## E. Historical perspective

38. The history of the evolution of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) supports the conclusion that a distinct and separate institutional focus for human settlements was considered essential to any meaningful international efforts to promote human settlements development. Behind this conclusion was the awareness that the human settlements situation was in such a critical state precisely because of long-standing neglect of human settlements issues - a neglect stemming from the traditional, but now discredited, view of housing as a "non-productive" social welfare sector to be attended to from residual resources left over from more productive investments.

39. The need for a distinct institutional focus for human settlements matters at the intergovernmental level was first given expression in Economic and Social Council resolution 903 (XXXIV) C of 2 August 1962, by which the Council established a separate Committee on Housing, Building and Planning with responsibility for advising Governments on human settlements programming and priorities; promoting research and information exchange and dissemination; and providing policy guidance as regards technical co-operation activities and co-ordination of human settlements programmes of the United Nations system. Recognizing, however, that housing, building and planning represented "an important element of economic development whose full potential in raising productivity and assisting economic growth warrants greater emphasis", the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1024 (XXXVII) C of 11 August 1964, established a separate support structure for the Committee in the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning.

40. These two institutions became the nucleus of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) when, following the Vancouver Conference of 1976, it was unequivocally concluded that more had to be done to secure the kind of institutional arrangement at the global level that was needed to support the scale of effort envisaged in the human settlements field. Accordingly, after almost two years of extensive debate, discussions and negotiations among Governments, during which all possible options were canvassed and considered, the General Assembly decided on the present institutional set-up barely 10 years ago. The Commission believes that nothing that has happened since then can be said to have undercut the wisdom of that decision, while, on the contrary, such developments as there have been in the global human settlements situation, as described above, all seem to underscore its soundness.

41. The Commission recalls in this connection that both the Commission and its support structure, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), were themselves created out of a "restructuring" exercise in which the Committee for Housing, Building and Planning was transformed into the Commission on Human Settlements and various secretariat units scattered throughout the Organization were consolidated into the single, cohesive United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), reflecting the perceived need for increased effectiveness and efficiency. The Commission is not persuaded that any form of "backward restructuring" at this time will advance the objectives of greater effectiveness and efficiency; on the contrary, it is of the view that the existing institutional arrangement has worked notably well and should, if anything, be strengthened.

F. Some specific issues under recommendation 8

42. The Commission offers the following views on some other specific issues under recommendation 8.

1. Merging the Commission and its support structure with other United Nations bodies

43. For the reasons given in the preceding sections, the Commission finds no justification for such an idea.

2. Avoiding duplication of functions and reducing overlap of activities

44. The Commission and the Centre are concerned with the planning, operation and maintenance of settlement structures and related services. Within this broad framework, they deal with such technical sectoral issues as urban planning, rural settlements, infrastructure development, building material production, construction technology, building codes and regulations, cadastral surveys, human settlements financing systems and the development and mobilization of human resources. There is no duplication of functions or overlap of activities with other bodies in the United Nations system. The mandates of the Commission and its support structure are in this respect specific and distinct; the expertise involved is highly specialized both at the technical and policy-making levels and is not duplicated anywhere else in the system.

3. A single intergovernmental body for the management and control of operational activities

45. The Commission is less than persuaded of the practicability or desirability of this step - at least as far as human settlements activities of the Organization are concerned. If the proposal affects only the intergovernmental bodies and not their support structures, then the situation will arise in which the single intergovernmental body responsible for operational activities would have a direct supervisory role over support structures that otherwise are associated with other intergovernmental bodies; similarly, such other intergovernmental bodies would have no jurisdiction over a significant activity being carried out by the secretariat support structure that they otherwise supervise; and finally, each concerned secretariat unit would find itself subject to substantive supervisory control by two different intergovernmental bodies, one as to operational activities and the other as to all other activities, even though it may well be carrying out a fully integrated programme of work.

