

1885 (LVII). World Housing Survey

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the World Housing Survey,⁷³ which highlights the settlements crisis in the developing countries,

Noting that the urban population of the world will increase by 50 per cent by the end of the present century and that a large part of this increase will take place in the developing countries,

Noting further that the enormous shift in population from rural to urban areas will result in great social and economic difficulties unless this process is channelled along the right lines and unless minimum basic living conditions and employment opportunities are assured,

Recognizing that this calls for a multi-faceted approach and requires vast resources which are beyond the existing and future capacities of most developing countries,

Favouring, therefore, concerted international action to close the gigantic gap between requirements and resources,

Taking note of the suggestion made at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly for a 10 per cent reduction of the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council and the use of the funds thus saved for providing assistance to developing countries,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 976 B (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963, which expressed the hope that resources released by disarmament would make progress possible in housing construction, urban renewal, slum clearance and rural development,

Recognizing that an improvement in the living conditions of the low-income section of the population of developing countries could be achieved by utilizing part of the resources released as a result of disarmament for the provision of basic urban community facilities, housing, schools, hospitals, and other services,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the event of a 10 per cent reduction of the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council, to take measures for an adequate share of the funds released thereby to be allocated to national and international action in the field of human settlements and in consonance with the priorities determined by the developing countries for the use of development aid;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to consult the interested parties and to report the results of his consultations to the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning at its ninth session.

*1918th plenary meeting
31 July 1974*

⁷³ E/C.6/CRP/No. 1.

1886 (LVII). Improvement and development of building technologies based on locally available materials

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the enormous housing deficit of three hundred million dwellings in developing countries expected by 1980 cannot be wiped out with the present building methods and materials, in spite of all efforts by Governments,

Further recognizing the need for a breakthrough in the existing building methods and materials to enable construction to be undertaken on such a scale,

Noting the great strides achieved by the petrochemical industry in the development of building materials, particularly in the production of light-weight and easily assembled dwelling units,

Noting further that the enormous housing deficit of three hundred million dwellings could be alleviated by the use of polymers.

Noting also that draft resolution TD/III/WG.II/L.5 on trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries,⁷⁴ submitted by ten Latin American countries to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its third session, held at Santiago, Chile, in May 1972, was considered to be within the terms of reference of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning,

Recognizing that that draft resolution envisaged the promotion among developing countries of a non-profit international market in new building materials and components, and particularly the use of polymers for low-cost housing in order to reduce costs and expand commerce and economic co-operation among developing countries,

Further recognizing that the variable quality of building materials and methods of construction, rather than poor design, is the primary cause of structural failure in cases of disasters and that polymer materials and components can help to solve this problem,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To give special attention to the studies on the production, use and distribution of the building materials and components derived from petroleum, particularly polymers and other organic and mineral products which could be used as binders and coatings in conjunction with natural materials that are abundant in developing countries, since they present great possibilities for industrialization in the construction sector;

(b) To have the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning co-ordinate the results of the work now being carried out by various countries in the application of polymers and other binders to the building materials industry, with a view to the developing countries benefiting from the new technology and in order to promote the

⁷⁴ *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex VI.H., appendix, draft resolution 2, p. 323.