

## 1885 (LVII). World Housing Survey

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the World Housing Survey,<sup>73</sup> 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*

<sup>73</sup> 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,<sup>74</sup> 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

<sup>74</sup> *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.

international exchange of experience and favour the development of a non-profit market in such materials within an integrated international social housing plan;

(c) To report to the Economic and Social Council on the progress made in this connexion, through the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning at its ninth session;

2. *Requests also* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to intensify the studies requested at the Symposium on the Development of the Plastic Fabrication Industry in Latin America, held at Bogota, Colombia, from 20 November to 1 December 1972, and to devote special resources to the promotion and establishment in developing countries of industries producing building materials derived from petroleum, particularly polymers, and other binders and coatings of organic and mineral origin, in response to integrated industrial planning for this international market;

3. *Further requests* the International Union of Architects, the International Committee of Studies on New Building Systems (Bruxelles, Europlastic 73) and other non-governmental organizations to support and co-operate in the studies on the best use and application of building materials derived from petroleum and agricultural and industrial products.

*1918th plenary meeting  
31 July 1974*

#### **1887 (LVII). International Book Year, 1972, and the Second United Nations Development Decade: report of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

*The Economic and Social Council.*

*Recalling* its resolution 1575 (L) of 20 May 1971, in which it invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to it a report on the results achieved through International Book Year, 1972, and particularly on the ways in which those results could contribute to the attainment of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

*Having examined* the report on International Book Year, 1972, and the Second United Nations Development Decade<sup>76</sup> prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Noting* that International Book Year, with which almost all States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, various intergovernmental organizations and a large number of international non-governmental organizations were actively associated, gave a vigorous impetus to the promotion of books and reading throughout the world,

*Noting further* that many measures adopted by the world community, in particular for the purpose of creating or strengthening at the national, regional and international levels the infrastructure needed to improve the

<sup>76</sup> E/5468.

production, distribution and use of books, were designed with a view to long-term action consistent with the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

*Considering* that the success of International Book Year testifies to the vital importance which Governments and peoples attach to the role of books in the full development of the individual and the advancement of society, and that it is consequently essential that the action begun during International Book Year to make books accessible to all should be continued on a permanent basis,

*Considering also* that:

(a) It is necessary, in order to attain that objective, to mobilize on a world-wide scale the material, technical or financial resources needed in order to develop book production and distribution and to promote reading,

(b) It is important, in particular, that the grave consequences produced, especially in the developing countries, by the growing shortage of printing paper should be quickly overcome,

(c) The broad outlines for a book strategy suggested in the report of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization afford an appropriate setting in which to pursue concerted international action.

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on International Book Year, 1972, and the Second United Nations Development Decade;

2. *Invites* Member States and, within their spheres of competence, United Nations organs and bodies and all other interested international organizations to give their support to the programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the promotion of books and reading and to take all measures to that end consistent with the guidelines and objectives laid down in the above-mentioned report.

*1918th plenary meeting  
31 July 1974*

#### **1888 (LVII). Reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having completed* in-depth reviews of the activities of two specialized agencies, namely, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations<sup>76</sup> and the International Telecommunication Union,<sup>77</sup>

<sup>76</sup> "Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session: summary for the year 1973", transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/5477.

<sup>77</sup> "Analytical summary of the report on the activities of the International Telecommunication Union in 1973 to the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council" (Geneva, 1974), transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/5512.