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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 36/71, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of the proposed specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, a report on the organizational matters regarding the holding of the International Year in 1987, including the availability of voluntary funds. The details concerning the financial and administrative implications which follow are based on the text of the draft resolution proposed by the Commission on Human Settlements in its resolution 5/14 and are consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/46 B and with the criteria for financing and organizing international years.
2. Three basic types of expenditures are called for in the convening of international years. The first of these relates to the convening of intergovernmental meetings to provide the policy guidance necessary for the planning, implementing and evaluation of international years. The second type of expenditures consists of the costs of the operational programme to celebrate the year, while the third relates to the costs incurred by the Secretariat to support the programme. In reviewing the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, it is apparent to the Secretary-General that two separate and distinct references to financing are made in paragraphs 13 and 21 of parts II and III respectively. The first of these, paragraph 13, would appear to concern costs analogous to operational programme costs, while the second, paragraph 21, concerns costs analogous to substantive secretariat or programme support costs. No identifiable reference is made to the first category of costs identified above for convening intergovernmental meetings, presumably because it is taken as a given that such meetings, convened as intergovernmental bodies, would, as part of the basic constitutional machinery of the organization, be financed exclusively from the regular budget.
3. The relevant paragraphs from the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 are as follows:

"13. A year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its financing have been made and such financing should in principle be based on voluntary contributions" [emphasis added].

...

"21. The proclamation of international years and activities connected with them should not lead to a proliferation of posts in the United Nations Secretariat or in the secretariats of other international organizations; furthermore, expenditures should normally be met from existing resources in the regular budget" [emphasis added].
4. In view of the above, and consistent with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/46 B, whereby the specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken should be adjusted in accordance with the availability

of voluntary contributions, operational programme activities, costed at \$2,954,000 and outlined in paragraphs 8 to 11, are proposed for exclusive financing from extrabudgetary resources.

5. As regards the proposal in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution to designate the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the Year, it is presently anticipated that costs associated with this role can be absorbed for the period up to and including 1985 by discussion of the item on the agendas of the regular sessions of the Commission. Should it evolve that the level of activity associated with this role requires the Commission to hold sessions extended by one or two days in either 1986 or 1987, or in both years, appropriate authority, and the required regular budget resources to support this, would be sought in 1985 or 1986, as appropriate. However, in view of the number of imponderables relating to an estimation of both the regular work-load of the Commission and of the work-load arising in respect of the newly proposed functions, it would appear to be premature at this stage to project either the existence, or the extent, of any additional resource requirement.

6. The proposal in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, whereby the General Assembly would designate the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements as the secretariat for the Year and as the lead agency for co-ordinating the relevant programmes and activities of organizations and agencies concerned, would inevitably impose an additional work-load upon the secretariat of the Centre. Consistent with the provisions of paragraph 21 of the guidelines for future international years, referred to above, these substantive secretariat or programme support costs should normally be met from existing resources of the regular budget. It is the intention of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements to utilize, as appropriate, the existing substantive and administrative resources available to him, both from the regular budget and from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. However, in view of the wide-ranging nature of the programme of activities planned for the Year, and the need to ensure that support of the Centre's secretariat for the activities for the Year does not have a detrimental effect upon the delivery of the regular work programme of the Centre, it appears inevitable that some additional but strictly limited resources will be required to provide for substantive secretariat and programme support costs.

7. While it is envisaged that some extrabudgetary resources can be made available to provide for a part of the substantive secretariat and programme support costs of the Year, these resources for two temporary posts, travel and communications would be insufficient to guarantee the fulfilment of all secretariat responsibilities for programme support and interagency co-ordination. Consequently, the Secretary-General believes that it would be appropriate and also necessary to recognize that the circumstances which would normally allow the procedure specified in paragraph 21 of the guidelines to apply rigidly do not exist in this case. The Centre is a relatively small, substantive office located away from the major duty stations and, consequently, it lacks the extensive resource base which would be necessary for absorbing all of the additional costs arising in respect of the celebration of an international year. Accordingly, provision for limited additional regular budget resources for a part of the substantive secretariat and programme support activities of the Year is therefore included in paragraphs 12 to 14 and 16 below.

II. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

8. Most of the efforts and resources planned for the Year will be dedicated to the development, implementation and evaluation of shelter demonstration projects by international, national and local organizations around the world. In order for such an extensive and action-oriented programme to succeed, the project planning and implementation must get under way as soon as possible, particularly as the projects should be completed and the results evaluated and widely disseminated during the International Year in 1987. It is therefore proposed to begin the activities of the Year in 1983.

