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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

Report of the Executive Director

SUMMARY

This report reviews the significant activities and events in which UNCHS (Habitat) has been involved since the last session of the Commission. Following a brief introduction, chapter I of the report describes the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) during 1981, particularly the progress made in the implementation of the 1980-1981 work programme of the Centre. Activities in the areas of technical co-operation, research and development and human settlements information - the three major operational instruments utilized in the implementation of the Centre's work programme - are described under headings corresponding to the six established subject areas according to which the programme is structured. Chapter II describes decisions of the main legislative bodies pertaining to human settlements and the action taken by the Executive Director towards their implementation, as well as actions taken by the Executive Director in response to decisions taken by the Commission at its fourth (and previous) sessions. The final chapter contains a review of the highlights of co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and other organizations and units within the United Nations system.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The objective of this report is to outline the progress made since the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements held in Manila, Philippines, from 27 April to 6 May 1981. Firstly, the report describes the progress made in the implementation of the 1980-1981 work programme of the Centre, concentrating on activities undertaken during 1981, since activities completed in 1980 were reported on at the fourth session of the Commission (HS/C/4/2). The report summarizes the relevant activities under the six subject areas identified by the Habitat Conference for priority action and adopted by the Commission at its first (organizational) session as the basis of the human settlements programme. <sup>1/</sup> Under each of the six subject areas, reference is made to the three main types of operational instrument used by UNCHS (Habitat) to achieve the objectives of its work programme, namely technical co-operation, research and development (including training) and human settlements information.
2. Chapter II of the report is devoted to a summary of the deliberations and conclusions of the main legislative bodies, namely the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, on the item of human settlements and the action taken by the Executive Director in response to these and to the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. This is followed in chapter III of the report by an outline of the highlights during 1981 of co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and other units and organizations within the United Nations system, as well as an account of the Centre's participation in special United Nations conferences and similar events.
3. As agreed by the Commission in its decision 4/19, co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations is covered in a separate information document which is also before the Commission (HS/C/5/INF.5).

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8), para. 18.

## I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1980-1981 WORK PROGRAMME

4. The 1980-1981 work programme, as approved by the Commission in its resolution 2/1, was structured on the basis of the six approved subprogrammes of the Centre. The Executive Director reported to the Commission at its fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the work programme in 1980 (HS/C/4/2). Accordingly, this report details the results of activities carried out in 1981 and avoids reference to those activities in the 1980-1981 work programme that were reported completed in 1980.

### Subprogramme 1: Settlement policies and strategies

5. The technical co-operation projects corresponding to this subprogramme typically set out to assist in the formulation of regional and national policies and strategies, while at the same time building up the institutions responsible for carrying them out. Because of their comprehensive and multidisciplinary scope, these projects tend to be large in scale and to involve high-level expertise. Examples of such projects include the following:

(a) National Physical Planning, Burundi (BDI/81/005), where balanced spatial development of the national territory is one of the high priorities of the Government and where the National Directorate for Regional Planning was created in 1980 to co-ordinate productive investment in services and infrastructure facilities. The aim of the project is to provide multidisciplinary assistance to strengthen planning and executing capacity while at the same time facilitating the training of nationals in planning at suitable institutions abroad. Three main outputs are expected: a regional planning policy to ensure balanced spatial development; strategies for the development of secondary centres; a programme for the development of human settlements in urban and rural areas, including immediate regional pilot projects;

(b) Physical Planning, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (LIB/76/X71), a long-standing project financed totally by the Government. Significant progress has been made in developing the settlement policies and strategies the country requires;

(c) National Physical Planning, and Urban Housing Policy and Programme Development, Bangladesh (BGD/72/104 and BGD/77/104), providing the Government with comprehensive recommendations for policies and procedures to strengthen the Urban Development Directorate and develop viable housing policy options. A new project, to be initiated in 1982, is expected to assist in drawing up an action programme and initiating housing projects.

6. Other countries with project activities pertinent to subprogramme 1 during 1981 were: Algeria, Benin, Comoros, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

7. With regard to research and development activities on national settlement policies, analysis of national policy options at the global level was carried forward to the 1982 work programme. However, in the case of the ESCAP region,

recommendations on policy guidelines for the region were prepared in 1981, and it is expected that ESCAP will convene an expert group meeting to consider and comment on these guidelines before they are distributed in 1982.

8. As regards global settlements analysis, policy harmonization is an ongoing activity through which key human settlements issues are kept under review at the global level and interagency collaboration in the field of human settlements is maintained. Information obtained as a result of this process is used for Commission policy papers and for the compilation of mandated periodic reports, for the preparation of human settlements elements for the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and for cross-organizational programme analyses relating to youth, women, energy, rural development, public administration and finance, etc..

9. An important activity under subprogramme 1 is the preparation of the Quinquennial Global Report on Human Settlements, scheduled for publication in 1985. During 1981, contacts were made with the Statistical Office, the regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank to obtain data inputs for the report. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and ESCAP are actively collaborating in the collection of information, and questionnaires have been sent to countries outside the ECE and ESCAP regions to solicit relevant data by September 1982. In accordance with Commission resolution 2/3 and General Assembly resolution 34/114, an interim report (HS/C/4/7) was prepared as the first of a series of biennial reports covering: financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations system; activities and collaboration between UNCHS (Habitat) and non-governmental organizations; information on the human settlements activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and co-operation between them and UNCHS (Habitat).

#### Subprogramme 2: Settlement planning

10. Technical co-operation projects under this subprogramme set out to establish specific proposals on the use of resources in relation to needs, the location of activities and infrastructure investment and the sequence and methodology for the implementation of priority programmes. Examples of such projects include the following:

(a) Master Plan for Metropolitan Lagos (NIR/72/143), a complex action-oriented project undertaken to formulate a master plan for the city while concurrently providing Lagos state officials with more immediately applicable recommendations on urban development issues such as public transportation, housing, land use and physical and social infrastructure;

(b) Master Plan for Nicosia (CYP/79/007), under which a team of high-level consultants, closely supported by the appropriate authorities, has initiated the preparation of a physical plan responsive to the complex cultural and socio-economic requirements of the communities living in Nicosia. Additional specialized expertise will be provided through an International Consultative Panel, the first meeting of which took place in November 1981.

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following a briefing visit to UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters by representatives of both communities in Nicosia accompanied by the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator and the UNCHS (Habitat) Project Manager;

(c) Physical Planning and Housing in Dominica (DOM/81/003), which involves urban renewal plans and local area plans, with emphasis on reconstruction to overcome the extensive damage wrought by hurricanes (see also document HS/C/5/2/Add.3).