46. There are equally serious difficulties if the proposal also involved a transfer of operational activities functions from other secretariat units to the support structure of the single intergovernmental body. In the case of the human settlements programme, it would detach technical co-operation work from research and from information dissemination, thus destroying the integrated approach to human settlements work that all accept to be the only viable approach and that, as already noted, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre were expressly created to promote. Furthermore, since the actual performance record of the Centre in the field of technical co-operation has been consistently among the highest in

the entire United Nations system (as measured by delivery), the Commission can see no useful purpose that would be served by removing responsibility for such work from the Centre.

47. The Commission is also doubtful of the wisdom of consolidating project execution responsibility in the main funding agency for operational activities, if this may be assumed to be the intention, since it is likely to necessitate a duplication in the funding agency of a whole range of the technical expertise required to support such project execution responsibility.

4. Need for a comprehensive approach to development and strengthening on a continuous basis of co-ordination

48. The Commission is of the view that, because of the vast and complex nature of development activities, rendering it impracticable for all the requisite expertise to be assembled in any one United Nations agency or organization, the real issue is one of greater co-ordination of the objectives and operating postures of the concerned organizations and agencies, particularly at the country level, where project activities take place. For this reason, the Commission ensures full observance by the Centre of procedures of the United Nations Development Programme in its technical co-operation work and full use of the resident co-ordinator and resident representative field structure and facilities. The Commission commends this approach to other concerned agencies.

5. Periodicity and duration of sessions of the Commission and establishment of subsidiary bodies

49. As noted above, the Commission has already decided to adopt a biennial cycle of sessions, a decision welcomed in General Assembly resolution 40/202 B of 17 December 1985. Sessions of the Commission had generally run for eight working days, but were extended to 10 following the proclamation in 1982 of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in order to enable the Commission to devote some time specifically to its function as the intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the Year. It is planned to revert to an eight-day session in the future.

50. The Commission has established no subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, in its resolution 8/14 of 8 May 1985, entitled "Meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council", the Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly the abolition of the practice of annual joint bureau meetings, which had not proved so cost-effective, replacing them by in-depth consideration of the co-operation between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme at regular sessions of the Commission. The General Assembly accepted this recommendation and, in its resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, decided to discontinue the joint bureau meetings.

51. These various measures already adopted by the Commission demonstrate its sensitivity to the concerns underlying recommendation 8.

6. Improving the system of reporting with a view to reducing the number of reports

52. The Commission is pleased to note that documentation for its sessions has been progressively reduced both in volume and in length and has generally kept to the prescribed 24-page limit. Efforts are continuing to achieve even further reductions. The official reports of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly are concise and action-oriented, containing essentially the agenda of the meeting and resulting decisions. Duplication of documentation is avoided.

G. Conclusion

53. In conclusion, the Commission would like to reiterate its full support for the current review exercise and specifically for the work of the Special Commission, which it believes to be of critical importance to the future of the Organization and to its ability to meet the challenges of a changed and changing world. If the Commission has proposed no changes in the present institutional set-up for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, it is because it genuinely sees no reason for change. The institutional arrangements seem well-conceived in principle and, by any measure of success, are seen to be serving their intended purpose efficiently and with notable cost-effectiveness.

10/21. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction the world-wide commitment to the provision of shelter for the poor and disadvantaged during the preparatory phase of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Encouraged by the measures taken by Governments and the efforts of many non-governmental organizations to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of millions of the poor and disadvantaged including many new strategies and programmes that have been adopted by Governments in developing countries in order to resolve the problem by the year 2000,

Noting with concern the rapid increase of population in the urban centres of the developing countries and the fact that most of the new urban dwellers will be poor,

Noting with dismay that only a small proportion of aid to developing countries is devoted to shelter and related services for the poor,

1. Endorses the main findings of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) contained in the document entitled "Shelter and services for the poor - a call to action"; w/

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w/ HS/C/10/3.

