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Second session
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REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON ITS SECOND SESSION

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SECOND SESSION

1. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 12 to 23 January 1976. The Committee held 20 meetings.

Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the United Nations, members of the Preparatory Committee: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia; by observers from the following Member States of the United Nations not members of the Committee: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland, Tunisia, and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; and by observers from the following non-member States maintaining observer missions at Headquarters: the Holy See and Switzerland. The session was also attended by representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA), its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) and its Centre for Housing, Building and Planning (CHBP), and of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination (IAAC); as well as by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Regional Economic Commissions for Africa (ECA), Europe (ECE) and Western Asia (ECWA); and of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO); and also by observers from the following other intergovernmental organizations: African Development Bank (AfDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Commission of European Communities (CEC). Observers were present from the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, the Non-Governmental Organization Committee for Habitat and other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

3. The documents before the Preparatory Committee at its second session are listed in annex I.

Opening of the session

4. The second session was opened by George Muhoho (Kenya), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. At its first session, the Committee had decided that the chairman and other officers would serve for the duration of the preparatory work of the Conference. Accordingly, the following served as the other officers of the Committee:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mario Alemán (Ecuador)
Mr. Gerhard Kosel (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Ramaswamy Gopaldaswamy (India)
Rapporteur: Ms. Kerstin Oldfelt (Sweden)

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. Having reviewed the provisional agenda in document A/CONF.70/PC/21, the meeting adopted the following agenda by consensus:

1. Progress report of the Secretary-General
2. Substantive matters:
 - (a) Declaration of Principles (A/CONF.70/PC/22)
 - (b) Programme for international co-operation:
 - (i) Alternative institutional arrangements (A/CONF.70/PC/23)
 - (ii) Analysis of programmes of main international agencies (A/CONF.70/PC/24)
 - (iii) Proposals for future programmes (A/CONF.70/PC/25)
 - (c) Recommendations for national action (A/CONF.70/PC/26)
3. Technical arrangements and special procedures for the use of audio-visual presentations (A/CONF.70/PC/27)
4. Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.70/PC/19)
5. Host Government Conference preparations

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6. Any other business

7. Adoption of the report

6. The Committee decided to follow the organization of work outlined in annex II.

II. WORK OF THE SESSION

Introductory remarks

7. The Chairman welcomed the delegates to the meeting and expressed his satisfaction at the high level of representation at the second session.
8. In his statement, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs stressed the close interdependence between the various aspects of economic and social development, in the light of the concept of a new international economic order. He recalled that the problems of human settlements were not separable from the whole problem of improving the economic and social conditions of mankind. He made a distinction between the aspects of economic and social life which were the subject of international negotiation and those, like habitat and human settlements, which were pre-eminently of national concern. It was also obvious, however, that international efforts could and should make an important contribution towards the solution of these problems, especially by facilitating exchange of views and experiences and providing opportunities for common action.
9. Among the areas open to international co-operation, he emphasized the importance of a system to collect and disseminate economic and technical information. He remarked that any programme for human settlements should call for an interdisciplinary approach. He pointed out that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs agreed with the emphasis Governments had placed on an integrated approach. In fact the Department was already moving in this direction. He pointed out the role of the regional economic commissions and the need for effective co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system. He said that his Department was ready to co-operate in carrying out international action in whatever institutional context the Conference might decide. The Under-Secretary-General also stressed that international operations in this field should be decentralized, as far as possible, to the regional level, adding that a flexible intergovernmental and interagency review system was necessary to ensure the harmonizing of the priorities and objectives of the many organizations with activities relating to human settlements.
10. In her statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs informed the Committee that many recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (of which she was the Secretary-General), held in June/July 1975, related directly to issues to be considered at the Habitat Conference. In particular, the World Plan of Action adopted by the Women's Conference contained specific recommendations in the field of housing and related facilities. The Plan also referred to the causes and consequences of varied modes of urbanization and the social policies needed to meet the varying needs of women. It stressed the importance of rural development programmes, including the creation of suitable industrial and employment opportunities to reduce migration to urban areas and recommended the promotion of decentralization of education and health services to rural areas in order to lower rural rates of illiteracy, mortality and fertility.

11. The Women's Conference had recommended that legislation and other measures be taken to guarantee that the views and needs of women were taken into account in the planning and design of housing, development and human settlements and that the design of the house should take into account the needs of the entire family. The Conference had also stressed the importance of the participation of women in all planning, decision making and implementation.

12. The Assistant Secretary-General also referred to the work in progress in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, relating to the special needs for social progress and human development. She assured the Committee that the Centre would co-operate in every respect in the preparation of the Habitat Conference.

Progress report

13. In his progress report, presented orally to the Committee, the Secretary-General of Habitat referred to the provisional agenda of the Conference, which had been approved by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. He stated that invitations were being sent in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly. With respect to participation by non-governmental organizations, he stated that he intended to apply the 29 February 1976 deadline to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations directly concerned and of genuinely international character. Applications from those in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council received after that deadline would be studied and decided upon on their merits.

14. The Secretary-General then referred to the various documents tabled at the meeting. Emphasizing the urgency of national action, he mentioned the recent amendment made in the constitution of Mexico to deal with human settlement issues on a country-wide basis and with respect to the metropolitan area of Mexico City.

15. He drew attention to one article in the provisional rules of procedure requiring further consideration, pointing out that the final rules of procedure would be adopted by the Conference itself.

16. The Secretary-General informed the Committee that over 120 countries had indicated their commitment to submit 220 audio-visual presentations and expressed his appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme as well as to the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, which had granted assistance to developing countries. He reported that the secretariat had been able to provide financial assistance to 76 developing countries, that national seminars and meetings had been held or were planned to be held in many countries and that 100 countries had already submitted their national reports.

17. He expressed his appreciation for the co-operation of the various United Nations organizations, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and its Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, as well as the contributions of various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

18. The Secretary-General reminded the meeting that the General Assembly had endorsed the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that 29 February 1976 be a day for the concentration of publicity on human settlement issues and on the Conference. He informed the Committee about the meeting of mayors and representatives of local authorities to be held in Milan, Italy, 14 to 18 April 1976 and the series of programmes planned in conjunction with World Environment Day, 5 June 1976.

19. The Secretary-General also referred to the third session of the Committee and to the pre-Conference consultations to be held at Vancouver on 26 May and 27 to 28 May 1976 respectively. He invited the representatives to consider informally the distribution of various positions of the Conference among the regional groups.

20. Finally, he paid tribute to Mr. Maurice Strong, formerly the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, whose vision and enthusiasm, to a great degree, had made possible the holding of the Conference. He also expressed his appreciation to the host Government of Canada for its continued co-operation.

Declaration of Principles

21. In his introductory remarks concerning this item of the agenda (A/CONF.70/PC/22 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General stressed the importance of maintaining the thrust of the discussions by the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group at Geneva in September 1975. He reminded representatives that this document, like all other policy papers, would be subject to amendment at Vancouver.

22. It was agreed that the initial discussion should be on the over-all structure, tone and content and that discussion of details should follow. 1/

23. Many representatives found the over-all structure of the document satisfactory and in keeping with most of the recommendations made at Geneva. The need for a preamble was, however, pointed out by several representatives, as well as the need to restructure section I and include some of that material in the preamble.

