

4. *Urges* the General Assembly, when it considers what funds should be allocated under the regular budget for the advisory social welfare services and reviews all the priorities in the 1964 programme, to give due consideration to the urgent needs created by the existence of a greater number of countries entitled to such advisory services, the expansion of regional activities and requests for assistance by Governments for social development plans at the national level, the training of personnel and the establishment of community services.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

#### **976 (XXXVI). Report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning**

##### **A**

##### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (first session).<sup>56</sup>

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

##### **B**

##### **HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING IN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, adopted by the General Assembly to designate the decade 1960-1970 as the "United Nations Development Decade" and Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962, establishing the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning,

*Considering* the urgency and magnitude of measures necessary to avoid any further deterioration of the world housing situation,

*Considering* the priority given to housing, building and planning in the international programme for the United Nations Development Decade<sup>57</sup> and the need, in these complex matters, to determine as exactly as possible the sequence of the phases required to ensure that these activities contribute effectively to the success of balanced general development,

*Hoping* that resources released by disarmament will make possible swifter progress in housing construction, urban renewal, slum clearance and rural development,

*Recognizing* that there is considerable scope for increasing fruitful co-operation both at the regional and international levels in studies and research and in exchange of experience and information on problems in the field of environmental planning and development including the social, economic, technical and administrative aspects of housing, building and physical planning,

*Noting with satisfaction* the trend in the United Nations to encourage and promote the establishment of regional and sub-regional centres with a view to more effective co-operation among countries and groups of countries,

*Noting further with satisfaction* that the report and the work programme of its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning provides for an expansion of United Nations activities in this field involving training and education, research and studies, pilot and demonstration projects, evaluation and dissemination of information,

1. *Recommends* that the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies should formulate along lines set out in the annex to this resolution and in the Secretary-General's report on Housing, Building and Planning in the United Nations Development Decade,<sup>58</sup> national policies and programmes in: housing, urban and regional development and building, land use and tenure, financing of housing and buildings, training for management and labour, research and standardization, productivity in the building and building-materials industries, and that they establish an adequate institutional framework for the planning and execution of these programmes within the framework of national development plans;

2. *Recommends also* that the regional economic commissions:

(a) *Initiate, and where appropriate intensify,* regional studies including pilot projects and exchange of experience and information on problems of environmental planning and development, including the social, economic, technological and administrative aspects of housing, building and physical planning;

(b) *Examine their present programme in this field in the light of the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning with a view to indicating their present and potential contribution to the over-all United Nations objectives and action programmes in this field;*

3. *Notes* that, for each of these purposes, international assistance will have to be intensified, whether through bilateral co-operation between States or through assistance from the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

4. *Draws the attention* of the Technical Assistance Board, the Special Fund and the World Food Programme:

(a) *To the effective use that can be made of the facilities, direct contacts and first-hand knowledge provided by*

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 13 (E/3769/Rev.1).

<sup>57</sup> *The United Nations Development Decade: Proposals for action*, United Nations publication, Sales No. 62.II.B.2.

<sup>58</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-sixth Session, Annexes, Supplement No. 13 (E/3719/Rev.1), chap. II.*

the regional economic commissions in initiating and executing projects in the field of housing, building and planning; and

(b) To the importance of assisting the establishment and strengthening of regional and sub-regional centres for research and study and diffusion of information on the results of research and of practical experience in environmental planning and development;

5. *Expresses the hope* that, with international assistance acting primarily as a catalyst in the development of the local economy, the total resources made available for housing, building and planning activities will be commensurate with the vast needs to be met;

6. *Recommends further* that:

(a) The Committee for Industrial Development, the international financing agencies and other international bodies concerned with assistance to economic development should consider ensuring as far as possible that such development is conceived within the framework of overall physical development planning;

(b) The Committee for Industrial Development, the Special Fund and the international financing agencies should consider giving high priority and increased support to the improvement of the capacity and efficiency of the building and building-materials industries, since a large part of the fixed capital investment for economic and social growth is in construction and building;