2. Recommends that Governments consider implementation of the specific measures described in the report of the Executive Director, seize the opportunity of the momentum created by the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and take steps to implement policies and programmes needed to ensure adequate shelter and services for the poor in all countries by the end of this century;

3. Calls upon the international community to lend its full support, both financial and technical, to the human settlements programmes of developing countries;

4. Recommends that Governments and bilateral and multilateral funding organizations, in their negotiations, give higher priority to shelter and related services for the poor in developing countries with the aim of realizing a progressive and substantive increase of grants and loans by these organizations;

5. Further calls upon all the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to make special efforts to ensure that their work programmes are supportive of the shelter programmes in developing countries, bearing in mind the importance of shelter in improving health and well-being, employment, industrial development, the environment and overall national economic and social development;

6. Also calls upon non-governmental organizations to expand their programmes and projects for improved shelter and services for the poor in developing countries, paying special attention to vulnerable groups such as women and children;

7. Urges all Governments, international organizations, bilateral and multilateral development agencies and financial institutions, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to make an effort to increase through innovative measures the availability of human, capital and material resources needed for the shelter programmes and to report to the Commission thorough the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) by 30 October 1987 on their progress in implementing the objectives of the present resolution, as well as on their future programmes and plans based on a review of estimated needs and available resources;

8. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director fully to integrate the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless into the regular work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the formal termination of the International Year on 31 December 1987, in order to ensure effective follow-up in accordance with Commission resolution 9/2 of 16 May 1986;

9. Requests the Executive Director to continue evaluating the activities of Governments in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless as a major input to a future Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, taking into account the reports submitted to the Commission by Governments, international organizations and such other sources as may be available on shelter-related policies, programmes and strategies in the implementation of the International Year;

10. Urges all Governments, as well as intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral donors and voluntary agencies, to provide financial assistance to the

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to enable it to support activities that will assist in the implementation of the programme of shelter and services for the poor.

10th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

10/22. The avoiding of homelessness in disaster-hit areas

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, by which the year 1987 was proclaimed the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting the value and sanctity of human life and the need to preserve cultural heritage,

Reaffirming the need to protect human settlements in disaster-hit areas,

Alarmed by the intensification of the problem of homelessness in disaster-hit areas,

1. Requests States to exchange information on technology and experiences to assist the reconstruction of human settlements in disaster-hit areas;
2. Requests the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to co-ordinate this exchange of information and experiences in such cases.

10th plenary meeting  
16 April 1987

B. Decisions

10/23. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to adopt the proposed work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989. x/

10/24. Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987, the Commission on Human Settlements decided generally to approve the report entitled "Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995" y/ as the basis for the medium-term plan

x/ HS/C/10/5.

y/ HS/C/10/6 and Corr.1.

for the period 1990-1995, subject to revisions, and modifications to accommodate the comments of the Commission.

10/25. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1988-1989

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to approve the proposed allocation of funds for programme implementation, programme support and reserve purposes and the allocation of the balance of resources for further programme implementation for the biennium 1988-1989. z/

10/26. Budgetary and accounting control

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to take note of the financial report and accounts of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium ended 31 December 1985, aa/ the comments of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) bb/ on the report of the Board of Auditors and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as set forth in its report. cc/

10/27. Operational activities for development

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 April 1987, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the issues pertaining to operational activities for development mentioned in paragraph 35 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 41/171 of 5 December 1986, and having noted that most of the technical co-operation projects executed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are financed by the United Nations Development Programme and thus developed and implemented within the framework of the Programme's country programming, that for the projects financed by funds other than the Programme's resources, the Centre operates through the Programme's resident representatives and the resident co-ordinators, and that the Centre, in its technical co-operation activities, follows the procedures established by the Programme and fully supports and contributes to efforts aimed at their further simplification and harmonization with the procedures of other United Nations agencies, decided to reconfirm the role of the Programme's country programming as a most important framework for operational activities for development, to underline the need for the resident co-ordinators to keep themselves informed of relevant developments in the area of human settlements,

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z/ HS/C/10/7 and Corr.1 and 2.

aa/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 5H (A/41/5/Add.8).

bb/ HS/C/10/8/Add.4.

cc/ See A/41/632, sect. K.

to express the view that a further simplification and harmonization of operational procedures should imply, inter alia, streamlining and minimizing of reporting requirements for executing agencies and a maximum degree of decentralization in the application of the procedures, so as to avoid unnecessary communications between headquarters and the field, leading to delays in project preparation and implementation, and to request the Executive Director to transmit the decision to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1987.

