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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION;
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Note by the Secretariat

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 10/1 of 16 April 1987 entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", the Commission on Human Settlements, at its tenth session, recommended to the General Assembly the adoption at its forty-second session of a draft resolution. 1/ The draft resolution is reproduced below.

"Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements 2/ and the recommendations for national action 3/ 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,

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/42/8 and corrigendum), annex I.

2/ 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.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

"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" 4/ and "A new agenda for human settlements", 5/ 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,

"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,

4/ HS/C/10/3.

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

"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 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."