24. Some representatives expressed concern over the lack of hierarchy in the text. One representative proposed that the hierarchy be structured according to political, economic, social and physical considerations. It was further suggested that the sequence indicate the interrelationships between the three sections.

25. The need for a more coherent and logical structure within the three sections was pointed out. Some representatives suggested that many of the earlier paragraphs in section I be compressed and some deleted.

1/ See annex III.

26. Many representatives proposed changes to section II of the draft Declaration. Some suggested that each of these "basic values and convictions" should be related to human settlements. Other representatives proposed that many of these convictions be expressed more concisely, omitting some of the elaborating text. A few representatives suggested that some "values and convictions" could more appropriately be woven into the first or third sections of the Declaration.

27. Some representatives suggested that section II concern itself with "principles rather than convictions" and that section III become "guidelines" instead of "principles".

28. A few representatives proposed that a description of the present situation be added, referring not only to problems but also to the fact that solutions had been implemented in many cases. It was suggested that conclusions for the follow-up to the Conference be added. As regards the tone, there was general consensus on the fact that section I was too pessimistic. It was suggested that the tone reflect the challenge presented by the problems of human settlements. It was proposed that the document have a philosophical character, be inspirational and take the form of a charter. It should have a literary quality and a more affirmative tone.

29. Regarding content, it was emphasized that the topics covered should be relevant to human settlements. Many representatives felt that the following subjects should be included:

- (i) The uniqueness of the present comprehensive view of human settlements compared to the sectoral approaches of the past;
- (ii) The importance of continued exchange of experience;
- (iii) The need to arouse public opinion;
- (iv) The recognition of present national and international efforts to solve human settlement problems;
- (v) The effects of the continuation of certain trends such as population growth and distribution;
- (vi) The importance of continued détente and reduction of military expenditure;
- (vii) The interrelation between the quality of life and social justice;
- (viii) Respect for and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right to and security of employment;
- (ix) The obligation not to disturb the equilibrium of the biosphere and the obligation of individuals to protect and preserve the environment;

- (x) The need to consider human settlement problems in the context of environmental strategy;
- (xi) The role of town planning in the development of human settlements;
- (xii) Emphasis on the fact that under-development is the root cause of many of the problems of human settlements and that the quality and quantity of growth of human settlements is dependent on over-all national development;
- (xiii) The need to integrate human settlements in development planning;
- (xiv) The need for increased financing from international institutions;
- (xv) The need for a more balanced presentation of the role of economic growth in relation to human settlements, underlining the improvement of human settlements as a means for sustained economic growth;
- (xvi) Specific references to General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 3362 (S-VII) as well as to other relevant United Nations resolutions such as resolution 2626 (XXV), containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and resolutions of the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions;
- (xvii) The present wasteful use of resources and the need instead to promote effective use of resources;
- (xviii) The basic right of a human being to a home and the need to seek commitment for the implementation of this right, as well as the right to live in a sociable community;
- (xix) The right to individual land tenure;
- (xx) The importance of public ownership of land;
- (xxi) The need to counteract and eliminate social segregation and racial discrimination;
- (xxii) The introduction of maximum admissible standards;
- (xxiii) The need to equalize the distribution of services between rural and urban areas according to their needs;
- (xxiv) Specific paragraphs devoted to human settlement problems in urban areas;
- (xxv) Emphasis on land use, planning and investment questions;
- (xxvi) The need to strengthen the technical institutions of physical planning;
- (xxvii) The relationship between the present crisis in human settlements and rural/urban migration;

- (xxviii) Emphasis on the role of employment in human settlement strategy and human settlements as centres for employment;
- (xxix) Emphasis on specific problems in rural areas;
- (xxx) The importance of design and, in particular, architecture as a vital component of human settlements;
- (xxxi) The importance of human health;
- (xxxii) The importance of highly qualitative settlement planning offering a positive psychological and behavioural basis for human activities and interaction.

30. A number of detailed comments were made in regard to specific paragraphs and it was agreed to establish a drafting group to revise the document. This Group was composed of representatives from the following countries: Czechoslovakia, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

31. The Drafting Group for the Declaration of Principles held six sessions and provided the Committee with a revised text of the Draft Declaration of Principles (A/CONF.70/PC/L.9). 2/

32. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman of the Drafting Group stated that, with the exception of those parts of the document referring specifically to the exercise of authority of nations over their resources and to the proposals for a New International Economic Order, the Group was unanimous in their endorsement of the document.

33. A majority of representatives expressed their appreciation for the work of the Drafting Group and for the revised draft which they felt was a considerable improvement on the document previously circulated. However, a few representatives felt that the final draft should concentrate exclusively on issues specifically related to human settlements rather than dealing with problems which were being discussed by other organs of the United Nations system. A few representatives felt that the final document still needed extensive redrafting by the secretariat; one requested that this criticism be specifically mentioned in the report of the Preparatory Committee at its second session and that the final draft reflect the historical evolution and economic and social rationale which explain the present situation of human settlements in developing countries.

34. One representative pointed out that resources liberated by disarmament could be used to meet housing needs especially in developing countries and thus contribute to improvement in human settlements.

35. In the course of the discussion, a number of specific changes and additions were suggested and the secretariat was requested to take these into account when preparing the final version of the document to be tabled at Vancouver. Several representatives expressed the hope that this document would reflect a consensus

2/ See annex III.

of views of Governments and that every effort would therefore be made to reconcile the differences expressed so far, in particular in relation to section II, paragraphs 5 and 8.

36. Many representatives focused their attention on section II, paragraph 5, which dealt with the exercise of sovereignty by nations over their resources and economic activities. Some representatives favoured the first of the alternatives proposed in that paragraph, while others expressed the view that the second alternative was to be preferred. 2/

37. During the discussion on the redistribution of resources among nations, many representatives favoured a formulation stating that this should be based on the principles of the New International Economic Order. Other representatives suggested a formulation indicating that there should be a more equitable distribution of opportunities, goods and services and a more balanced and equitable structure of economic relations among nations.

38. The Chairman, supported by one representative, suggested that a specific reference to the seventh special session of the General Assembly be made in section III, paragraph 14, while several representatives urged the deletion of this paragraph.

39. Some representatives referred to section II, paragraph 7 and stated that the issue of disarmament and the use of resources thus released deserved a separate paragraph, and other representatives thought it should be omitted.

40. On presentation, some representatives expressed concern over the exclusion of the headings in sections II and III and suggested that their reintroduction would assist in the better comprehension of the document by a larger segment of the public. Others were concerned over the numbering of the paragraphs.

41. Some representatives requested that a special paragraph be devoted to the issue of homeless people displaced by natural or man-made causes and whose rehabilitation should receive the highest priority from the international community.

42. Another representative proposed that the Declaration should refer specifically to the rights of women and children, the elderly and the handicapped in human settlements.

43. One representative suggested that mention should be made of interregional and intraregional, as well as multilateral and bilateral co-operation.

44. In closing the debate on this item of the agenda, the Secretary-General of the Conference thanked the members and the Chairman of the Drafting Group as well as all representatives who had taken part in the discussion, for their valuable efforts towards achieving a more meaningful document for submission to the Conference.

45. The Secretary-General agreed to the suggestion formulated by the Chairman and endorsed by the Committee that he consult Governments with a view to finding acceptable wording for the paragraphs on which there had been disagreement. He agreed to use his best efforts in that direction.

