

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1024 (XXXVII). Report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning

A

HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING IN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting that in countries throughout the world the housing problem is one of the most important problems calling for solution without delay,

"Recognizing that the housing problem can be successfully solved only by mobilizing the efforts and resources of the nations,

"Recognizing further that social reforms aimed at accelerating social and economic development have an important part to play in the successful solution of housing problems,

"1. Recommends that Member States should:

"(a) Assume a major role in the solution of the housing problem in every country and to this end make provision in their national development planning for the necessary activities and resources;

"(b) Establish for this purpose central and other organizations or bodies in charge of housing and town and country planning, and sufficiently empowered with the necessary authority;

"(c) Take all necessary measures to develop a building material industry utilizing local raw materials to the maximum and to promote or establish as appropriate building design and construction organizations which will improve efficiency, lower costs and will establish designs and standards that are appropriate to relevant cultural, social and economic requirements;

"(d) Prepare and implement programmes for training architects, and construction engineers and workers in sufficient numbers to carry out national development programmes;

"(e) Bring about conditions in the spheres of land ownership and land use, by basic reforms if such conditions have not already been achieved, that will ensure a speedy and rational solution of housing and industrial construction problems, harmonious town and rural development, the elimination of speculation in plots of land, and a more equitable use of housing resources in the interests of the whole population;

"2. Recommends that international assistance to developing countries in the field of housing, building and planning, whether multilateral or bilateral, be directed towards the financing of housing, the establishment of a national or, if necessary, state building materials and components industry and of national or, if necessary,

State building design, construction and financing organizations, the training of national cadres of architects and construction engineers and workers, the establishment of national bodies in charge of housing construction and town-building, and the planning and execution of pilot projects contributing to the earliest possible solution of the housing problem;

"3. Suggests that the Secretary-General prepare biennial progress reports on the application of this resolution in close co-operation with the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions;

"4. Invites the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, on the basis of those reports, to work out additional practical and effective measures for the implementation of the above recommendations and the solution of the housing problem."

*1345th plenary meeting,
11 August 1964.*

B

THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF BUILDING

The Economic and Social Council

1. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate:

(a) The elaboration of a study on achievements, possibilities and existing programmes in the field of industrialization of housing in the developing countries in keeping with the stages of economic and technical development;

(b) An extensive international exchange of experience in this field, through the proposed Housing, Building and Planning Centre and the regional economic commissions and other international bodies;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General in taking the steps called for in paragraph 1 (a) to make necessary efforts to the end that maximum use is made of studies, information, experience and facilities as may already be available, including those developed by the Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, and that work in this field be concentrated on those aspects which remain unexplored or are profitable for further development;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the United Nations Committee on Housing, Building and Planning at its third session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*1345th plenary meeting,
11 August 1964.*

C

CO-ORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMMES IN HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the contribution which international assistance for housing, building and planning could make to

the most effective use of international and domestic resources directed towards economic and social development,

Believing that the contribution of the United Nations in this field requires the most effective arrangements for conducting housing, building and planning activities within the United Nations Secretariat and for co-ordinating these activities with the work of other agencies bent to the common task of increasing world productivity and living standards,

Acknowledging the report on organizational arrangements in the field of housing, building and planning,⁵²

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the early implementation and possible methods of effecting the organizational changes requested by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning,⁵³

1. *Recognizes* that housing, building and planning represent an important element of economic development whose full potential in raising productivity and assisting economic growth warrants greater emphasis;

2. *Approves* the proposals contained in the report on organizational arrangements in the field of housing, building and planning, communicated by the Secretary-General to the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning,⁵⁴ concerning the reorganization of the Housing, Building and Planning Branch through the establishment, within the limits of the present United Nations budget, of a Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; this Centre to be considered an important step forward in the development of an integrated and comprehensive United Nations programme in the field of housing, building and planning;

3. *Urges* that:

(a) Housing, building and planning efforts receive the proper share of the total United Nations funds which are available every financial year, a share which will reflect the relative importance of this sector of human action to the others;

(b) The Secretary-General provide within the limits of the present budget of the United Nations the additional posts and resources which he has estimated would be required to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning;

(c) The Secretary-General make the necessary reorganization of existing work and facilities to implement these recommendations;

(d) The Secretary-General provide for specialist teams in housing, building and planning to assist developing nations, at their request, in the establishment of basic housing, building and planning programmes and housing industries, drawing as appropriate on the resources of the United Nations programme of technical assistance;

⁵² E/C.6/24.

⁵³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 23, document E/3918.

⁵⁴ E/C.6/24.

(e) The regional economic commissions activate their work in housing, building and planning.

*1345th plenary meeting,
11 August 1964.*

1032 (XXXVII). World Campaign for Universal Literacy

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report⁵⁵ submitted to it by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Board of that Organization, and having studied with particular interest the world literacy programme outlined in annex VI of the report,

Noting further the resolutions adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at its twentieth session⁵⁶ (at Teheran) and by the Economic Commission for Africa at its sixth session⁵⁷ (at Addis Ababa) inviting member States to make provision in their national plans of education and within the framework of their over-all development plans for adult literacy and adult education programmes,

Recognizing that programmes for the eradication of illiteracy should be accorded appropriate priority within over-all national education and development programmes,

Welcoming the main lines proposed for the world literacy programme, which would include an experimental phase during which pilot projects would be carried out in a small number of countries, where literacy programmes would be applied in close liaison with economic development programmes and carefully appraised with a view to determining the feasibility and possible efficacy of a world campaign for the elimination of mass adult illiteracy;

1. *Recommends* that, in the light of the recommendations which the Secretary-General will be presenting in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII), of 11 December 1963, the General Assembly should give sympathetic consideration to this proposal and entrust the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the task of promoting the programme and assisting in its execution;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, the Special Fund, the World Food Programme and the other competent international institutions will give every possible support to the programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1240 (XIII) of 14 October 1958 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 222 (IX) of 14 and 15 August 1949 and 735 (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959.

*1350th plenary meeting,
14 August 1964.*

⁵⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 44, document E/3927.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 2* (E/3876/Rev.1), part III, resolution 55 (XX).

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 10* (E/3864/Rev.1), part III, resolution 115 (VI).