A. Demonstration projects

9. The basic objective of the International Year is to improve, through national and local shelter demonstration projects, the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by 1987 and to show how to improve the conditions for all by the year 2000. To be efficient and cost-effective, such an extensive and action-oriented programme will require careful and innovative planning, co-ordination and implementation. Furthermore, special provisions will need to be made to provide technical advisory services and direct assistance for official demonstration projects to as many countries as voluntary contributions will allow. The project results must then be compared and evaluated by experts and consolidated for review and use by Governments in developing, during the International Year, their national shelter strategies to the year 2000. The requirements arising in respect of demonstration projects are estimated to cost \$2,281,400, which would be financed exclusively from voluntary contributions.

B. Regional and expert meetings

10. Two regional meetings in each of the regions, one to review and launch the local, national and international programme of shelter demonstration projects and another to review and compare the results, would be required. Meetings of policy-makers and experts would also be needed to guide and implement an effective programme. The cost of these is estimated at \$535,100 and would be funded exclusively from extrabudgetary resources.

C. Support activities of non-governmental organizations

11. Support activities of non-governmental organizations are planned for each year, from 1983 to 1987 inclusive, so as to engage the assistance of non-governmental organizations in marking the Year. Assistance will also be given to help them organize and co-ordinate their substantive contributions to the International Year, particularly demonstration projects. The costs are estimated at \$137,500, which would also be exclusively funded from extrabudgetary resources.

III. SUBSTANTIVE SECRETARIAT AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT

A. Temporary posts

12. In order to plan, co-ordinate and manage an effective world-wide programme of shelter demonstration projects and secure the financial support and co-operation of Governments and other international organizations, a basic staff requiring one D-2 and two P-5 level posts, assisted by two local-level General Service staff members and an administrative assistant, would be required. These temporary posts, which would be terminated at the end of 1987, would be introduced gradually. The D-2 post and one local-level General Service staff member would be financed by extrabudgetary resources and would be established in mid-1983 after the appropriate review by the Commission on Human Settlements in its role as governing body of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The two P-5 posts and two supporting General Service posts would be established for the period 1984-1987 and would be financed under the regular budget. The job descriptions for the Professional and higher-level posts would be as summarized below:

(a) D-2 Director principally responsible for liaison with Governments. In this role, the Director would arrange for participation of Governments in demonstration projects and for fund-raising in respect of the extrabudgetary resources required for the Year.

(b) P-5 Senior officer in charge of programming, operations and evaluation of demonstration projects for the Year.

(c) P-5 Senior officer in charge of meeting arrangements, preparation of substantive reports to expert groups, interagency working groups, agencies and the Commission on Human Settlements.

B. Interagency working groups

13. It is envisaged that two interagency meetings would be convened under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in 1984 and 1986, respectively, in order to ensure effective co-ordination and co-operation within the United Nations system. In this connection, it is recalled that paragraph 20 of the guidelines for international years requires that there should be effective co-ordination of the activities of all United Nations organizations and bodies concerned so as to avoid any duplication of activities. The cost of each meeting to the United Nations would be \$17,100 to provide for the travel and per diem of representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (one representative each) and three staff members from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. The meetings under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination are assumed to be convened at Geneva for five working days. Per diem requirements would be as follows: 7 days x 7 persons x \$63 per diem = \$3,087, which is rounded to \$3,100. Travel requirements, averaged at \$2,000 for 7 persons, would amount to \$14,000. Hence, total costs of the meetings are estimated, at this stage, at \$17,100. The

Centre requires the presence of three staff members, as the D-2 Director responsible for the Year would need to be assisted by the two P-5 staff members assigned to the secretariat for the Year. The first of the P-5 staff members would be the Secretary of the meetings, while the second would be responsible for substantive questions, particularly those concerning the demonstration projects which constitute the main core of the programme for the Year.

C. Audio-visual support

14. To reduce costs while maintaining effectiveness, the audio-visual and programme support information programme would be multipurpose and designed for direct use by national committees and focal points and in the demonstration projects themselves. In addition, special information packages and modules will be prepared for training activities and for the media. In large part, the estimated costs would be met from extrabudgetary resources (\$534,100), while regular budgetary resources would modestly supplement these (\$50,000). The \$50,000 envisaged from regular budget support would be for the provision in 1984 and 1987 of an 8-page brochure in multiple colours. The brochure would have the following print run: English 15,000; French 7,500; Spanish 7,500; Arabic 5,000; and Russian 3,000. (Chinese is not an official language of the Commission). Translation on a contractual basis is estimated at \$500 while typesetting and printing of the brochure is estimated at \$24,500 per issue of the brochure.