Recommendations for national action

General

46. The Secretary-General introduced document A/CONF.70/PC/26 containing draft recommendations for national action.

47. In their general remarks, most representatives stressed the importance of national action and a number of them referred to the experiences of their respective countries.

48. Many representatives emphasized the need to link the document on national action to the proposed Declaration of Principles and the proposed programme for international co-operation. Some representatives felt that the recommendations for national action should also be linked to the audio-visual presentations, while others stated the need to relate the recommendations to the support papers being prepared by the secretariat.

49. Many representatives urged that the recommendations be solution oriented and include, when appropriate, reference to alternative ways and means, recognizing the great scope for variation in reaching a given goal.

50. The Committee stressed the need for a clear statement of the purpose and objectives of this particular policy paper. With regard to the purpose, it was stated that the document should provide the basis for discussion on national action at Vancouver and represent a good first draft of the recommendations which the Conference would adopt.

51. As regards objectives, the Committee stressed the importance of the document making a convincing case in support of human settlements as a strategic instrument for national development. Other objectives stated were the need for a well-formulated set of recommendations to receive world-wide consensus and to be a persuasive spur to national action. Some representatives felt that objectives should include targets and identify agencies to implement them; others stated that one of the objectives should be to make people aware of the nature of a good human settlements policy. One representative suggested that the objectives should clearly identify the issues of human settlements and that it was necessary to distinguish between problems, policies and instruments.

52. The Committee agreed that a rearrangement of the structure of the document was needed so as to make it more coherent, avoid repetition and make it easily readable. It was further suggested that the structure should provide for the accommodation of various views expressed by the Committee.

53. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of providing a rationale for the recommendations in order to assist delegates at Vancouver to judge the aptness of the recommendations and to permit the general public and the press to understand the basis for the action proposed. It was pointed out that this would also enhance the value of the document for educational purposes.

54. A number of representatives expressed their views on the need to recognize the very substantial differences in geography, culture, wealth and ideology between

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nations and within nations. One representative stated that the document should contain appropriate qualifications to make it more relevant and important to a larger number of countries. Another representative emphasized that the document should provide an international conceptual framework within which nations would apply the details at the regional and local levels.

55. Some representatives felt that the document should be provocative and strongly worded in order to arouse the populations and political leaders to act. It should also challenge values and assumptions.

56. As regards the approach to further consideration of this item, some representatives suggested the formation of a drafting group, while others felt that it would be more productive to concentrate discussion in the Committee. Upon the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed to invite representatives to submit their proposals in writing.

57. Many representatives made specific and detailed comments and proposals for consideration in preparing a revised version of the document on provisional recommendations for national action to be submitted to the Vancouver Conference; these are grouped below under the appropriate headings.

Policies and strategies

58. The Committee agreed that human settlement policies and strategies represented a new dimension in national, regional and local planning. It should be stated in the recommendations that most countries had not developed clearly defined and integrated human settlement policies and strategies. There was an urgent need, therefore, to develop such policies and strategies, with clearly defined objectives, as a basis for long-term plans and programmes. The Committee recognized that this task would not be easy since effective human settlement policies would often require difficult choices to be made and would always need political commitment and public understanding and acceptance.

59. The Committee agreed that national policies and strategies should cover the whole field of human settlements within their spatial context. Some representatives suggested that the recommendations for national action begin with a concise statement of problems common to most countries and giving rise to the need for a human settlement policy, such as growth of population and concentration of people and economic activities in a small number of large cities and metropolitan areas.

60. One representative stated the need to provide a clear focus on major settlement issues by treating the urban and rural issues separately. However, several other representatives stated that this was neither necessary nor desirable as issues of urban and rural settlements were intimately related.

61. Some representatives felt that recommendations for national action under this subitem should bring out the essential relationship between the distribution of population, the network of human settlements and economic activities. In this connexion, a number of representatives stressed that policies and strategies in human settlements should be integrated with over-all development strategy.

62. The Committee stressed the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach, since sectoral approaches often exacerbated the situation. Likewise, the important role of human settlement policies and strategies in achieving other national objectives was stressed.

63. Several representatives pointed out that national human settlement policies should emphasize the goal of balanced development between different regions of a country in the economic, social and environmental sense. It should also reflect the reshaping of existing human settlement patterns, as well as new patterns, in order to accommodate the needs of shifting populations.

64. A number of representatives stated the need, as a matter of policy, to integrate the natural and man-made environments with the policies and strategies relating to human settlements.

65. Many representatives stated that a human settlement policy should address itself to the deteriorating conditions in the rural areas which were, in many cases, contributing to the problems in the urban areas, and that it should take into account the fact that economic, social and cultural goals of development were to be pursued for rural as actively as for urban residents.

66. Many representatives emphasized the need to improve the living conditions in both urban and rural settlements and, while doing so, to ensure the gradual reduction of existing disparities in living standards in these settlements so that each of them would become equally attractive from the point of view of social, economic and environmental considerations.

67. One representative pointed out that considerations should be given to evolving population distribution policies in relation to resource availability, energy use and mechanisms of distribution without alienating man from his heritage or despoiling nature of its beauty.

Settlement planning

68. The Committee agreed that settlement planning should be seen as a continuous process and regarded as an integrated activity involving all levels of government and sectors of society.

69. It was recognized that settlement planning was part of economic and social planning. Some representatives stated that settlement planning should have a clear and explicit statement of short-, medium- and long-range goals, with emphasis on the long-range goals, stressing the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature of planning.

70. A number of representatives, while endorsing a comprehensive approach, expressed the view that difficulties inherent in such an approach should be recognized and adequate planning methods devised, adapted to actual conditions in the countries concerned.

71. Several representatives stated that settlement planning should be practical, affordable, action-oriented, flexible and based on the legal ability of competent authorities to implement the plans. Stress should be placed on the need for action planning, which would lead, for example, to specific pilot projects for implementation.

72. A number of representatives pointed out the opportunities provided for better population distribution through rational and orderly human settlement planning. In this connexion, reference was also made to the need to emphasize redeployment of industries as well as other employment-creating opportunities as a means of alleviating regional disparities.

73. Attention was drawn to the highly successful experience of some countries in the construction of new towns, while a number of representatives emphasized that the building of new settlements and the renewal of existing communities should be regarded as complementary.

74. Some representatives stressed the urgency of the problems in metropolitan areas while others stated that high priority should be given to rural settlements with a view to formulating recommendations for the revitalization of rural areas.

75. Several representatives stated that reference should be made to the fiscal problems of cities, towns and rural settlements.

76. Some representatives stressed the need to preserve, through the process of planning, urban areas of aesthetic and historical importance, to enhance cultural values of existing settlement and to ensure the architectural quality of new settlements.

77. Pointing out the intimate link between population and human settlement issues, some representatives stated that settlement planning should stress this relationship and that specific reference should be made to this aspect in the recommendations for national action.

78. One representative stated that the possibility of introducing a spatial scale, i.e., national, regional, local and neighbourhood, should be considered when producing the revised draft of the document. Several representatives noted that the neighbourhood was the level at which the interest of women, children, the elderly and the handicapped was most important. Some representatives stressed the need for low cost improvements of settlements.

