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Item 5 of the provisional agenda.

Co-ordination and concerted action of programmes on human settlements within the United Nations system and co-operation with non-governmental organizations in compliance with General Assembly resolution 32/162.

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly in section VI of resolution 32/162, dealing with matters of co-ordination and concerted action, decided "that the existing mechanisms of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination must be strengthened to ensure that co-ordination in the field of human settlements is effective throughout the whole United Nations system" (para. 4).

2. In this connexion, the Preparatory Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at its sixty-ninth session, in considering the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Human Settlements held at Geneva from 9 to 11 March 1977, endorsed the conclusions of the meeting and decided that pending a final decision of the General Assembly on institutional arrangements, co-ordination functions in this area would be entrusted on an interim basis to the Preparatory Committee which would convene ad hoc interagency meetings as and when necessary to deal with problems of co-ordination at both the programme and operational levels. The Commission may wish, therefore, to convey to the Economic and Social Council its views on this matter.

3. In the same resolution 32/162, in section II, paragraph 4 (b), establishing the functions and responsibilities of the Commission, the Assembly decided that one of these responsibilities is:

"To follow closely the activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the over-all policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved."

4. To facilitate these discussions the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Human Settlements (Geneva, 9-11 March 1977) (E/AC.51/83), which is considered the most up-to-date compilation of information on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements, is being made available to the Commission. It should be noted here that this meeting was convened:

(a) To prepare a report, for approval by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, containing an analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements for submission to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in connexion with its review of programme areas identified by it for in-depth consideration;

(b) To advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in resolution 31/116 "as an interim arrangement, to ensure through the appropriate machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the co-ordination of the work of all the United Nations bodies concerned with respect to their activities in the human settlements field and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session on the progress made";

(c) To assist the Secretary-General in taking appropriate measures, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/116, "to ensure effective preparations for the discussions on human settlements questions at the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the contributions made by the relevant components of the United Nations system as represented in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination".