D. Travel and communications

15. The activities of the Year will give rise to substantial requirements and communication costs - \$220,000 for postage, telephone and telex - and travel costs - \$168,900 for consultations with Governments, other United Nations units and specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations. These costs will be financed entirely from extrabudgetary resources.

16. In summary, the requirements for additional financial resources would be as follows:

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary</u>
<u>I. Operational programme</u>		
A. Demonstration projects	-	\$2,281,400
B. Regional and expert meetings	-	531,500
C. Activities of non-governmental organizations	-	137,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Subtotal I	-	2,954,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary</u>
II. <u>Substantive secretariat and programme support</u>		
A. Temporary posts	\$578,400	\$387,600
B. Interagency working groups	34,200	-
C. Audio-visual support	50,000	534,100
D. Travel	-	168,900
E. Communication	-	220,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Subtotal II	\$662,600	\$1,310,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand total of I and II	\$662,600	\$4,264,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>

It will be noted that the regular budget would be requested to provide 13.4 per cent of the planned expenditures of the Year and that no additional regular budget requirements would arise during the current biennium 1982-1983. This arrangement, with extrabudgetary resources providing the large bulk of requirements, is believed to be broadly consistent with the guidelines for financing such years established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/67. A conscious effort has accordingly been made to request regular budget funding only for items of expenditure which, with respect to an approved activity, it is normal to fund from the regular budget, that is, the promotion of interagency participation in, and the co-ordination of, the approved activity as well as the provision of substantive support to such activity.

E. Availability of extrabudgetary resources

17. It can be noted at this early stage that:

(a) Two Governments (Tunisia and Sri Lanka) have already made public announcements of financial support for the International Year;

(b) Several other Governments have indicated that they will consider making financial contributions and providing other support once the International Year has been officially proclaimed;

(c) The Government of the Philippines has pledged \$100,000 to support the shelter demonstration projects aspect of the International Year;

(d) The Government of the Netherlands announced to the fifth session of the Commission on Human Settlements the intention of the Netherlands to make a special and large-scale investment in a project for the International Year on the training and information aspects of a national slum-improvement programme.

/...

F. Associated activity

18. In addition, the Centre plans to utilize certain aspects of two of its large-scale ongoing projects, totalling \$4 million, for developing demonstration projects connected with the International Year. These projects consist of a training programme to assist the urban poor in improving their shelters and neighbourhood on a self-help basis, and a shelter demonstration project in a developing country.

ANNEX

Financial requirements for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

(All amounts in thousands of US dollars at 1983 rates)

I. Operational programme for the Year

	1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		Subtotal		Grand total	
	RB	XB	RB	XB	RB	XB	RB	XB	RB	XB	RB	XB	RB and XB	
Regional and experts meetings	-	-	-	205.6	-	102.8	-	226.7	-	-	-	-	535.1	535.1
Support activities of non-governmental organizations	-	27.5	-	27.5	-	27.5	-	27.5	-	27.5	-	137.5	137.5	137.5
Demonstration Projects:														
(a) Planning and co-ordination	-	126.6	-	193.5	-	183.7	-	174.7	-	166.7	-	845.2	845.2	845.2
(b) Direct technical advice and assistance	-	231.0	-	432.7	-	444.6	-	256.9	-	71.0	-	1 436.2	1 436.2	1 436.2
Subtotal I	-	385.1	-	859.3	-	758.6	-	685.8	-	265.2	-	2 954.0	2 954.0	2 954.0
II. Substantive secretariat and programme support														
Temporary staff	-	44.8	144.6	85.7	144.6	85.7	144.6	85.7	144.6	85.7	578.4	387.6	966.0	966.0
Audio-visual training and programme support information	-	42.4	25.0	60.0	-	134.9	-	112.6	25.0	183.7	50.0	534.1	584.1	584.1
Travel	-	31.0	-	31.0	-	31.0	-	31.0	-	44.9	-	168.9	168.9	168.9
Communications	-	44.0	-	44.0	-	44.0	-	44.0	-	44.0	-	220.0	220.0	220.0
Interagency working group meetings	-	-	17.1	-	-	-	17.1	-	-	-	34.2	-	34.2	34.2
Subtotal II	-	162.2	186.7	221.2	144.6	285.6	161.7	273.3	169.6	358.3	662.6	1 310.6	1 973.2	1 973.2
Total	-	547.3	186.7	1 080.5	144.6	1 054.2	161.7	959.1	169.6	623.5	662.6	4 264.6	4 927.2	4 927.2

a/ RB = regular budget.

b/ XB = extrabudgetary.