Shelter, infrastructure and services

79. The Committee felt that access to shelter, infrastructure and services should be considered from the standpoint of national policy, which should include measurable goals and targets within the constraints of available resources. With respect to housing policies, it was suggested that attention be given to the social and political factors which determine them. Furthermore, it was suggested that shelter, infrastructure and services be considered as tools for improving living

conditions, for achieving social justice, locating and shaping the pattern and character of settlements and promoting and relating employment opportunities to settlement development.

80. Some representatives emphasized the issues relating to national housing policies, elaborating on basic components of such policies and their key role in planned settlement development and referred to the need for Governments to set housing targets. Others elaborated further on various forms of public housing and the need to cover those issues in the recommendations was strongly emphasized.

81. The Committee agreed that shelter, infrastructure and services should be treated in an integrated manner. Some representatives felt that the recommendations under this subitem should stress the need for co-ordination of both physical and financial measures at all levels. One representative proposed that new budgetary techniques, which presented financial data in spatial terms, should be mentioned in the recommendations. Many representatives stressed the need for the integration of spatial and infrastructure planning which would minimize transportation needs by reducing distances between interacting locations and avoiding unnecessary duplication of capacity.

82. Some representatives felt that the human dimension, through public participation, should be given prominence under this subitem, including the need for resource mobilization, in order to provide minimum shelter, infrastructure and services for all segments of the population.

83. With respect to the suggestion to adopt minimum standards, some representatives also raised the question of maximum standards which should be applied in the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services. The Committee agreed that recommendations under this subitem were not universally applicable nor did they cover all aspects and situations. Some representatives felt that, because of resource constraints of less advantaged population groups, it was necessary to recognize that standards should be flexible and evolving.

84. Many representatives pointed out that the difference between rural and urban housing should be stressed. Some representatives pointed out the need for preserving and improving existing shelter, infrastructure and services in human settlement policies.

85. Some representatives stressed the need for rational co-ordination of national efforts to generate significant funding for housing, infrastructure and services while others added that mention should be made of housing allowances and subsidized rents for the most deprived segments of the population.

86. A number of representatives stated that all programmes related to shelter infrastructure and services should be implemented with minimum adverse environmental impact.

Land

87. Several representatives stated that legislation should be recommended to ensure sufficient public control of the land required for human settlements and

that Governments should ensure an adequate supply of serviced land in advance of need. It was also recommended that the impact and role of land policy in the location, character and servicing of human settlements be emphasized. It was further stated that adequate public control must be ensured also with regard to existing settlements in order that maintenance and improvements be achieved.

88. A number of representatives felt that this could be achieved if land required for human settlement development were under public ownership. However, others stated that this could be achieved through the appropriate legislation, control measures and recapturing of the speculative value of land by the public sector. Some representatives felt that public acquisition of land should be appropriately compensated. Representatives recognized that the most appropriate methods for this must be decided by individual Governments.

89. The Committee felt that national land use policies should promote rational allocation of land for such purposes as food production and human settlements. In this connexion, recommendations for national action should stress programmes to assure the optimum use of available land.

90. The Committee agreed that reference should be made to waste disposal and other sources of land pollution as well as to restoration of derelict or damaged land. Some representatives emphasized the need to recognize potentially conflicting land uses in human settlement planning and development, including the preservation of the natural environment and prime agricultural land.

Public participation

91. The Committee agreed that the role of public participation in human settlements should be clearly defined to include the question of mobilizing human resources and that specific mention should be made of the role of youth in human settlements. It was stressed that coherent co-operation of public planning and private initiative would lead to the most positive results in the field of human settlements.

92. Many representatives stated that special efforts should be made to secure the participation of the most deprived groups in the decision-making process. In this context, it was recommended that Governments of developing countries should encourage the formation of non-governmental organizations as an essential and integral part of the development and management of human settlements.

Institutions and management

93. A number of representatives stated that institutions and management should be treated in an integrated manner and not as two separate subjects.

94. Many representatives stressed the need for a suitable legal framework which would also safeguard individual rights against arbitrary decisions concerning human settlements. Some pointed out the importance of studying the appropriateness of promulgating a special law for the adoption of measures for action in human settlements.

95. It was recommended that interministerial co-ordination machinery be established in the field of human settlements and that greater attention be paid to the necessity of institutional means to co-ordinate policies and programmes among different levels of government. In this connexion, one representative stated that the role of regional institutions should be clarified. Reference was made to the intimate links between elected bodies and administrative units and the need for open decision making in the planning and implementation process.

96. Some representatives questioned the advantages of administrative and management decentralization while others emphasized the need to distinguish between the decentralization of administrative machinery, on the one hand, and the decentralization of policy formulation on the other.

97. The Committee emphasized the need for a trained cadre of professionals in human settlements at all levels including managers. It was pointed out that training for human settlements was important since existing professional human settlement resources were so limited as to be a serious constraint on the implementation of human settlement programmes in most countries.

98. As regards research, the Committee endorsed the need to develop national scientific and technological research institutions to find better solutions to human settlement problems.

99. It was emphasized that the management of existing resources of human settlements were important and should be clearly stated in the recommendations for national action.

100. Finally, some representatives recommended that lending institutions be urged to make funds available also to rural settlements.

Proposed revised structure for the draft document on recommendations for national action

101. Following further consultations, the secretariat prepared a proposed revised structure of the document (A/CONF.70/PC/L.7) for discussion. The Committee agreed that the document to be submitted to the Vancouver Conference (A/CONF.70/5) should comprise:

- (a) A preamble;
- (b) An introduction;
- (c) A set of recommendations for national action; and
- (d) A set of conclusions.

102. The preamble should present a brief outline describing the purpose of the document, seen both as the basis for discussion in Committees II and III of the Conference and as a provisional draft of the document to be approved, as amended,

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by the Conference. It should be clearly cross-referenced with the annotated agenda (A/CONF.70/2).

103. The introduction should be composed of the following short sections:

(a) A general statement of the challenge, comprising a brief analysis of the current situation and trends in human settlements, an indication of the main underlying factors and an explanation of the key concepts developed in the Conference document;

(b) The place of recommendations for national action in the Conference documentation, explaining the links between the Declaration of Principles, from which the recommendations derive their broad objectives, and the proposals for international co-operation, which are meant to support national action;

(c) The general nature of the recommendations, developing the notion that the recommendations cannot be complete or universally applicable, stressing the novelty of a comprehensive and integrated approach and outlining the audience to which they are addressed, which should not be limited to national Governments but should, where appropriate, comprise other levels of decision making, including non-governmental organizations and other interested groups; and

(d) The structure of recommendations, introducing the six main subitems of the provisional agenda and explaining the general structure of the following section of the document.

104. The recommendations for national action should be grouped under the relevant subitems of item 10 of the provisional agenda. Within each of these, the recommendations would be grouped under convenient headings covering relatively homogeneous areas for national action; a tentative non-limitative list of such headings was provided in document A/CONF.70/PC/L.7 and is given in annex IV. Under each heading, the document would present a brief rationale (including identification of main problems, the limitations and modalities in different contexts, and operational objectives) for the set of recommendations put forward, followed by the recommendations themselves and, where appropriate, by suggestions for alternative forms of implementation.

105. The conclusions would highlight those recommendations considered as most important by the Conference. It was therefore agreed that this section be completed only in the course of the Conference itself.