## ANNEX II

### List of documents

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
	Letter of convocation	
	Notification, by the Executive Director	
	Letter on special presentations	
	Letter on pledging for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	
HS/C/10/1	Provisional agenda	3
HS/C/10/1/Add.1 and Corr.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda	3
HS/C/10/2 and Corr.1 and 4	A new agenda for human settlements	4
HS/C/10/3	Shelter and services for the poor - a call to action	5
HS/C/10/3/Add.1 and Corr.1	Progress report on national and international action in implementation of the programme	5
HS/C/10/3/Add.2	Review of selected demonstration projects	5
HS/C/10/3/Add.3	Study on the institutions and instruments needed for financing and implementing a housing programme in the occupied Palestinian territories	5
HS/C/10/4	Progress report of the Executive Director	6
HS/C/10/5	Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989	7
HS/C/10/6 and Corr.1	Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995	8
HS/C/10/7 and Corr.1 and 2	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1988-1989	9
HS/C/10/7/Add.1 and Corr.1	Financial matters; use of extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	9

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
HS/C/10/7/Add.2 and Corr.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	9
HS/C/10/8	Human settlements activities within the United Nations system	10 (b)
HS/C/10/8/Add.1	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme	10 (a)
HS/C/10/8/Add.2	Co-ordination matters	10 (c)
HS/C/10/8/Add.3	In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields	10
HS/C/10/8/Add.4	Budgetary and accounting control	10 (c)
HS/C/10/9	Themes for future sessions of the Commission	11
HS/C/10/9/Add.1	Proposal on the agenda and duration of the session of the Commission on Human Settlements to be held in 1988	13
HS/C/10/10	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the eleventh session of the Commission	13
HS/C/10/CRP.1	Main decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (second regular session of 1986) and the General Assembly (forty-first session) of relevance to the work of the Commission	10 (c)
HS/C/10/CRP.2 and Add.1	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1988-1989	7
HS/C/10/INF.1	State of preparedness of documents for the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth session, as at 9 February 1987	3
HS/C/10/INF.2	List of documents before the Commission	3
HS/C/10/INF.3	Policy option documents	5
HS/C/10/INF.4 and Add.1 and 2	Summaries of country reports submitted in response to Commission resolution 9/2	5
HS/C/10/INF.5	Project information report (1987)	6
HS/C/10/INF.6	Role of housing in the national economic development of socialist countries	6

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
HS/C/10/INF.7	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 2 March 1987	9
HS/C/10/INF.8 and Corr.1	Status of voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless as at 2 March 1987	9
HS/C/10/INF.9	Human settlements development within the context of the strategies of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990	10
HS/C/10/INF.10	Some policy options for the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services for the poor in developing countries	5
HS/C/10/INF.11/Rev.1	List of participants	3

## ANNEX III

List of audio-visual presentations

<u>Country or organization</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Duration (minutes)</u>
Bolivia	Proyecto Habitacional Inca Llojeta	Spanish	23
Bulgaria	Our home	English	17
Burkina Faso	L'aménagement progressif	French	30
Cameroon	IYSH	French	12
Canada	Seeing windows	English	30
China	Providing people with nice living environment	Chinese	22
Colombia	Urban development: The case of Cali	English	17
Costa Rica	Vivienda: una cruzada nacional	Spanish	18
Cyprus	Planning for the homeless	English	20
Egypt	The 15th of May New Town	English	15
Ethiopia	Rural Ethiopia in transition	English	35
Finland	Brickmakers of Kwanza Sul	English	20
France	Economie de la construction des murs	French	20
Gabon	L'habitat au Gabon	French	18
Gambia	Land use plan 2000	English	25
German Democratic Republic	Solving the housing problem in the German Democratic Republic	English	12
Haiti	Logement en Haïti: cadre et problématique	French	16
Hungary	Low-cost, simple, quick construction	English	23
India	Shelter for all	English	18
Indonesia	Care houses	English	30
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Land development	English	17