11. Other countries with project activities pertinent to this subprogramme during 1981 were: Barbados, Guatemala, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

12. With regard to research and development, work was initiated on identifying long-term global trends and prospects for human settlements. Case studies were carried out on human settlements, population and the environment, and recommendations for the formulation of environmental guidelines for human settlements planning are being prepared in co-operation with UNEP. This latter project is scheduled for completion in 1983, and the output will consist of a set of guidelines and a case study on environmental impact assessment in the Valley of Mexico. Draft proposals on the integration of economic, social and physical aspects of human settlements planning in the ESCAP region have been prepared. Another significant activity under this subprogramme concerned the expert group meeting on planning for human settlements in disaster-prone areas, co-sponsored by the Government of Japan, which was held in Nairobi from 4 to 8 December 1981. Participants from developed and developing countries contributed experience in measures taken to meet all forms of natural disasters. The findings of the meeting were incorporated into the theme paper on the topic which is before the Commission at its fifth session (HS/C/5/3).

13. As part of the Centre's work on a systems approach to rural settlements planning, reports were prepared on "Rural livelihoods, accessibility and rural settlements planning: some issues for research", "Analysis of the activities of United Nations organizations relevant to rural settlements" and "Recommended work programme for rural settlements policies and planning". Because of the importance of the topic, it is being carried forward into the 1982 work programme, and discussions are being held with potential donors on possible funding for the continuation of this activity in 1982-1983.

14. Information activities initiated under subprogramme 2 will result in a film on the preparation of metropolitan plans with emphasis on the physical planning requirements of low-income neighbourhoods which was initiated in 1981 in co-operation with the National Film Board of Canada and which is based on experience gained in the building of the new capital of the United Republic of Tanzania at Dodoma. A slide presentation is being produced on planning for human settlements in disaster-prone areas, with special emphasis on mitigation measures.

Subprogramme 3: Shelter, infrastructure and services

15. Technical co-operation projects under this subprogramme seek to promote integrated institutional structures and operational approaches to human settlements and to develop appropriate human settlements technologies. Thus, projects range from the implementation of sites-and-services schemes, through the development of local building materials, energy and urban and rural housing, to the setting up of financial mechanisms. Examples of such projects include the following:

(a) Integrated Urban Development of Musaga, Burundi (BDI/78/104), under which rapid upgrading of the unserved, unhealthy and extremely poor squatter area of Musaga is an important component of the strategy adopted by the Government for developing Bujumbura as a whole. During the period under review, several water points were installed and access roads, paths and drainage were laid. Families displaced by these works were rehoused along the access routes, experimental housing was built and a programme for relocating and assisting settlers in fully planned reception areas was prepared. A revolving fund for low-cost housing is to be used to assist settlers in these areas, as well as to improve existing housing in Musaga. The success of the Musaga project is expected to lead to similar programmes on a wider scale in other sections of Bujumbura;

(b) Housing Technology and Socio-economic Research and Development, Argentina (ARG/78/006): this large-scale project called on the services of 29 high-level consultants to initiate and assist housing and building technology projects in several provinces. Procedural and technical norms developed by the project have been adopted by the Government to guide housing-sector investment. Several large-scale experimental and demonstration housing projects were built.

16. Other countries with project activities pertinent to subprogramme 3 during 1981 were: Bhutan, Chad, Central African Republic, Comoros, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

17. Under research and development, a project on decision-making in design and implementation of housing programmes was approved for financing by the Government of Finland. A work programme was drawn up, in consultation with the Government of Finland, on the design of a project for implementation in 1982. Work was also initiated to define policy guidelines and action proposals for upgrading squatter settlements in the ESCAP region and to recommend innovative approaches to the upgrading of slums and squatter settlements in Africa.

18. The Catholic University of Leuven, supported by the Belgian Government, has been working closely with UNCHS (Habitat) in executing a successful experimental training programme for high-level and middle-level government officials responsible for housing programmes. Workshops were held in Asia and Africa, and it is expected that another three-year training programme

will be implemented. Steps were also taken to prepare a strategy and plan for an extensive programme, to be undertaken in stages, of integrated multi-disciplinary demonstration projects designed to show how basic human needs can be met and living conditions improved in urban slums and squatter settlements.

19. As a part of the Centre's work on building materials, construction and technology, an examination was made of the physical conditions that need to be improved in low-income settlements. A typology was drawn up of the characteristics of demonstration projects, and methods were suggested for designing, monitoring and evaluating such projects. Recommendations were drawn up for the selection and application of appropriate building technologies for improving slums and squatter settlements in Latin America. An expert group meeting was organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in November 1981 on the development of the indigenous construction sector (see document HS/C/5/INF.9). With regard to the construction industry, the significance of which was indicated in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, work was completed on the scope, criteria and prospects for increasing productivity in the African construction industry by placing emphasis on the promotion of small enterprises in building-materials production and housing construction.

20. In the field of transportation, research on the identification of the transportation needs of low-income households in urban and rural settlements resulted in the preparation of document HS/C/5/4, which is before the Commission as one of the theme papers. As regards the energy requirements of the urban and rural poor and energy conservation in buildings, a pilot demonstration project involving the construction of a community biogas plant to meet the domestic energy needs of a rural settlement was carried out in co-operation with the Government of Kenya. A feasibility study was carried out to assist the Government of Burundi to implement a similar project in Burundi. In view of the need for practical training in this field, a workshop was organized for 25 participants from 15 countries in East and southern Africa. Similar training workshops are envisaged for participants from other regions, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds. Further information on these and other activities undertaken as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy is given in document HS/C/5/INF.6.

21. As regards the mobilization of financial resources, short-term advisory services were provided to the following countries: Afghanistan, Gambia, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Togo and the United Republic of Cameroon.

22. Another major activity under this subprogramme was the convening of an ad hoc expert group meeting and the preparation of a feasibility study on the proposal to establish an Asian human settlements bank. The report of the Executive Director prepared in response to Commission resolution 4/14 is before the Commission (HS/C/5/8).

23. A major development relevant to this subprogramme in 1981 was the establishment of an African housing development and finance institution to be known as "Shelter-Afrique". A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by its founder members last year, and a Co-ordinating Committee was established to consider such matters as the location of the new institution and concessions,

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immunities and privileges which may be granted by the host Government. It has now been agreed that the headquarters of Shelter-Afrique will be located in Nairobi, and a further meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee was scheduled to take place in Nairobi in March 1982, followed by a meeting of shareholders in June 1982. UNCHS (Habitat) has participated in the preparatory meetings for Shelter-Afrique and looks forward to co-operation and collaboration with this important institution.