106. As regards subheadings, there was general consensus that their use would be desirable and that the list of those subheadings presented by the secretariat covered almost all the important topics and should be followed in the preparation of the final document by the secretariat. ^{3/} A number of representatives suggested some additional subheadings and some minor amendments to the subheadings already proposed. The Committee asked the secretariat to take into account the proposals received from various representatives as well as the views expressed during the course of discussions on this subject in the Committee.

^{3/} See annex IV.

Programme for international co-operation

107. In his introductory remarks on this subject (documents A/CONF.70/PC/23, 24 and 25), the Secretary-General requested representatives to concentrate their discussions on the two key issues before the Committee: programmes for international co-operation to be implemented directly after the Vancouver Conference and future institutional arrangements to deal with human settlement issues.
108. He referred to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System who were examining the over-all structure of the United Nations and whose work would have a significant bearing on any new alternative institutional arrangement for human settlements. He also reminded representatives of the forthcoming time-table of events including a further, informal, meeting of the relevant United Nations agencies.
109. In the discussion on programmes for international co-operation, there was general consensus that their major purpose should be to strengthen national efforts through the strengthening of national, subregional and regional institutions.
110. It was agreed that the programmes should be comprehensive, integrated and oriented towards action and solution.
111. The regional and subregional approach stressed in document A/CONF.70/PC/25 was generally endorsed. It was suggested that some of the programmes could be implemented by the regional economic commissions and accommodated within their secretariats. One representative emphasized the importance of central policy and budgetary controls over regional programmes.
112. There was general agreement on the importance of embarking on the speedy and efficient implementation of programmes. Representatives emphasized the priority of human settlements and the need for immediate action after the Conference.
113. Most representatives expressed appreciation of the paper entitled: An Analysis of Programmes of the Organizations in the United Nations System in the Field of Human Settlements (A/CONF.70/PC/24). It was generally suggested that this should form part of the Conference documentation. Some representatives suggested that the proposals for new programmes be directly related to the conclusions reached through the evaluation of existing ones.
114. Some representatives felt that, although considerable effort was being made at present in this field, it was fragmented, sectorially oriented, spatially limited and insufficiently co-ordinated. Several representatives requested that an evaluation of existing programmes be made for consideration at Vancouver based on the above document from which more conclusions could be drawn for the Conference.
115. A number of representatives commented on the programmes which had been presented (A/CONF.70/PC/25) and welcomed the clear and limited proposals. Several others believed that, for short-term undertakings, the programmes appeared likely to exceed the availability of skilled human and financial resources.

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116. While discussing this document, a number of representatives expressed their support for proposed subject areas. However, they stressed that it would be advisable to initiate and consolidate activities within the framework of one of the two possible organizational establishments, avoiding the suggested temporary solutions which were likely to become a permanent additional body.

117. In commenting on the proposals for programmes, some representatives commented on the inclusion of too much detail unnecessary at this stage. Elaboration of the proposals would be one of the tasks to be accomplished between now and the Conference.

118. Some representatives pointed out that the major subject areas selected for immediate action should include, *inter alia*, long range spatial and physical planning, housing policy and building industry. Others concluded that immediate post Conference programmes should emphasize information dissemination including the audio-visual presentations and the reorienting of selected existing programmes.

119. Several representatives wanted to know the arrangement proposed for the implementation of the programmes pending a decision concerning the appropriate future institutional arrangement for human settlements.

120. Most representatives expressed the desire to receive detailed information on the cost implications of the proposed programmes and institutional arrangements. This would help Governments in offering concrete contributions and, at the same time, give donor countries the possibility to assess and identify their assistance capacity.

121. The Committee was unclear about the method of funding these programmes.

122. One representative proposed that small and emerging countries be accorded special consideration in matters relating to international co-operation.

123. Many representatives expressed the view that the proposed time-table needed revision. Some felt that the dates would not give adequate time for implementing the programmes. Others thought that the gap between the end of the Conference and the commencement of the work was too long, if the momentum generated at Vancouver was to be maintained. One representative pointed out that the proposed time-table should provide time for consultations with the regional economic commissions.

124. Some representatives felt that non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to take part in the proposed programmes together with other groups of the population. Particular reference in this connexion was made concerning the proposals for training and research.

125. Some suggestions for additional programmes included:

(a) Economic aid for towns which had suffered natural and man-made disasters;
and

(b) Publication of the Conference documentation.

126. One representative suggested that interested countries meet in the near future to consider the proposals in greater detail, with a view to ensuring that there was substantial agreement on institutional proposals which might go to the General Assembly from both the Conference and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

127. A statement was made by one representative introducing an informal paper prepared by a number of representatives on the framework for international co-operation in human settlements.

128. In the view of this group, the policy document on the programme for international co-operation, which the secretariat would prepare for submission to the Vancouver Conference, should be a comprehensive document organized along the lines as shown in paragraphs 129-131 and incorporating the contents of documents A/CONF.70/PC/23, 24 and 25.

129. The policy document should:

- (a) Identify objectives of international co-operation;
- (b) Suggest criteria for designing programmes and evaluating the capabilities of different institutional forms; and
- (c) Suggest some programme areas within which interim action and short-term projects could be developed.

130. In the guidelines to the secretariat for preparing the policy document, the paper suggested that programmes of international co-operation should be designed in accordance with these objectives and criteria.

131. The programmes should also specify certain programme areas within which interim, short-term or long-term proposals could be rationally developed. Among the suggestions were: exchange of experience, information systems, research, education and training and co-operative arrangements evaluation.

132. It was generally agreed that any future institutional arrangement for human settlement issues should be considered in conjunction with the over-all restructuring at present being considered for the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

133. There was agreement among the representatives that any institutional arrangement resulting from the Vancouver Conference should meet the following criteria:

- (a) It should not add to the proliferation of agencies;
- (b) It should become operational as soon as possible; and
- (c) A clear definition of its aims should be a prerequisite of any institutional rearrangement.

134. A number of representatives made suggestions concerning the required characteristics of the new institutional arrangements. These included the following:

(a) It should have a high level, intergovernmental, policy-making body, at global and possibly at regional levels, in order to accord human settlements a high priority and in order to ensure co-ordination and proper resource allocation;

(b) It should have a small but highly competent professional staff in its secretariat; and

(c) It should take advantage of the expertise available within the United Nations system and make full use of the facilities available in the regional economic commissions.

135. During the discussions, a number of representatives expressed their opinion on the alternatives put forward in document A/CONF.70/PC/23. It was generally agreed that a new and separate United Nations Human Settlements Programme would not meet the agreed criterion and that, therefore, alternative (c) should be deleted from the final document.

136. A number of representatives asked for clarification on whether and to what extent the existing institutions were prepared to meet the consequences resulting from alternatives (a) and (b), stressing that any answer given to these questions would have to be taken into consideration when evaluating both alternatives.

137. A number of representatives favoured alternative (a) which determines that this area falls under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and ensures the integration of human settlement problems into the whole process of social and economic development. They also pointed out that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs already had organs with the necessary experience in this field, in particular the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning. They stressed that the Centre would have to be strengthened within the Department so that it could become an organ ensuring co-ordination of activities of different United Nations organizations in the field of human settlements. In addition they referred to the advantages accruing from being able to use the existing secretariat units in the human settlement field of the five regional economic commissions, which were under the Department, as well as the merits of having an intergovernmental body working directly with the Economic and Social Council.