<u>Country or organization</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Duration (minutes)</u>
Israel	The urban renewal: the Israeli experience	English	14
Jordan	East Wihadat	English	14
Kenya	Improving shelter for all	English	29
Mexico	Reconstrucción del centro de la ciudad de México	Spanish	16
Netherlands	Our will, our hands	English	40
Nigeria	Commitments to shelter	English	18
Oman	Housing achievements in Oman	English	12
Panama	Proyecto las Mañanitas	Spanish	8
Poland	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	English	17
Republic of Korea	Rebuilt houses in Korea	English	12
Sri Lanka	The road to a million houses	English	14
Tunisia	Bourguiba édifie avec le peuple	French	17
Turkey	Eski Evler, Eski Ustalar (the houses and craftsmen of old)	Turkish*	35
Uganda	The struggle for shelter in Uganda	English	20
United States of America	Housing America: Freeing the spirit of enterprise	English	15
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	New image of the ancient city of Irkutsk	English	10
Zimbabwe	Shelter strategies in Zimbabwe	English	29
UNCHS (Habitat)	Give me shelter	English	17
United Nations	Shelter for the homeless	English	27
UNICEF	Street children	English	11

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\* With English subtitles.

## ANNEX IV

### Message from the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth (commemorative) session

1. It gives me great pleasure to convey my warm greetings to all the participants at the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements. I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, for agreeing to inaugurate the session. His presence is an authoritative demonstration of his personal commitment to international co-operation for development and of the invaluable support which his Government has given to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
2. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, His Excellency the Honourable Ranasinghe Premadasa, took an historic initiative in proposing an International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. This, as well as his personal identification with the work of the Commission, is an eloquent testimony to his strong attachment to the cause of the poor and the disadvantaged.
3. The tenth anniversary of the Commission provides an opportunity to evaluate the experience of the past decade and to give thought to the future. As we are observing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987, we need to take stock of the global situation in regard to human settlements.
4. You are undoubtedly aware of the considerable challenges faced by the United Nations as a whole in this time of difficulties. We are justified in taking pride in the Organization's role and contributions to human advance and welfare over the past 40 years. But the institutions cannot remain static in a changing world. The United Nations must accept the challenge of serving the global community in the tasks to be taken up throughout the rest of this century and into the next. This entails, first, an honest and forthright assessment of our past work, leading to a realistic appraisal of our capabilities for dealing with emerging needs and the resources we can mobilize for that purpose. In the process, however, we must retain a dynamic vision of long-term goals and objectives.
5. I invite the Commission to participate in this process of defining strategies and strengthening our problem-solving capacities so as to respond to the evolving needs of the human community. In this context, an important item before the Commission at this session is entitled "A new agenda for human settlements". During its discussion of this item, the Commission will need to review the current status of human settlements throughout the world, evaluate the significant trends in this field and define new issues and programmes of action at the national and global levels. The decisions taken by the Commission on this item could constitute the most important statement of human settlements goals and priorities since the 1976 Vancouver Conference. As such, it will be a valuable contribution to the process in which we are now engaged of formulating the medium-term plan for the Organization for the period 1990-1995.
6. The sight of hundreds of thousands of our fellow human beings huddled into the urban and rural slums and makeshift dwellings, and sizeable numbers, including entire families, literally living on the streets, is one which we as citizens of one world must no longer accept. We must demand, and ourselves initiate, action at

every level - local, national and international - to put an end to this human misery. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the period up to the year 2000 afford a unique opportunity to take the necessary steps to improve the lot of the 1 billion or more of our unfortunate brothers and sisters who lack adequate shelter. It is a task which challenges both the imagination and political will of Member States, but the goal of shelter for all is definitely attainable.