24. Information activities under subprogramme 3 included the production of a film on new and renewable sources of energy in industrialized countries and of another film on energy resources in rural settlements, with particular reference to developing countries. The first film was produced in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada and the second one with the Films Division of the Government of India. Both films were screened during the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in August 1981 and are being widely distributed.

25. Reports and audio-visual materials on projects related to earth construction in Africa are being prepared in collaboration with the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Further work is being carried out in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) by the UNCHS (Habitat) staff member deployed to the region. Work was also started on the preparation of a bibliography on local building materials that makes the information already collected immediately accessible to users. At the same time, this information is strengthened by the inclusion of bibliographic data from other institutions prominent in the field. The delivery of the bibliography is planned for June 1982. This is the first step towards the setting up of an information pool on building materials, plant and equipment.

#### Subprogramme 4: Land-use policy

26. Technical co-operation projects under this subprogramme are designed to assist Governments in formulating and implementing land policies and supporting legislation in ways consistent with the needs and interests of society as a whole. Most projects relating to physical development at the local, regional and national level touch on this subprogramme. Examples of such projects include the following:

(a) Cadastral Survey, Tuvalu (TUV/77/003), involving a detailed land survey of all the islands belonging to the country and assistance for the Government in the setting up of a Cadastral Department;

(b) National Spatial Regional Planning, Zimbabwe (ZIM/80/008), under which high-level UNCHS (Habitat) consultants advised the Government on the setting up of appropriate institutional frameworks and methodologies for national land-use planning;

(c) Land Development Corporation, Cyprus (CYP/80/002), to advise on the institutional structure of the Corporation for the implementation of legislative measures governing land use.



27. Other countries with project activities pertinent to this subprogramme during 1981 were Mauritius and Uganda.

28. Since land is one of the themes to be discussed at the sixth session of the Commission, preliminary discussions were held with bilateral and multilateral organizations concerning collaboration between them and UNCHS (Habitat) on the preparation of the theme paper. Work was also initiated for the production, in co-operation with the National Film Board of Canada, of an audio-visual presentation dealing with the issues to be presented in the theme paper for showing at the sixth session of the Commission.

Subprogramme 5: Public participation

29. Technical co-operation under this subprogramme is designed to foster citizen and community participation in the development of settlements, especially in projects concerning shelter, infrastructure and services. Projects concerned with institution building give attention to developing the capacity to address needs at the grassroots level, as well as to obtaining improved lateral co-ordination between competing sectoral interests. Those programmes that most clearly involve active citizen participation are sites-and-services projects, projects dealing with the improvement of squatter settlements and pilot/demonstration projects. Examples of such projects include the following:

(a) Development and Improvement of Popular Settlements, Nicaragua (NIC/80/F01), where a team of UNCHS (Habitat) consultants assisted the Government in drawing up a large-scale project to rehabilitate and develop the popular settlements that have suffered extensive damage during recent years. Negotiations are currently underway to mobilize the funds required to implement the project;

(b) Integrated Urban Development of Musaga, Burundi (BDI/78/104), where the inhabitants of the Musaga squatter settlement participate actively in communal works in support of urban infrastructure and self-help housing.

30. Other countries with project activities pertinent to this subprogramme during 1981 were: Argentina, Comoros, Egypt, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Seychelles, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

31. As part of the Centre's work on co-operative housing delivery systems, steps were taken to identify possible demonstration projects, and this activity will be continued in 1982. A workshop, cosponsored by DESWOS, Federal Republic of Germany, was held on teaching materials and training programmes relating to co-operative modes of participation by slum and squatter-settlement dwellers, with particular reference to countries in East Africa.

32. A project on training for public participation in the design and implementation of low-income housing and related infrastructure was approved by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in May 1981. Phase I of the project, to be completed in 1982, will provide a detailed plan of operations for the implementation phase of the project, which will cover a period of 4 years.

33. Information activities under subprogramme 5 included the production of films geared to training and information dissemination at the community level. Four such films are under production and are based on experience in the field of public participation, community development and self-help in Colombia, Lesotho, Senegal and Upper Volta. The target date for completion is mid-1982.

Sub-programme 6: Institutions and Management

34. Technical co-operation projects under this subprogramme were concerned with the establishment of an appropriate institutional base for the formulation of human settlements development policies and for the execution of projects and programmes in the fields of physical planning, building technology, housing, services and training. Examples of such projects include the following:

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(a) Physical Planning, Bahrain (BAH/80/002), where significant advances have been made in strengthening the Ministry of Public Works and in formulating plans for physical development, housing and infrastructure;

(b) Ministry of Public Works and Housing, United Arab Emirates (UAE/80/004), where assistance was provided to the Government in building up operational capacity in the fields of physical planning, housing and infrastructure;

(c) Establishment of the Urban Development Authority, Sri Lanka (SR/78/122), a large-scale project the primary purpose of which is to assist the Government in designing and establishing the Urban Development Authority and to assist the latter in respect of urban renewal, squatter improvement and other construction projects in Cölombö, as well as the formulation of physical development plans for several other cities.

35. Other countries with project activities pertinent to this subprogramme during 1981 were: Algeria, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Seychelles, Suriname, Tonga, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

36. A course organized by the Economic Development Institute (EDI) and UNCHS (Habitat) on training in human settlements management was held from 25 May to 3 July 1981 in Dakar, Senegal, with a field workshop in Bamako, Mali. The course was attended by 30 participants from 22 countries and the African Development Bank. Another EDI/UNCHS (Habitat) course was held from 13 October to 20 November 1981 in Bogota, Colombia, with a field workshop in Lima, Peru. This course was attended by 26 participants from Latin America. Region-specific training materials were prepared for the course, as has been the case for all UNCHS (Habitat) training activities to date.

37. A feasibility study financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and leading to a training programme for East and southern Africa was initiated in 1981. The programme will focus on the training needs of lower-level cadres and community leaders in slum-upgrading and sites-and-services projects. UNCHS (Habitat) is in the process of seeking funding support from various bilateral and multilateral sources to implement this project.