138. A number of representatives favoured alternative (b): an arrangement under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme. They emphasized the intimate relationship between human settlements and the environment and pointed out that human settlement problems had been of primary concern to that programme from its inception and that its year-old Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation would provide the necessary mechanisms for funding for activities in the field. A high-level specialized policy-making body could be created as a separate governing council established for the human settlement component of the United Nations Environment Programme. Other representatives felt that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme should be the intergovernmental governing body.

139. Some representatives suggested that the institutional arrangement being considered should be flexible, and one representative suggested that it should be able to evolve its own legislation, mobilize resources, both financial and human, from existing and voluntary organizations and be capable of co-ordinating programmes undertaken by various organs of the United Nations system and other related agencies.

140. Some representatives felt that alternatives (a) and (b) were not necessarily mutually exclusive at the regional level and needed further elaboration and expansion. Other representatives suggested that these two alternatives be brought under one umbrella, including the use of any other United Nations body concerned to do with human settlement problems. One representative proposed that the United Nations Environment Programme take over general problems of control and co-ordination and problems of human settlements related to the environment. The same representative also suggested that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning be restructured and reorganized and strengthened from the point of view of its material resources, in order to permit it to specialize in the study of programmes of human settlements.

141. It was generally agreed that the recommendations on the institutional arrangement should be made at Vancouver. Presentations of the improved version of the two alternatives should therefore be included in the final version of the document. A few representatives referred to the possibility of further options.

142. The Secretary-General informed the Committee that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its fourth session, would be considering a proposal by the Executive Director that the Programme contribute resources to the task of dealing with human settlement matters on an interim basis until new institutional arrangements had been approved and implemented. Many representatives also agreed that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should examine the possibility of participating in this task. The Secretary-General was asked to provide the Conference with a report of the secretariat on interim follow-up arrangements.

143. In his closing address, the Secretary-General of the Conference thanked the Preparatory Committee for their comments and suggestions and assured them that the secretariat would take these into account in the preparation of the final version of the policy paper on international co-operation to be submitted to the Conference at Vancouver. This document would contain a more extended statement on the objectives of international co-operation in human settlements and the functions to be performed. It would also contain a further elaboration of and a rationale for the activities suggested within the different programme areas of A/CONF.70/PC/25, and include the evaluation of current programmes described in A/CONF.70/PC/24. Finally, the document would elaborate on the two proposed alternative institutional arrangements.

144. If further consultations appeared necessary, these would be arranged on an informal basis; the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination would participate in these meetings with a view to ensuring the continued briefing and co-operation of the interested organizations of the United Nations family.

145. In his intervention, the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme reminded representatives that the Governing Council of the Programme had approved an integrated approach so as to ensure more effective integration of the human settlement system into national and regional development. The underlying objective of the programme was to ensure that a comprehensive approach would include the technological, administrative, legislative, economic, social, ecological and spatial elements. He went on to outline the scope of the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field and reminded representatives of the establishment of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

146. In response to explicit requests by some representatives that the secretariats concerned elaborate on the alternatives proposed for future institutional arrangements in the United Nations, the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme observed that intergovernmental arrangements at both the global and regional levels might require more careful consideration than envisaged in A/CONF.70/PC/23 under alternative (b). There were various ways and means of realizing the desired objective within the context of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council if Governments so wished. He further added that the role of the regional commissions needed further recognition and strengthening in alternative (b) in accordance with the collective decision of the Governments of each region.

147. The Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning outlined the work of the Centre in the field of training and research and information and advisory teams and described a number of specific projects being conducted at present. He expressed the willingness of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to undertake an enlarged programme covering the five areas which had been identified for follow-up after the Conference.

148. He further stressed that the problems of human settlements were essentially economic and social in character and should be dealt with in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary manner. In his view, therefore, basic activities relating to human settlements should be brought together under one umbrella able to provide the full range of interdisciplinary skills. By using established and proven mechanisms, maximum economy, efficiency and effectiveness could be achieved. He also referred to the close working relationship between the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in the execution of projects.

Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and technical
guidelines for the use of audio-visual presentations

149. The Committee had before it the text of the draft provisional rules of procedure as proposed by the Working Group set up by the Preparatory Committee at its resumed first session (A/CONF.70/PC/19) as well as a note by the Secretary-General with annexes comprising proposed amendments to rules 12, 18 and 51 to 55 and draft guidelines for the use of audio-visual presentations, both prepared by the secretariat (A/CONF.70/PC/27, annexes I and II).

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150. The Committee decided that, prior to continuing its review of the draft provisional rules of procedure, informal consultations would be held among its members to facilitate the reaching of agreement on those outstanding issues concerning which the Committee had decided to defer a decision to its second session, i.e., the question of the majority required for decisions of the Conference (draft rule 31) and the question of the implications for the rules of procedure of the use, in the Conference, of audio-visual presentations (see report of the Committee on its resumed first session, A/CONF.70/PC/18, paras. 77-89).

151. As a result of the informal consultations, a text was submitted to the Committee containing proposed changes to rules 12 and 18, as well as revised technical guidelines for the use of audio-visual presentations (A/CONF.70/PC/27/Amend.1). The Chairman of the informal consultations, in introducing his report informed the Committee that the representatives at the informal consultations considered the text of rule 31, as proposed by the Working Group (A/CONF.70/PC/18, para. 86 (a)) as an acceptable basis for consensus. With regard to the revised technical guidelines for the use of audio-visual presentations, he emphasized that the general view during the informal consultations had been that these guidelines should be organically linked to the rules of procedure. The second sentence of the proposed addition to rule 18 had been based on this view. There also had been a general desire for the guidelines to be formally adopted by the Conference and not be, as suggested in the final sentence of paragraph 10 of document A/CONF.70/PC/27, simply a background document of the Conference. He emphasized, however, that these guidelines were not rules. They would be adopted by the Conference as technical guidelines only, to be administered faithfully and flexibly and subject to the authority of the Bureau in the event of any difficulties which might arise.

152. The Committee also considered a statement of financial implications (A/CONF.70/PC/L.8) brought to its attention in connexion with the proposal to amend rule 12 to provide for the custody, in the United Nations, of the materials for audio-visual presentations following the close of the Conference. The Committee noted that any costs arising as a result of the adoption of this proposal would be financed from extrabudgetary sources and not be a charge against the regular budget.

153. In response to a request from the Chairman of the informal consultations on the rules of procedure, the secretariat provided the Committee with information to clarify the meaning of the expressions "documents of the Conference" and "archives of the United Nations" in rule 12 (f), as well as a description of the audio-visual materials to be available at the Vancouver Conference, with particular reference to the problem of their safe custody and accessibility after the Conference.

154. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference for adoption the text of the draft provisional rules of procedure contained in document A/CONF.70/PC/19, as corrected, including rule 31 and incorporating the changes to rules 12 and 18 proposed in document A/CONF.70/PC/27/Amend.1, Part A. The complete text as thus recommended by the Preparatory Committee will be incorporated in document A/CONF.70/3.

155. One representative expressed strong reservations concerning rules 51 and 52, on the basis that the changes introduced by these rules could blur the distinctions between the role of full participants and observers, and defeat the purpose of small working groups formed to expedite the business of the Conference. He added that these reservations did not reflect any change in his Government's policy in regard to liberation movements.

156. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference for adoption the text of the revised Technical Guidelines for the Use of Audio-visual Presentations, contained in Part B of document A/CONF.70/PC/27/Amend.1. This text will be incorporated in document A/CONF.70/3.

157. With regard to paragraph 2 of Part I of technical Guidelines for the Use of Audio-visual Presentations, the Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference that leaders of delegations be permitted to make a filmed presentation, using the facilities for capsule films, once during their national statements in the plenary, for not more than three minutes, provided that such presentations would be regarded as an integral part of a speech for the purposes of the rules of procedure and that the rules of procedure and paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of Part I of the Guidelines would apply.

Continued availability and use after the Conference
of the materials for audio-visual presentations

158. In connexion with rule 12 (f) of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, providing for the custody in the archives of the United Nations of the materials for audio-visual presentations, several representatives stressed the urgent necessity of making timely arrangements for the evaluation of the audio-visual programme and to ensure the continued availability and widespread use immediately after the Conference of the materials for audio-visual presentations.

159. One representative proposed an informal meeting of the Committee to discuss action to support the secretariat in developing proposals for the continued use of the audio-visual materials immediately following the Conference. In connexion with this proposal, the representative of an Observer Government pointed out that there had been no formal discussion by the Committee on how to use these materials following the Conference and that unless action was taken, some \$10 million invested by Governments in the presentations would be wasted. The same representative suggested that the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning assume responsibility for the audio-visual materials and organize their dissemination to interested Governments immediately following the Conference. He felt that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs could introduce some minor revisions in its budget to initiate such action and that the Department should elaborate a plan of action towards this end, in co-operation with the Habitat secretariat.

160. Commenting on this suggestion, the Secretary-General of the Conference stated that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had taken an interest in the audio-visual component of the Conference from the very beginning and had invested

a total of \$3 million in it. At the March/April meeting of the UNEP Governing Council, the Executive Director of UNEP would make proposals concerning the follow-up of the Vancouver Conference which would involve, among other things, promoting the use of the audio-visual materials. Thus, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was taking into account that, regardless of the institutional arrangements decided upon by the Vancouver Conference, interim arrangements were needed to maintain the momentum generated by Habitat.

161. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs said that the Department had given careful consideration to the importance of storage, retrieval, dissemination and distribution of documentation and audio-visual material that would be assembled at the Conference and was already taking preliminary steps for the establishment of an information system for exchange of information on scientific, technical, economic and social problems and issues falling within the competence of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions.

162. Within this system, the Department would have a human settlements component, and the results of a preliminary study on this now under way in the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, would be made available to the Habitat secretariat for submission to the Conference. It should further be borne in mind that some capacity already existed since certain types of information were already being stored and processed centrally within the United Nations. He pointed out, however, that the 1976-1977 budget had already been approved by the General Assembly and that that put a severe limitation on the use of existing budgetary resources for this purpose.

163. Without a full examination of the requirements of the kind of system envisaged, it was difficult to assess the final impact of its implementation. It was, however, obvious that, within the resources available to the Department, this new project could not be absorbed. He said that if contributions from Governments did not materialize, it would be up to the Committee and the Conference itself to make appropriate proposals which would need to be considered in accordance with established budgetary procedures and eventually to be decided upon by the legislative organs having the primary responsibility for financial matters in the United Nations. At this stage, he concluded, without further consideration of the implications of this proposal, the Department was not yet in a position to come up with a cost estimate.

Host Government conference preparations

164. The representative of the host Government emphasized the importance attached by Canada to the Habitat Conference and outlined the views of his Government on the various issues relating to the Conference and the expectations of his Government with respect to its outcome. He stated that if the Conference in Vancouver could stay as close to the key issues as the Preparatory Committee had done in its meetings, the prospects for success were very good.

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165. With respect to the preparations in Canada, he referred to the appointment of the Commissioner General for Habitat with over-all responsibility in Canada for the Conference, signing of the Agreement between Canada and the United Nations on 23 December 1975, and the support the Canadian Government was giving to preparations for the conference of the non-governmental organizations, Habitat Forum. He also mentioned the arrangements being made by the city of Vancouver for a festival of the arts and similar activities to take place during the Habitat period and the programme of study tours being arranged for delegates within Canada.

166. As regards substantive questions, he expressed the hope that Habitat would produce an institutional restructuring within the United Nations in order that the Organization might play a stronger role in human settlement issues than it had in the past. He stressed the need for training and initiating a number of programmes which were urgently needed.

167. Finally, he paid tribute to the Secretary-General of the Conference and the secretariat for their important contribution to the progress of the preparatory work for Habitat.

168. The Vice-Chairman (India) informed the meeting about the recent visit of the members of the Bureau to Vancouver. He assured the Committee that the arrangements being made at Vancouver were completely satisfactory and expressed appreciation to the host Government for arranging this successful visit.

Organizational matters of the Conference

169. The Secretary-General informed the Committee on a number of issues relating to the final stages of the preparation for the Conference. He referred in particular to the consultations held with the Chairmen of the five regional groups concerning the allocation of positions within the General Committee of the Conference, adding that these consultations would continue in the weeks to come. After further discussion in the Committee and clarifications provided by the Secretary-General, the Committee agreed to recommend that:

(a) The number of vice-presidents for the Conference be distributed as follows: Africa 7, Asia 7, Latin America 5, Western Europe and other countries 6 and East European countries 5, making a total of 30;

(b) Governments be invited to communicate to the secretariat in writing their comments and proposed amendments to the recommendations contained in the policy papers submitted to the Conference. In this context, the Secretary-General of the Conference confirmed that the comments received by the secretariat within four weeks of the date of receipt of the policy papers would be available in consolidated form in the languages of the Conference, in order to facilitate consideration of the policy papers by the Conference. It was also pointed out that Governments would still be able to make additional comments and proposals after the initial deadline and during the Conference itself. In response to the wishes of several representatives, the Secretary-General also confirmed that the secretariat would

undertake to release copies of the capsules to the media during the week preceding the Conference, subject, of course, to their being no objection to this procedure on the part of the relevant Government;

(c) A list of speakers for the plenary sessions be opened at United Nations Headquarters on Monday, 3 May 1976 and closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 1 June 1976 at Vancouver;

(d) The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee be held on Wednesday, 26 May 1976 at Vancouver for the purpose of considering any pending formal matters related to the preparations for and organization of the Conference. This meeting would be followed by informal pre-Conference consultations to take place on Thursday, 27 and Friday, 28 May 1976 at Vancouver, where detailed questions concerning time-tabling, documentation and other specific arrangements for the Conference would be discussed with the representatives of all participants;

(e) In view of the experience gained at other United Nations conferences, in general debates, only the heads or other designated officials, preferably at the highest level possible of specialized agencies or other bodies in the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations make statements in plenary meetings, and other representatives of such bodies make their statements in the committees;

(f) Statements in general debate be brief and take into account the limited time available and the number of Governments and international organizations participating in the Conference. Therefore a time-limit of 10 to 15 minutes would be set for the statements of representatives of Governments and 8 to 10 minutes for the other speakers. No messages from Heads of State would be read unless they were accommodated within the time-limit set for national statements. Arrangements would be made for circulating those statements in the languages in which they were submitted.