7. I wish the tenth (commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements every success in its deliberations.

## ANNEX V

### Summaries of statements

#### A. Statement by Mr. I. Safa Giray, Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements, at its ninth session

1. The Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session recalled that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, had been the first international forum where human settlements were discussed at a global level. Forecasting "a new world on top of the present one by the year 2000", the Conference, deeply concerned with rapid population and urban growth in developing countries, had identified major areas for national and international action and had taken the decisions that led to the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
2. He went on to note that since its foundation, the Centre had taken a leading role in the exchange of information among countries, in the formulation of national and international programmes, and in supporting developing countries' human settlements development efforts through its technical co-operation projects. He complimented the Centre for having worked so successfully to fulfil its objectives.
3. He noted that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was a milestone in the work of the Centre, and stated his satisfaction that the Year had generated so much interest in housing matters and had stimulated concerted action to improve housing conditions in member countries.
4. In concluding his statement, he pointed out that rapidly increasing populations, the developing economies of most countries and the shortage of necessary resources were daily creating more human settlements problems. For those reasons, it was necessary to work harder to secure an even higher priority for human settlements on the agenda of national and international concerns. He then expressed his belief that the Commission at its tenth session would come up with the affordable solutions desired by all people who wanted and deserved a better environment.

#### B. Inaugural address by His Excellency Mr. D. T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P., President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya

1. The President welcomed the delegations to Kenya and said that the number and the level of attendance was an indication of the great interest and importance attached to the session. Well-planned housing, infrastructure and services of reasonable standards and at affordable costs gave people dignity, security and privacy. It was therefore regrettable that the shelter situation all over the world left much to be desired. The session would provide an opportunity to renew the commitment to the cause of the poor and disadvantaged. The world was looking forward to its outcome with much hope.
2. Urbanization was taking place in all countries at such an unprecedented rate that it would be difficult even to preserve the already poor settlement condition. By the turn of the century, Africa was projected to have the highest level of

urbanization, which was a matter of great concern. He hoped that the exchange of information at the session would contribute significantly to improving the well-being of the poor in Africa and the world in general.

3. The aim of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was to improve general living conditions on a sustainable basis. That would require a firm commitment by Governments at the national level, which was not easy during times of economic hardship such as the current ones. It was, however, a challenge that all Governments had to face. The President said that he was confident that the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would continue to guide and advise Governments on workable solutions to human settlement problems in the years ahead.

4. Kenya was fully committed to the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and would continue to support the Centre and provide the necessary facilities for its efficient functioning. Peace was a major prerequisite for solving the global problems confronting humanity, including housing problems. The President reminded the Commission of Kenya's position in the search for peace and stressed that all States Members of the United Nations had an important responsibility in that respect.

C. Address by the Honourable R. Premadasa, M.P., Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

1. The Prime Minister stated that despite much that had been done, development efforts had not corrected the basic condition that they addressed. The principle task was to fashion a new and sustainable approach to development and accelerate the pace of development. From a review of the experiences of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, it was evident that shelter could become a new organizing principle of development, provided that it could meet the critical criteria of acceptability, affordability, durability and viability.

2. The Million Houses Programme launched in Sri Lanka had been based upon four lessons learned: housing had to be based on self-help and people's participation; the role of the State should be one of minimum intervention with maximum support; housing development was central to total human development; and decentralized local government was essential for effective resource mobilization. As the Programme evolved, the Government and people continued to learn. Perhaps the most important part of the experience had been the enthusiasm of the people, which had carried the Programme forward.

3. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was not an end in itself, and follow-up action should be secured. In that context, the Prime Minister reminded the Commission of his earlier proposals to create a United Nations specialized agency that would replace or expand the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); to extend the Year into an international decade; to create a global housing and shelter bank; and to establish regional research groups on shelter. He appealed to the Commission to make an appeal to the major arms producers to devote a percentage of their military expenditure to shelter.

4. The International Year would be judged not by the material content of the efforts but by their moral impact; it was not only shelter that was being built but also values; not only societies being developed but also people. That was why shelter was more than just construction but a moral crusade.