(c) The Special Fund and the international financing agencies should consider giving high priority and increased support to the development of national systems and institutions for the financing of low-cost housing and urban services and for the mobilization of savings for these purposes;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of making available the results of the experience of the Economic Commission for Europe in this field, including information on practical experience of its member countries, to the other regional economic commissions and also to regional and sub-regional centres in other parts of the world;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the paucity of resources presently devoted to the tasks enumerated above, to strengthen the staff resources allotted to this growing and previously neglected field of housing, building and planning;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take similar account in the regional economic commissions of the needs in this field and to strengthen the staff resources devoted to them.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

#### ANNEX

##### Recommended sequence of stages in the formulation of national policies and programmes

1. Preparation of detailed housing policies and programmes. These programmes should establish both the quantity and quality of housing in accordance with economic capacity. They should

also cover related facilities and equipment. To this end statistical machinery will have to be set up on a considerable scale and a land development policy balancing the needs of urban centres and rural areas will have to be formulated in advance.

2. Application in conformity with these programmes, of a policy for land tenure and land use, including both the organization of physical planning operations and the enactment of effective legislation for the reservation and allocation of sites necessary for housing and related facilities, as a means, *inter alia*, of checking price rises.

3. Study of the question of financing, concentrating on the need to mobilize available savings for housing construction to the fullest possible extent, interesting private enterprises in the problem and drawing on state aid for the remainder. The cost of housing for low-income families should be kept at a reasonable proportion of their income. In the developing countries, particular attention should be given to the encouragement and organization of private contributions in the form of labour.

4. Formulation of an appropriate technical and training policy for management and labour. The technical policy will depend basically on the country's social policy. It should, moreover, give priority to the use of local materials.

5. Development of the building industry in direct relation to the technical, economic and social factors mentioned above.

6. Action to lay particular stress on the importance of greater efficiency in the building industry, in view of the fact that in the developing countries building accounts for about three-quarters of total capital investment.

7. Encouragement of the adoption by Member States of a co-ordinated modular system in order to facilitate the use of pre-fabricated parts and to expand international trade in this field.

8. Establishment of administrative machinery to promote the building industry, with due regard to its importance in the economy as a whole. In order to be effective this machinery must keep very close contact with the specialists and with the public.

#### C

##### RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INFORMATION ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* General Assembly resolution 1676 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 on urbanization,

*Recalling* its resolution 830 B (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 on the same subject and resolutions 797 (XXX) of 3 August 1960, 838 (XXXII) of 3 August 1961, and 906 (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962, which emphasize the importance of training for economic and social development and the promotion of education and training in the developing countries,

*Recognizing* the need for continuing research, exchange of information, and training in building technology and management, in the planning and construction of housing and community facilities, and in regard to the problems of town, city and regional planning for physical development,

*Recognizing further* the need for development of policies and programmes for housing and related community facilities, and for the stimulation of greater interest on the part of financial institutions in the financing of these programmes as part of national development programmes,

*Considering* the dire lack of institutional and personnel resources in some developing countries such as would enable them to take measures of urgency, preparatory measures, or measures required at different stages, to deal with the problems of housing, building and planning and to properly appraise their training needs in order to set them forth with precision in requests to appropriate international bodies for financial and technical assistance,

1. *Draws the attention* of Member States of the United Nations to the need to improve their capabilities for practical advances in housing and related community facilities, building and urban land use planning, including extended and intensified training for all levels of professional, skilled operative, and administrative workers, giving special attention to the inter-disciplinary training needed by professional staff responsible for the solution of problems of housing, building, and planning, and to training relating to urgent and emergency measures necessary to be taken in view of existing situations;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General, the Technical Assistance Board and the Special Fund in the allocation of resources for housing, building and planning to give special consideration to requests for assistance for the establishment or expansion of regional centres for research, training, and exchange and dissemination of information, and thereafter to give attention to requests for the establishment of centres to serve the different climatic and other sub-regions of each continent and subsequently to requests for assistance in the establishment or expansion of national centres which will also serve regional needs;

3. *Recommends* that Governments consider requesting in connexion with applications for loans and grants for industrial and economic development from external sources that some portion be made available for training programmes in housing, building and planning;