38. An Urban Data Management Workshop was held in Bogota, Colombia, to train 20 Latin American planners to organize and analyze urban planning data. With some support from UNCHS (Habitat), the National University of Colombia in Bogota will be conducting the next Urban Data Management Workshop, to be held in Buenos Aires in March 1982. In Brazil, UNCHS (Habitat) provided assistance for the improvement of information and documentation for urban research with advisory services in the area of systems analysis and design. UNCHS (Habitat) also provided short-term data management consultancies in several Latin American countries, including Chile, Costa Rica, Netherlands Antilles and Panama.

39. Information activities under subprogramme 6 included a survey to identify national documentation services in the field of human settlements and to assess the need for technical assistance. The survey acted as a feasibility study for an informal consultation which took place in Nairobi in December 1981. At that consultation, some 20 specialists from developing countries and organizations particularly active in the field of human settlements information reviewed and finalized a series of technical papers to be used as the basis for technical assistance and training at the national level. These papers were subsequently published in the form of handbooks. The UNCHS (Habitat) Draft Thesaurus in the field of Human Settlements was also produced in French.

40. Several training case studies, linked to training films prepared by UNCHS (Habitat) and the National Film Board of Canada, were developed in 1981. The case studies depict slum-upgrading and sites-and-services projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

41. The microfiching of all documents included in the first UNCHS (Habitat) bibliography of unpublished reports was completed, and sets of these microfiches are being distributed to the UNCHS (Habitat) field officers. Additional unpublished reports produced by UNCHS (Habitat) and numbering about 1000 which were not included in the first bibliography will be included in a second bibliography to be issued in 1982. The bibliographic descriptions and abstracts of both bibliographies are kept on magnetic tapes and are available for automatic retrieval through the MINISIS software system.

42. A Spanish version of the catalogue of the Habitat film collection was produced and distributed widely in Latin America, as was a technical co-operation brochure detailing the procedures to be used by Governments to obtain technical assistance from UNCHS (Habitat).

43. Three issues of Habitat News were distributed in 1981, and an Arabic insert was widely distributed in Arabic-speaking countries. Two technical notes were produced and distributed, and a special illustrated report was prepared and distributed in connection with the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Nairobi in August 1981. Substantive theme papers presented to the third and fourth sessions of the Commission were updated and printed for wider dissemination.

44. Several activities were undertaken at the regional level, especially in respect of the dissemination of audio-visual information by human settlements information officers. In this connection, audio-visual materials were used by television organizations and by academic institutions as part of training courses in the field of human settlements.

II. DECISIONS OF THE MAIN LEGISLATIVE BODIES  
AND THE COMMISSION

45. In this chapter, a brief summary is given of the more significant resolutions and decisions which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the past year and which are of direct relevance to the Commission and UNCHS (Habitat). <sup>2/</sup> Also reported on are the actions taken by the Executive Director in implementation of various decisions and resolutions of the Commission at its fourth (and previous) sessions.

A. Second regular session of 1981 of the Economic and Social Council

46. The Executive Director introduced the report of the Commission on the work of its fourth session <sup>3/</sup> to the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 1981. The Executive Director noted that, in spite of the problems encountered in bringing the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) on line during the formative period, the Centre had become a fully operational organization. In the work programme of the Centre, the highest priority was being placed on the provision of direct assistance to Member States through a co-ordinated programme of technical co-operation, research and development (including training) and dissemination of information and audio-visual materials. In 1981, UNCHS (Habitat) had provided technical assistance to 86 developing countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia. In the research and development programme, priority had been given to training, the main objective of which was to increase the capability of national human settlements agencies by strengthening the skills of officials responsible for human settlements development. With regard to the dissemination of human settlements information, the Centre's activities had included the preparation of a number of directories, reports, films and other educational materials which had been disseminated from its Nairobi headquarters as well as through its field officers.

47. With regard to the 23 specific resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session, the Executive Director pointed out the importance of setting the policy framework for the Centre's future work programme, which the Commission had provided by endorsing the 1984-1989 medium-term plan (HS/C/4/5) and the 1982-1983 work programme and programme budget (HS/C/4/6). During its consideration of the special theme "the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social development" (HS/C/4/3), the Commission had recognized that the construction sector was a major contributor to domestic capital formation and that, through its multiplier effects, the sector had a

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<sup>2/</sup> The full texts of these resolutions and decisions are reproduced in document HS/C/5/CRP.1 for convenient reference.

<sup>3/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/36/8).

major impact on employment and income in other sectors of the economy, The Commission had, therefore, in its resolution 4/13, urged Governments to recognize the significant role that construction investment in human settlements played in economic and social development efforts. On the second theme, "the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements", the Commission had commended the Executive Director's efforts to formulate a work programme in the area of infrastructure, with emphasis on water supply, sanitation, surface drainage and solid-waste disposal in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements, in co-operation with other concerned United Nations agencies, notably WHO. After referring to the contribution made by UNCHS (Habitat) to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/47, the Executive Director informed the Council of co-operation and collaboration between UNCHS (Habitat) and other organizations and units within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and several non-governmental organizations active in the field of human settlements.

48. The Executive Director then drew the Council's attention to two important resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fourth session. In its resolution 4/2, adopted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/76 in which the General Assembly had expressed the view that an international year devoted to the problems of homeless people in urban and rural areas in the developing countries could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the international community on those problems, the Commission had recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that it proclaim 1986 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. In the other resolution, the Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement (resolution 4/1), the Commission had expressed deep concern that the quality of life in human settlements was deteriorating for a great proportion of the world population and was likely to worsen even further and more rapidly unless positive and concrete actions were taken to find and implement solutions which satisfied basic aspirations consistent with human dignity. In that connection, the Executive Director found encouragement in the fact that close to 80 States, represented at an unprecedentedly high level (25 ministers and deputy ministers), had participated actively in the fourth session of the Commission. He was therefore optimistic about the direct and indirect contributions that not only Governments but also a number of international organizations and non-governmental organizations were willing to make in support of the work programme and activities of UNCHS (Habitat) and in the field of human settlements generally.

#### Action by the Council

49. The Council adopted a three-part resolution (resolution 1981/69) on human settlements. In part A, the Council welcomed the adoption by the Commission of the work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 of UNCHS (Habitat) and its approval of the draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, stressed the importance of the Centre in providing its project and advisory assistance to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and called on the Commission to take account of and provide adequate support to technical co-operation among developing countries in the formulation and implementation of its programmes on human settlements. The Council also noted the need for adequate financing for the proper implementation of the Centre's work programme and reiterated its urgent appeal for voluntary contributions in support of the activities of the Centre.