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

1. In addressing the global state of human settlements, the Executive Director drew attention to the worsening crisis of human settlements in general and of shelter conditions in developing countries in particular. There was, he observed, a grave shelter crisis, which was being accentuated by the twin forces of high population growth and rapid urbanization; but the crisis was also the consequence of ineffectual and inadequate policy responses to the shelter problem. Nevertheless, the Centre was hopeful that Governments, organizations and concerned individuals would take the concerted and effective action required to defuse the crisis; otherwise the number of people lacking shelter or living in unhealthy and unsanitary shelter conditions, currently estimated at 1 billion world-wide, would rapidly increase by the end of the century, with unpredictable consequences for the political and social stability of the affected countries.

2. The Executive Director noted that moving towards a concerted effort to meet the shelter crisis was not a simple undertaking. It required not only the mobilization of adequate financial resources and of technical and institutional capacity, but also a reorientation of basic social and economic development strategies and goals, as well as a well-conceived macro-policy framework. Moreover, because of the localized nature of shelter problems and demand, it was important that institutional capacity be developed at the local level, especially in such crucial areas as land, finance and building codes, without which successful formulation and execution of national shelter policies would not be possible.

3. It was also necessary to keep in mind that shelter strategies could only succeed if formulated and implemented as part of an overall human settlements strategy, which in turn must form one of the foundations of national development policy. The Executive Director then went on to outline selected policy actions of an enabling nature by which Governments could facilitate the shelter production process to reach optimum levels. He referred, *inter alia*, to the provision of appropriate and affordable infrastructure linked to cost recovery and operated and maintained by effective local administration; the establishment of efficient land registration and information systems as well as other measures to make urban land markets more efficient and to hold down the cost of land; measures to reform land-tenure systems so as to stimulate private investment in housing; and finally, actions to develop financial markets, institutions and mechanisms to encourage capital to move into the shelter sector. As for housing subsidies, only those subsidies should be introduced which conformed with a long-term and strategic approach to mass shelter production. The effect of all such enabling actions should be to encourage shelter construction. In some developing countries, Governments had already taken positive steps in that direction.

4. The Executive Director noted that the events over the last decade had encouraged him in his belief that human settlements shelter conditions would improve and that the challenge would be met in the coming decade. He pointed, in particular, to the convening of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human

Settlements in 1976; the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); the growing awareness of Governments and the international community of the scale of human settlements problems and the need to combat them; and the proclamation of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, as well as the response to the programme of the Year. All those events had strengthened his conviction that the shelter crisis could be successfully addressed, leading ultimately to the desired goal of shelter for all.

5. Referring to the ongoing exercise to review the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, the Executive Director drew the attention of the Commission to Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112, by which a Special Commission was established to conduct an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, and noted that the Commission was required at the current session to consider the issues raised in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (the Group of 18) and to transmit its views to the Special Commission. While expressing his support for the review exercise, which had been designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in the economic and social fields, the Executive Director stated his belief that the existing institutional arrangements in the human settlements field had proved well-conceived and were working well and effectively and for that reason deserved to be maintained.

6. In concluding, the Executive Director expressed his confidence that the United Nations as an organization would emerge from the current review healthier and stronger and that the Commission and the Centre would continue to play their leading roles in the war against homelessness and inadequate shelter.

#### E. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasized the importance of environmentally sound shelter. He made his appeal while citing the increasing pollution levels in the industrializing countries of the developing world, rapid urbanization in developing countries and the soaring costs of waste management as a serious description of the national environment upon which the continued life of settlements and their inhabitants ultimately depended. In that connection, he also referred to the fact that urban growth in the developing countries was spreading over productive agricultural land, thus reducing the capacity to maintain levels of food production.

2. He went on to state that that deterioration was the consequence, in part, of the failure of national Governments to take account of the far-reaching recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

3. However, there were solutions to the problems cited. The most encouraging sign was that both the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNEP agreed that the root causes of human settlements problems stemmed from the fact that settlements were not planned in relation to their resource base and that settlements were located in ecosystems and must be planned and managed as part of them. In conclusion, the Executive Director stated that UNEP would do its part in assisting the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to convey that message to Governments in the interest of building a better future.

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