4. *Invites* Member States of the United Nations desiring to do so to submit to the Secretary-General their plans and projections for training personnel in the fields of housing, building and planning so that he may collate and analyse these plans and projections and formulate recommendations and a list of suggested priorities with a view to encouraging more economical and co-ordinated use of country resources and international loans and grants if and when they become available;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions, interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and other intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

## D

### ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DOCUMENTATION IN HOUSING, BUILDING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that rapid progress especially in developing nations in the field of housing, building and physical planning can best be achieved on acquisition of knowledge concerning known techniques, methods and principles which have proven successful elsewhere,

*Recognizing* the difficulty now involved in assembling useful information of this character which is scattered through much published and even unpublished material,

*Convinced* that the effectiveness of measures adopted by governments to promote progress in housing, building and physical planning will greatly depend on the adequacy of basic data, the exchange of results and evaluation of practical experience,

*Bearing in mind* current plans for the establishment, under United Nations auspices, of economic and social development and planning institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and of the Economic Projections and Programming Centre, and of the Research Institute for Social Development,

*Considering also* the possible need for establishing under the auspices of the United Nations an international documentation centre for housing, building and physical planning with the objective of promoting in co-operation with existing national, regional and international institutes and centres, including such private centres as the International Council for Documentation and Research Studies, the exchange among States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, of experiences and results of research in the different aspects of housing, building and physical planning through such means as:

(a) Assembly, collation and evaluation of information on practical measures and on research in this and related fields carried out in national, regional and international institutes and centres;

(b) Dissemination of this information and data, particularly through the regional and national centres and the international professional organization concerned;

(c) Identification of gaps in fundamental and applied research essential for effective environmental development as part of national development;

*Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the necessity and feasibility and to report to the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning at its second session, if possible, on alternative possibilities of establishing the document centre for housing, building and planning having regard to its relationship with:

(a) Other centres and institutes in these fields;

(b) The existing national centres and institutions of research and learning in these fields;

(c) The existing regional centres on housing, building and planning and the regional centres to be established in the developing areas of the world;

(d) With the international professional and technical organizations, public and private, interested in fields of housing, building and planning.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

## E

### PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT PROJECTS IN HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 adopted by the General Assembly on the United Nations Development Decade and the special emphasis given by the Secretary-General in his *Proposals for action*<sup>59</sup> to the use of increased United Nations assistance for projects of a strategic or pilot nature in the field of housing, building and planning which would lead to the release of latent domestic resources,

*Recalling* resolution 1508 (XV) of 12 December 1960 of the General Assembly requesting the Secretary-General to investigate in consultation with interested Member States the possibility of obtaining technical services, equipment and funds for establishing or multiplying pilot projects in low-cost housing and related community facilities, in the building and building materials field, and in rural and urban development,

1. *Notes with approval* the proposals of the Secretary-General for a programme of pilot projects;

2. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General:

(a) *Proceed* with the execution of those pilot projects requested by Governments for which resources are available in collaboration with the regional economic commissions concerned, specialized agencies and participating Member States, agencies and other bodies;

(b) *Invite* interested Member States to prepare and submit to him for consideration further pilot projects, as part of the United Nations programme of technical co-operation based on the criteria given in his report on planning and implementation of pilot projects in housing, building and planning;<sup>60</sup>

3. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and the Managing Director of the Special Fund, the specialized agencies, within the scope of their authority, expand their assistance to urban and rural development with an attempt to select as far as possible projects of different types from different areas in order to cover

the widest possible spectrum and to increase the experience of the United Nations in this field;

4. *Requests* that the Secretary-General submit, if possible at the second session of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, a report covering particulars of projects in progress and projects proposed in the light of requests received and of the resources available for their execution together with an evaluation of the results achieved both positive and negative;

5. *Further recommends* that international financing agencies and institutional and professional bodies and non-governmental organizations give consideration to participating in future pilot projects.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

## F

### FINANCE FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reiterating* the view expressed by various United Nations bodies that foreign financial aid for housing, community facilities, building and urban development in developing countries should be increased in order to supplement the national resources available in this vital area and to help mobilize them to the full,

*Noting* that international policy and recent events connected with foreign financial assistance to the developing countries indicate a recognition of housing and urban development as sectors having high priority for economic and social progress and that national resources alone are not sufficient to achieve the targets set in national programmes and in the United Nations Development Decade,