50. In part B of its resolution, the Council addressed the subject of the proposal to declare an international year of shelter for the homeless and recommended to the General Assembly the year 1987 as an appropriate year for the holding of the International Year. In part C, the Council welcomed the contributions made by the Centre to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 4/ and requested the Executive Director to initiate follow-up activities in the field of energy as it related to human settlements, based on the recommendations contained in his report on new and renewable sources of energy for human settlements (E/1981/82, paras. 13-22).

51. In its decision 1981/190, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people (A/36/200) submitted to the Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/75 of 5 December 1980.

#### B. Thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly

52. The Executive Director addressed the Second Committee on 1 October 1981 and introduced the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourth session. In his introductory statement, the Executive Director said that the Commission on Human Settlements, at its fourth session, had endorsed the establishment of a new subprogramme in the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, to be entitled "shelter and community services". The new subprogramme would focus on the upgrading of slums, squatter areas and settlements for the urban and rural poor. It had been realized that the housing needs of developing countries could only be met by a rigorous adherence to the concept of affordable shelter and by the full mobilization of human resources in self-help and informal construction. Emphasis also had to be given to the development and use of appropriate technologies and to self-sufficiency in construction materials.

53. On the question of energy utilization in human settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) had submitted several technical papers to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Nairobi. The Centre hoped to carry out research into the energy implications of different spatial patterns and hierarchical arrangements of settlements with a view to suggesting what national policy options might be adopted to achieve optimum energy efficiency in the siting and planning of villages, towns and cities. Given that the urban population of developing countries would more than double in the next 20 years, economy in urban energy consumption, particularly with respect to non-renewable resources, would be one of the most vital factors in achieving targets for improved living standards. In the rural sector, there was a need to search for simple technologies for new and renewable sources of energy for application on a small scale at the household or village level. The Executive Director further stated that the Commission on Human Settlements had decided to consider the transportation requirements of low-income groups as one of two special themes for detailed review at its fifth session in 1982.

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4/ See especially documents HS/C/4/2/Add.3 and E/1981/82.

54 The application of research results on a practical scale would be one of the important programme elements of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. He recalled General Assembly resolution 35/76, in which the General Assembly had expressed the view that an international year could be an appropriate occasion to focus attention on the problems of the homeless and had requested the Commission on Human Settlements to review the matter. The Commission had considered the idea of an international year at its fourth session and had unanimously recommended its proclamation by the General Assembly for 1986. (The Economic and Social Council, in considering the Commission's proposal, recommended (in its resolution 1981/69) that 1987 would be more appropriate.) The Commission had also proposed that, if the General Assembly approved the proclamation of an international year of shelter for the homeless, the Commission on Human Settlements should be the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the year and that the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) should guide the work of the Secretariat for the year. The Commission was convinced that the proclamation of an international year would give great impetus to shelter programmes throughout the world and would contribute measurably to meeting the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

55. At its fourth session, the Commission had also stressed the crucial link between the development of the construction sector and the achievement of national social and economic development goals. It had recommended that Governments give high priority to construction investment in human settlements.

56. After drawing the Second Committee's attention to the resolutions which the Commission on Human Settlements had recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, the Executive Director concluded by informing the Committee that the work programme of UNCHS (Habitat) for the 1982-1983 biennium would require extrabudgetary contributions of roughly \$US 10 million and appealed to States to give the necessary support to the Centre so that its work programme could be fully implemented.

Address by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements

57. As requested by the Commission at its fourth session (resolution 4/1, para. 6), the Chairman of the Commission addressed the General Assembly at its plenary meeting on 4 December 1981. In her address, the Chairman of the Commission called for a new human order based on a return to a sense of values that made the human being in his totality of body, mind and spirit the focus of and justification for development efforts. It was in the context of that new human order that the Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement, adopted by the Commission at its fourth session, should be viewed. The human settlements approach to development, commended to Governments in the Communiqué as a powerful force for the improvement of the human condition through emphasis on the satisfaction of basic needs, could be an important means of realizing the new human order. That in turn could ease the present dilemma in international economic relations between the industrialized countries of the North and the poorer countries of the South.



Action by the General Assembly

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

58. In its resolution 36/71, the General Assembly decided, in principle, to designate 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, on the understanding that the criteria for financing and organizing international years set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 were complied with. It requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a proposal containing a specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the Year and to report to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Human Settlements. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of the above-mentioned proposal, a report on the organizational matters regarding the holding of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987, including the availability of voluntary funds, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council during 1982, and it appealed to all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public at large to indicate appropriate support for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

59. The Executive Director has therefore prepared a report (HS/C/5/5) which is before the Commission. This report, together with the views of the Commission and the report of the Secretary-General on the financial and organizational implications of holding the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987, will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council during 1982.

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

60. In its resolution 36/72A, the General Assembly affirmed the importance of the promotion of human settlements development as a distinct and specific policy measure for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the international Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and reaffirmed that human settlements development should be viewed and taken into account in the context of national plans and priorities and the development of all countries, in particular the developing countries. Recognizing that the Commission on Human Settlements had continued to address itself effectively to substantive issues in the field of human settlements of priority concern to Member States, particularly developing countries, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/69 A of 24 July 1981 on international co-operation in the field of human settlements, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourth session, welcomed Commission resolution 4/1 entitled "Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement" and urged continued Commission support for technical co-operation among developing countries.

Renewable sources of energy for human settlements

61. In its resolution 36/72 B, the General Assembly welcomed the contributions made by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and requested the Executive Director to take the appropriate steps for the implementation of those recommendations of the Conference which were within the mandate of the Centre.

62. The Executive Director has prepared a report entitled "Follow-up to the UNCHS (Habitat) contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy" (HS/C/5/INF.6) which is before the Commission for its information.

Mobilization of financial resources for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

63. In its resolution 36/72 C, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation to those Governments that had so far made financial contributions for the activities of the Centre and reiterated its urgent appeal to Member States to contribute and, if possible, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in support of the activities of the Centre and appealed to those that had not yet contributed, particularly developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, also to make voluntary contributions.

Living Conditions of the Palestinian People

64. In its resolution 36/73, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people <sup>5/</sup> and requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive and analytical report on the deteriorating living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983

65. In its resolution 36/240 and other related decisions, the General Assembly approved the 1982-1983 programme budget for UNCHS (Habitat), as submitted by the Secretary-General. Detailed information relating to the action of the General Assembly in this connection is provided in conference room papers which have been circulated to the Commission for ease of reference (HS/C/5/CRP.2, 3, 4 and 5).

