



Sixteenth session  
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Agenda item 16

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Draft proceedings of the Commission on Human Settlements  
at its sixteenth session

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Addendum

Chapter -. COORDINATION MATTERS  
(Agenda item 12)

A. Introduction

1. Committee I considered agenda item 12 at its 4th meeting on 1 May. The item had three sub-items: (a) cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (b) cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations; and (c) matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission. Before the Committee were the following documents:

(a) Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and of the United Nations Environment Programme (HS/C/16/14 and Corr.1);

(b) The report of the Executive Director on cooperation and coordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (HS/C/16/2/Add.3 and Corr.1);

(c) The report of the Executive Director on the implementation of

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Agenda 21 (HS/C/16/15 and Corr.1);

(d) The report of the Executive Director on matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission (HS/C/16/16);

(e) A note on the main decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, of the Economic and Social Council and of other United Nations bodies of relevance to the work of the Commission (HS/C/16/CRP.1).

2. In introducing the agenda item, the representative of the Assistant Secretary-General indicated that the cooperation between the Centre and UNEP, had been primarily carried out in the framework of the preparations for Habitat II and its follow-up. UNEP had provided general assistance in the preparation of the Conference by lending staff, arranging the World Environment Day in Istanbul, participating in the conference on managing water resources for large cities and towns, and supporting special publications such as the 1996/1997 World Resources Report, with special focus on cities, and Making Cities Work, dealing with the role of local authorities. Preparations for Habitat II and its follow-up had also featured prominently in the four traditional areas of UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation: environmental assessment in human settlements; environmental aspects of settlements planning and management; environmental technology; and research. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) also cooperated with the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) and the joint Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development.

3. The cooperation between the Centre and UNEP had entered a new era in January 1996, when the two organizations formally joined forces in the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP). Subsequently both the Commission and the Governing Council of UNEP had made repeated calls for more effective collaboration. With the adoption of the Habitat Agenda, a new framework for future cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP had been created. With regard to the major goal of the Habitat Agenda -- sustainable human settlements -- the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) had the potential of becoming the primary collaborative implementation instrument between the Centre and UNEP. The catalytic achievements of SCP in bringing together other urban programmes of international organizations and cities in

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implementing the urban environment agenda promised to be a major breakthrough, more effectively integrating and coordinating the activities of the United Nations system with those of local communities and local authorities.

4. Regarding the second sub-item, the representative of the Assistant Secretary-General indicated that during the reporting period, coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, had been greatly expanded in line with Commission resolutions 14/8 and 15/12. The framework prescribed in those resolutions considered, inter alia, the preparatory process for Habitat II. Because of the primacy and inclusive nature of the Habitat II process, over the past biennium cooperation with "external" bodies had tended to focus primarily on that process.

5. As an example of cooperation within the United Nations system, the representative mentioned that, in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, many developing countries had received financial and technical assistance in both the formulation of their national plans of action and their participation in the various preparatory meetings for the Conference. The United Nations system had also organized thematic seminars, colloquiums, round-tables and workshops to promote the Habitat II process in all regions. In addition to their full involvement in the activities of the Conference proper, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations and non-governmental organizations had sponsored and participated in wide-ranging parallel activities -- notably, the Habitat dialogues for the twenty-first century. All of the partner groups were currently in the process of preparing work plans embodying specific actions that they would undertake in the implementation, monitoring, assessment and dissemination of the Habitat Agenda at all levels.

6. On the third sub-item, the representative asked the Committee for its guidance so as to ensure the full implementation of those resolutions that called upon the organs, institutions and organizations of the United Nations system or specifically upon UNCHS (Habitat).

#### B. Discussion

7. Delegations commented on the need to foster collaboration within and outside the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and human settlements activities in order to optimize the utilization of

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resources and complementary capacities existing within the various agencies and organizations working in the field of human settlements. They also indicated the need for the Centre to ensure the implementation of those matters arising from the resolutions of legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, taking into account the Centre's mandate and work programme.

C. Action taken by the Commission

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