1. *Expresses* the conviction that since the foreign resources available represent only a limited part of the total funds required, the developing countries should take the necessary steps to mobilize adequate domestic resources for housing and essential facilities in urban and rural communities, in accordance with a national housing plan, the possible courses of action including:

(a) Special assistance, whether financial or of any other kind, to the domestic building-materials industry;

(b) Allocation of an appropriate percentage of the national budget for housing and related facilities;

(c) Channelling of funds held by banks and savings and social security institutions into housing of social interest and urban development;

(d) Encouragement of joint efforts by Governments, private investors and families in need of housing, so that additional housing and urban development programmes may be carried out with these resources;

(e) Encouragement of the establishment of public and private savings and loan associations, building societies, co-operative societies and other forms of mutual aid societies;

<sup>59</sup> *The United Nations Development Decade: Proposals for action*, United Nations publication, Sales No. 62.II.B.2.

<sup>60</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-sixth Session, Annexes, Supplement No. 13 (E/3719/Rev.1), chap. IV.*

(f) Study of suitable procedures in each country for issuing bonds to finance housing, with adequate guarantees that they will be negotiable both at home and abroad;

(g) Maximum possible use of domestic materials and labour in order to economize foreign exchange and at the same time achieve full employment;

(h) Adoption of legal and administrative measures to prevent speculation in land suitable for housing of benefit to society and acquisition, as appropriate, of reserves of land;

(i) Organization of public administration to the extent necessary in order to obtain and make intelligent use of technical and financial assistance from public and private international institutions;

(j) Requests for international aid for housing and social overhead capital including community facilities, such as schools, health centres, commercial centres, community centres, parks and playing fields, which are essential for the over-all development of a neighbourhood;

2. *Notes* that the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning has requested the Secretary-General to prepare for consideration at its second session a report on the opportunities for and restrictions on the use of funds from abroad and on the criterion, priorities and practical measures which should be adopted in this field;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with international financial agencies on the policies and programmes on their activities in this field as seen by each individual agency and to include the results of these consultations in the report which he is to submit on the matter for consideration at the second session of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning;

4. *Recommends* that in connexion with any proposal for an increase in the supply of international aid and for the use of international financial resources made available by disarmament, due priority should be given to requirements for housing, related facilities, building and the building-materials industry;

5. *Recommends* that the Special Fund, in its work of pre-investment assistance and advice, give special attention to the financing of housing and urban development programmes.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

## G

### CO-ORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION OF EXISTING AND INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* that the work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning can be effective only if the activities of the United Nations, its regional economic

commissions and the specialized agencies are efficiently organized and well co-ordinated,

*Realizing* that the activities of the United Nations, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies in housing, building and planning are increasing and being intensified as a result of the recognition of housing and urban development as a sector of high priority in the United Nations Development Decade,

*Taking into account* the existing inter-secretariat arrangements for co-ordination and organization of activities in housing, building and planning,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning at its second session a comprehensive and systematic account of existing programmes in housing, building and planning according to agencies which expend funds in this field and the amount of such expenditure;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the administrative arrangements for an expanded and intensified programme of concerted action in this field and on how existing and future resources for international action in this field might be used most effectively;

3. *Suggests* that the Secretary-General might consider the advisability of obtaining on an *ex gratia* basis relevant independent expert advice on questions of management, organization and procedures to ensure efficient and effective organization and administration of the growing international operational programmes in housing, building and physical planning;

4. *Requests* that the Secretary-General submit a report to the second session of the Committee on the results of his consultation in accordance with this resolution.

*1301st plenary meeting,  
1 August 1963.*

## 972 (XXXVI). World Campaign for Universal Literacy

*The Economic and Social Council*

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report entitled "World Campaign for Universal Literacy"<sup>61</sup> submitted by the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization in response to the request in General Assembly resolution 1677 (XVI) of 18 December 1961;

2. *Transmits* the report to the General Assembly, together with the records<sup>62</sup> of the discussion of this subject in the Council.

*1300th plenary meeting,  
31 July 1963.*

<sup>61</sup> E/3771.

<sup>62</sup> E/SR.1298 and 1300.