Special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations

66. An additional matter arising out of the thirty-six session of the General Assembly about which the Executive Director believes the Commission would wish to be informed relates to the special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations carried out by an ad hoc group of high-level officials established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolutions 3534(XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 35/209 of 17 December 1980. In the latter resolution, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the programme budget for 1982-1983, to identify those activities which were obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective and which should thus be terminated.

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<sup>5/</sup> A/36/260 and Add.1, 2 and 3. See also document A/35/533 and Corr.1, annex 1.

67. In the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/658), the following three categories of activities are taken into consideration:

(a) Activities identified for termination in the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 as obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective;

(b) Activities required by legislative mandates and therefore included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 but which might be considered of low priority;

(c) High-priority activities that could contribute to the strengthening of ongoing programmes.

68. Under category (b), with regard to UNCHS (Habitat), reduced activity is recommended in subprogramme 1 (settlement policies and strategies) and subprogramme 2 (settlements planning). The report also refers to administration and common services, in connection with which it recommends a reduction in support services. Under category (c), the report identifies the mobilization of financial resources for the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services to the urban and rural poor (programme element 3.5) and suggests additional output in the area of energy and human settlements (programme sub-elements 3.2.3.4 and 3.2.3.5 6/).

69. The Executive Director welcomes the emphasis which the report has placed on work in the areas of the mobilization of financial resources for the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services to the urban and rural poor and energy in human settlements. The Executive Director cannot, however, understand the basis for ascribing low priority to subprogrammes 1 and 2, the implication being that activity in these areas should be reduced or perhaps even abandoned. The 1982-1983 work programme of the Centre was very carefully drawn up, with every element carefully scrutinized in the light of the mandate of the Centre and the Commission and the priorities set by the Commission. The programme was vetted by the Commission at its fourth session before approval and it is, therefore, difficult to accept the characterization of any of the subprogrammes as of low priority.

70. It is recognized that, for the guidance of the Executive Director, the Commission has established relative priorities among the six subprogrammes of the work programme. This action of the Commission should not be seen, however, as providing a basis for the conclusion that any of the subprogrammes are themselves of low priority in the context of the ad hoc group's mandate of identifying obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective activities which are to be abandoned or neglected.

71. It should also be borne in mind that the Centre is a very young institution. This means that, unlike the older programmes of the Organization, it has not yet accumulated sufficient experience in the implementation of its work programme to provide a reliable basis for determining the lack of usefulness or effectiveness of parts of the programme, as has been done by the ad hoc group.

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6/ This item is incorrectly referred to as programme element 3.10 in the report.

72. In its resolution 36/239, the General Assembly requested the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to consider, at its twenty-second session, the programme implications of the Secretary-General's proposals and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council.

73. The Commission may wish to consider the issues raised in the foregoing paragraphs in the light of its own deliberations and conclusions at its fourth session on the Centre's work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 and draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

Operational activities for development

74. A further resolution of interest to the Commission adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session is resolution 36/199 on operational activities for development. In operative paragraph 12 of that resolution, the General Assembly "invites the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system engaged in operational activities to take the action requested in paragraphs 8, 9 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 35/81, 7/ and invites the Secretary-General and the heads of those organs, organizations and bodies to provide information on the action taken by the governing bodies; requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to include that information, together with his own recommendations, in his reports to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions and, in preparing the recommendations requested in paragraph 18 of that resolution, to take into account the responses made by the above-mentioned governing bodies and the comments made thereon by delegations during the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly".

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7/ These paragraphs provide as follows:

"8. Invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to develop, in the light of section V of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, specific recommendations on measures to reduce administrative and other support costs, to achieve maximum uniformity and harmonization of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures and to improve the project procedures in the execution of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"9. Invites the Secretary-General and the heads of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to adopt, in the meantime, all possible measures to improve management procedures, to reduce administrative and other support costs, and to enhance over-all efficiency in the execution of programmes and projects in the field of operational activities for development with a view to increasing the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of developing countries;"

"11. Urges Governments and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to accelerate their efforts for the effective implementation of section V of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and, in this context, requests the heads of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to take all necessary measures to improve coherence of action and effective integration at the country level, in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Governments concerned, of the various sectoral inputs from the United Nations system."

75. The Commission may wish to adopt a decision on this matter which the Executive Director will, in accordance with the provision of the above-quoted paragraph, report on to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

C. Implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions

76. The following is a list of subjects on which the Commission, at its fourth session, requested the Executive Director to prepare a report for submission to the Commission at its fifth session, with an indication of the action taken by the Executive Director in response thereto:

(a) Assistance to the Palestinian people - resolution 4/3, paragraph 1: the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/2/Add.4;

(b) Co-operation at the regional level related to human settlements - resolution 4/5, paragraph 6: the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/2/Add.5;

(c) Assistance to Dominica - resolution 4/7, paragraph 4: the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/2/Add.3;

(d) Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme - resolution 4/11, paragraph 2: the reports of the Executive Director are contained in documents HS/C/5/7/Add.1 and HS/C/5/INF.3 (see also para. 86 below);

(e) Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism - resolution 4/12, paragraph 2(c): the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/2/Add.2;

(f) Role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social development - resolution 4/13, paragraphs 7 and 8: the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/2/Add.1;

(g) Creation of an Asian human settlements bank - resolution 4/14 paragraph 3: the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/8;

(h) Work programme and programme budget for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1982-1983 - decision 4/18, subparagraph (d): the report of the Executive Director is contained in document HS/C/5/7.

77. In addition to the foregoing, the Executive Director would like to draw the attention of the Commission to action taken with respect to the matters referred to below.

Use of Arabic as an official language of the Commission

78. It will be recalled that, at its third session, the Commission adopted resolution 3/4 by which it recommended that the General Assembly should consider favourably at its thirty-fifth session the financial implications to the regular budget of the introduction of Arabic as an official working language of the Commission. The General Assembly, having considered the Commission's recommendation in the context of other requests to provide Arabic language services for other bodies of the United Nations, adopted resolutions 35/217 XXI and 35/219. These resolutions have been construed to authorise the provision of Arabic language services for the Commission on Human Settlements beginning in January 1983.

Membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC)

79. At its third session, the Commission adopted resolution 3/5 in which it recommended to the General Assembly that it invite the Secretary-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to become a member of that body.

80. In response to the Commission's recommendation, the General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, adopted resolution 35/77 C in which it invited the Secretary-General "to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to participate in all aspects of the work of that Committee and its subsidiary machinery".

81. This directive of the General Assembly still awaits implementation. Discussions have been initiated with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the necessary consultations with the members of ACC to be initiated. The Executive Director will keep the Commission informed of developments in this matter.

Utilization of consultants and experts

82. In its resolution 4/10, the Commission requested the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to promote the use of consultants and experts from the developing countries in all aspects of work in the field of human settlements, to give preference to qualified indigenous personnel in the recruitment of project personnel and to make a special effort to include qualified personnel from the developing countries in the Centre's roster of experts and consultants.

83. In response to this resolution, UNCHS (Habitat) has intensified its efforts to recruit and utilize personnel from the developing countries in all aspects of its work. Thus, for example, in a letter dated 14 August 1981, the Executive Director invited Governments of developing countries to assist the Centre in identifying qualified personnel from their countries to be included in the Centre's roster of experts and consultants for use in work in various disciplines in the field of human settlements.

84. These efforts have resulted in a substantial increase in the number of qualified personnel from developing countries in the Centre's roster of experts and consultants for work in field projects.

### III. CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

85. Co-operation and collaboration with organizations within the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations are an important aspect of the Centre's mandate and activities within the framework laid down in General Assembly resolution 32/162. In this chapter, an account is given of the highlights of such co-operation and collaboration with organizations within the United Nations system. A separate information document has been prepared by the Executive Director covering co-operation and collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations (HS/C/INF/5).

#### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

86. As in the past, co-operation and collaboration between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP has been significant. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 32/162, the fourth joint meeting of the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements and the bureau of the Governing Council of UNEP with the two Executive Directors was held in New York on 9 and 10 December 1981. The meeting considered a discussion paper prepared jointly by the two secretariats on co-operation and collaboration between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), as well as a report on the staff and budgetary resources for the preparation and servicing of the joint bureau meetings. Detailed information on these two subjects is provided in documents HS/C/5/7/Add.1 and HS/C/5/INF.3.

#### Regional commissions

87. Co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and the regional commissions continues to be significant. A detailed account of such co-operation is given in the report which the Executive Director has prepared in response to Commission resolution 4/5 and which is before the Commission (HS/C/5/2/Add.5).

#### Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

88. Co-operation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs continued, with UNCHS (Habitat) providing substantive inputs to the Statistical Office for the preparation of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics and for the statistical elaborations required for the Quinquennial Global Report on Human Settlements. In this connection, UNCHS (Habitat) temporarily assigned a staff member to work in the Statistical Office to assist in the collection, compilation, analysis and review of data. UNCHS (Habitat) also provided substantive comments and suggestions for the preparation of a statistical questionnaire sent to Member States.

89. UNCHS (Habitat) further contributed to the Department's paper for the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly on a socio-economic perspective of the world economy up to the year 2000. The Centre's contribution takes the form of a summary appraisal and forecast of human settlements conditions and needs, as compared to forecasts of government spending on housing and the development of legal, financial and institutional frameworks for human settlements. In addition, UNCHS (Habitat) continued in 1981 to provide information on cross-organizational programme analyses in relation to youth, women, the disabled, marine affairs and public administration and finance.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and related funds administered by UNDP

90. During 1981, UNDP remained the main funding agency for field projects executed by UNCHS (Habitat). It provided 85 per cent of the resources expended on technical co-operation by UNCHS (Habitat). Forty-four new projects were initiated in 1981. In a number of cases associate experts were provided by donor Governments to work with the project teams.

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)

91. UNCHS (Habitat) collaborates with UNDRO in projects dealing with development and construction techniques in seismic and earthquake-prone areas. The example of El-Asnam in Algeria will serve to illustrate the modalities of such collaboration. An emergency mission was mounted by UNCHS (Habitat) soon after an earthquake devastated the El-Asnam region in 1980. The aim of the mission was to offer needed assistance to the Government of Algeria for the reconstruction of El-Asnam. The Centre's consultants held consultations with UNDRO on the methodology and seismic-engineering aspects of the El-Asnam project. The discussions also covered the studies and follow-up action to be undertaken with respect to risk reduction. A code for guidance in the repair and strengthening of damaged buildings in El-Asnam was prepared jointly.

92. Other examples of the Centre's collaboration with UNDRO may also be mentioned. In Yugoslavia, the Centre is collaborating with UNDRO on a project for the preparation of medium-term plans for the reconstruction of the earthquake-devastated urban district of Titograd in the Montenegro region. The Centre is executing the project as lead agency, with UNDRO acting as an associated agency and concentrating on vulnerability analysis. In Egypt, UNCHS (Habitat) and UNDRO are collaborating in the development of a comprehensive plan, including prevention and mitigation measures, for the reconstruction of villages destroyed in a flash flood in October 1979. A village has been selected for the application of the measures developed. A third additional example of collaboration between the two organizations concerns Mexico, where a joint mission on pre-disaster planning was undertaken in February 1981.

93. Another aspect of co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNDRO is the exchange of information. UNCHS (Habitat) participated in an expert group meeting convened by UNDRO in Geneva from 7 to 13 December 1981 on the topic of "shelter after disaster". The results of this meeting provided an input to the Commission theme paper on planning for human settlements in disaster-prone areas (HS/C/5/3). The Centre is also preparing a slide presentation in co-operation with UNDRO as part of the Centre's information activities related to disaster-mitigation planning.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

94. During 1981, UNCHS (Habitat) collaborated with UNIDO and provided substantive support to UNIDO in the formulation and implementation of the UNDP European regional project on "building construction under seismic conditions in the Balkan region",



which is being executed by UNIDO. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNIDO continued to provide substantive support to the ECA building materials and construction industries development programme. This collaboration involves the provision of, inter alia, preparatory assistance for the formulation and implementation of plans for the production of local building materials, technical advice on building codes and regulations and training for skilled and unskilled labour. It is expected that several large-scale projects will result from this collaboration. A UNIDO consultant held discussions with staff of the Centre and prepared a proposal for the Industrial Development Board on a system of consultations for the building-materials industry.

95. A UNIDO official also participated in the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Indigenous Construction Sector, organized by UNCHS (Habitat) and held in Nairobi in November 1981, and contributed a paper on the experience of UNIDO in the small-scale building materials industry and the use of indigenous materials, wastes and by-products.

Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

96. An agreement has been signed by UNCHS (Habitat) and UNHCR establishing a framework for co-operation between the two organizations in the area of the resettlement of refugees. Discussions have taken place at the project level and inter-agency missions have been fielded to Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. It is anticipated that these initial joint activities will in future result in concrete constructive ventures designed to alleviate the plight of refugees, particularly the 5½ million refugees in Africa.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

97. UNICEF project activities in the provision of a workshop on primary school supplies in Chad complements the Centre's project for rural school reconstruction in that country. Although formal links are yet to be established between the two organizations, it is expected that the experience in Chad will be valuable in reinforcing joint activities by the two agencies in other countries. The programme of activities envisaged for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should provide very good opportunities for UNICEF-UNCHS (Habitat) collaboration.

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

98. A UNCHS (Habitat) official participated in the International Conference on Local and Regional Development in the 1980s, held in Nagoya from 11 to 16 November 1981 and organized by UNCRD on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. A message was delivered on behalf of the Executive Director advocating concerted action in the fields of human settlements and local and regional development planning. UNCHS (Habitat) also provided substantive comments on some of the ongoing research activities of UNCRD.

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United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

99. A UNCHS (Habitat) staff member participated in the review meeting on Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lesotho and Malawi, held in Geneva from 22 to 26 June 1981, and made available information pertaining to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat). A staff member also attended the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, held in Geneva from 29 June to 10 July 1981.

100. The Executive Director addressed the Conference, held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981. In his statement, the Executive Director emphasized, inter alia, the selective nature of the investments and assistance required by the least developed countries (for example, for institution building and human resources training and development) and the important role that human settlements activities could play in achieving the goals of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

101. An IBRD official participated in an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Appropriate Infrastructure Services, Standards and Technologies for Upgrading Slums and Squatter Areas and Rural Settlements convened by UNCHS (Habitat) and held in November 1981. IBRD made available to the Meeting several technical documents on low-cost infrastructure services, particularly in the field of water supply and sanitation. It also provided UNCHS (Habitat) with documents and reports related to transportation.

102. UNCHS (Habitat) and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank organized two training courses in 1981. The two courses, one held in Dakar, Senegal, and the other in Bogota, Colombia, were centred on the formulation, design and management of national and local projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the urban poor. Each course lasted for six weeks and was attended by over 30 government officials at the mid-management level. Plans are underway to hold a similar course in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in February/March 1982 and another one in Nairobi in late 1982.

103. Over the past year, and according to the "special interest" relationship, UNCHS (Habitat) has continued to co-ordinate its activities in the field with the World Bank to facilitate the latter's potential future financial support for human settlements programmes and projects. To this end, UNCHS (Habitat) provided technical reviews and undertook a joint monitoring and evaluation mission with the World Bank in Madagascar for the development of a human settlements programme for the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the country. Activities include the training of technicians in all aspects of policy formulation, project identification, analysis and preparation of detailed technical and financial mechanisms for low-income housing development projects. At the request of the Government of Somalia, UNCHS (Habitat) is collaborating with the World Bank in providing technical assistance for the implementation of a school construction project. The Centre and the World Bank are also undertaking joint monitoring missions in order to ascertain the appropriate nature of large credit loans for pilot housing projects in the United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta and Zimbabwe. In the case of Zimbabwe, UNCHS (Habitat) provided preparatory assistance to the Government for a World Bank/USAID large-scale credit agreement for low-income housing schemes as a follow-up to a UNDP project executed by UNCHS (Habitat).

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World Health Organization (WHO)

104. A UNCHS (Habitat) official participated in the eighth session of the Steering Committee for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, held in Paris on 15 and 16 September 1981. The Committee discussed proposals and recommendations aimed at accelerating the work within the framework of the principles adopted for the Decade. A statement was delivered on behalf of the Executive Director concerning the contribution that UNCHS (Habitat) would make to the Decade.

105. UNCHS (Habitat) and WHO have continued to identify areas for further co-operation between the two agencies in respect of:

- (a) The assessment of the performance of low-cost water-supply and sanitation projects in developing countries;
- (b) The implementation of joint demonstration projects in this field.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

106. The Centre reviewed and commented on the International Labour Organization's medium-term plan for the period 1982-1987. Several areas of complementary activity were identified under the "working conditions and environment" subprogramme. These included the improvement of working and living conditions for rural workers, of working and living conditions in the urban informal sector and of conditions of employment and life for migrant workers.

107. In addition, the Centre is collaborating with ILO in the implementation of two technical co-operation projects, one in Ecuador and one in Guinea. In the Guinea project, which is being executed by the Centre, ILO is providing two expert consultants - one in the field of housing construction training and the other in the field of housing co-operatives promotion. In Ecuador, the Centre is acting as an associated agency for ILO in connection with a project aimed at developing multi-purpose training centres in Guayaquil. Two projects for joint implementation in Chad are under discussion - one relating to the reconstruction of low-income housing and the other to school construction. This second project would also involve the World Bank.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

108. A UNCHS (Habitat) official participated in the Regional Seminar on Spontaneous Habitat, organized by UNESCO in Yaoundé from 5 to 9 October 1981. A paper was presented to the Seminar on the experience acquired in conjunction with the Atelier d'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme Authentiquement Africain. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNESCO are also examining the possibility of the joint production of a proposed television series on the theme.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

109. The Centre has a strong interest in the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, for which FAO is the lead agency. The Centre also contributed information to FAO for the compilation of a list of innovative rural development projects to be presented to the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. A number of elements of common interest were identified in the FAO work programme for 1982-1983.

World Food Programme (WFP)

110. UNCHS (Habitat) continued to provide technical support to WFP in the form of substantive inputs and reviews of WFP project designs and supporting documents. In Africa, this support included the review of WFP housing and settlement schemes in Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Centre is also collaborating with WFP on a project on the improvement of human settlements conditions in rural areas in Upper Volta. In Asia, technical reviews were made by UNCHS (Habitat) of WFP rural development and settlements projects in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Similarly, in Western Asia, UNCHS (Habitat) reviewed a multisectoral project proposal for social, agricultural and community development programmes in Democratic Yemen.

111. UNCHS (Habitat) also participated in the WFP interagency appraisal and programming mission to Angola with a view to assisting the Government in determining the volume, scope and nature of the assistance and technical co-operation required for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country. Follow-up activities include the formulation of feasibility projects and technical co-operation projects to be jointly executed by UNCHS (Habitat) and other agencies in the field of rural settlements, community development, the provision of assistance to refugees and refugee resettlement programmes.