170. The Committee noted that:

(a) Budgetary provisions for the servicing of the Conference included the servicing of only four simultaneous meetings in the languages of the Conference. If informal additional consultations between participants requiring simultaneous interpretation were to be arranged during the Conference, additional interpreters would have to be provided by the interested representatives themselves, some of whom had already been approached informally by the secretariat on this subject and had given a positive response;

(b) Countries had been asked to approach all other countries informing them of their in situ projects. The secretariat would compile a list of these projects for the benefit of prospective visitors; and

(c) Ninety-five Governments had already submitted their national reports. The Committee urged that the Governments concerned ensure the maximum possible distribution of these reports prior to the Conference by making them directly

available to national contacts and others concerned. They should also bring a sufficient number of copies to the Conference for distribution to interested parties;

(d) Receipt of audio-visual presentations after 15 February 1976 would jeopardize the timely production of language versions, as indicated in the technical guidelines.

171. The Committee stressed the importance of the many national and regional meetings already planned with the view of elaborating the position of the respective Governments on the major issues to be considered at the Conference.

172. One representative drew the Committee's attention to the special needs of children in human settlements and proposed that these needs be reflected in preparations for and at Vancouver. In particular, he proposed that the draft Declaration of Principles and the draft recommendations for national action, to be considered by the Conference, contain specific references to the needs of children. He also proposed that the Secretary-General request the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to undertake the development and co-ordination of a children's programme on human settlements, in conjunction with countries and the Forum organizers. These proposals received general support.

Statement of the Chairman of the Non-Governmental
Organizations' Committee for Habitat

173. The Chairman of the Non-Governmental Organizations' Committee for Habitat informed the Committee that more than 2,100 persons had already registered for the Habitat Forum and that more than 200 programme proposals had been received from non-governmental organizations. The programme of the Forum would consist of briefings on the governmental Conference, plenary meetings on nine central themes, two simultaneous workshop sessions, exhibits and films. It was expected that statements would be drafted for presentation to the governmental Conference. On behalf of the Non-Governmental Organizations' Committee, he proposed to invite an ad hoc group to study the possible institutional relationship between non-governmental organizations, Governments and the United Nations in the field of human settlements.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

174. The Preparatory Committee adopted its report by consensus on 23 January 1976. After asking the secretariat to make appropriate drafting and editorial changes in the report, the Chairman declared the session closed. The Preparatory Committee for Habitat will meet at its third session on 26 May 1976 at Vancouver.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Languages</u>
A/CONF.70/PC/19	Draft provisional rules of procedure for Habitat	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/20	Summary of discussions of the <u>ad hoc</u> intergovernmental working groups, Geneva, 22-26 September 1975	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/21	Provisional agenda	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/22	Draft declaration of principles	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/23	Alternative institutional arrangements to ensure more effective international co-operation in the field of human settlements	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/24	Analysis of programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system in the field of human settlements	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/25	Proposals for international action	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/26	Draft recommendations for national action	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/27 and Amend.1 and Amend.1/Corr.1	The audio-visual programme	C, E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/L.6 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4, Add.5 and Add.6	Draft report of the Preparatory Committee	E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/L.7	Draft recommendations for national action	E, F, R, S
A/CONF.70/PC/L.8	Administrative and financial implications of revised draft rule of procedure 12 (e)	E, F, R, S

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<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Languages</u>
A/CONF.70/PC/L.9	Draft declaration of principles	E, F, S
A/CONF.70/PC/CRP.6	Collection of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the subject of Housing, Building and Planning	E
	Provisional list of participants at Second Session of the Preparatory Committee	E, F, S

Annex II

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

- 12 January 10 00 a.m. - Bureau meeting
11 00 a.m. - Plenary:
1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the second session of the Preparatory Committee
3. Statement by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee
4. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
5. Progress report by the Secretary-General of the Conference
3 00 p.m. - Plenary:
Host Government's preparations
- 13 January 10 00 a.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c))
3 00 p.m. - Declaration of Principles (agenda item 2(a))
- 14 January 10 00 a.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c))
3 00 p.m. - Declaration of Principles (agenda item 2(a))
- 15 January 10 00 a.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c))
3 00 p.m. - Declaration of Principles (agenda item 2(a))
- 16 January 10 00 a.m. - Programme for international co-operation (agenda item 2(b))
3 00 p.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c))
- 19 January 10 00 a.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c))
3 00 p.m. - Programme for international co-operation (agenda item 2(b))
- 20 January 10 00 a.m. - Informal meeting on explanation of technical arrangements for the use of audio-visual presentations (agenda item 3)
3 00 p.m. - Programme for international co-operation (agenda item 2(b))
- 21 January 10 00 a.m. - Programme for international co-operation (agenda item 2(b))
3 00 p.m. - Recommendations for national action (agenda item 2(c)) and Declaration of Principles (agenda item 2(a))
Any other business (agenda item 6)
- 22 January 10 00 a.m. - Any other business (agenda item 6) and Host Government Conference preparations (agenda item 5)
3 00 p.m. - Rules of procedure (agenda item 4) and Any other business (agenda item 6)
- 23 January 10 00 a.m. - Rules of procedure (agenda item 4) and Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)
5 00 p.m. - Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)

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Annex III

DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Having met at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Aware that the Conference on Human Settlements has been convened as a result of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972 and the subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly when the nations of the world expressed their concern over the serious problems of human settlements considered as the environment in which people live,

Noting that the quality of life is greatly influenced by the quality of human settlements,

Being deeply concerned with the serious problems facing the world in providing for the basic needs and improving the level of satisfaction consistent with human dignity for all peoples,

Realizing the necessity of finding general principles that will inspire Governments and the world community to solve problems of human settlements,

Being convinced that the solutions to the problems of human settlements must be seen and conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community at large,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), the World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974), the United Nations World Food Conference (Rome, 1974), the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975) and the results of the seventh special session of the General Assembly as well as the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and reaffirming the growing bonds of international co-operation and the will of the nations to improve the quality of life for mankind as a whole,

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Recognizes that:

1. The circumstances of life for vast numbers of mankind in human settlements are unacceptable. Great disparities in the quality of life exist among and within nations and resources have not yet been adequately mobilized to meet these problems.

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2. Unless positive and concrete action is taken, these problems, already grave, will persist. Indeed, they are likely to be further aggravated by the continuation of:

Rapid population growth which, if present trends continue, will nearly double in the next 25 years thereby doubling the need for food, shelter and all other requirements for life and human dignity;

Rapid unplanned urbanization, producing urban growth which leads to overcrowding, pollution, deterioration and disorganization, and psychological tensions in existing and new metropolitan regions;

Rural dispersion as evidenced by small scattered settlements which inhibit the provision of infrastructure and services;

The deterioration of social, ecological and environmental conditions exemplified by social segregation, the breakdown of traditional social relationships and cultural values and the progressively more severe degradation of the natural environment, as life-supporting resources of air, water and land become contaminated;

Unbalanced economic development, which is reflected in the wide disparities in wealth which now exist between different sections of mankind and which condemn millions of people to a life of poverty, often without even satisfying the basic necessities of food and shelter.

3. These problems pose a formidable challenge to our understanding, imagination, ingenuity and resolve; a challenge to set new priorities to add a qualitative dimension to economic development and to provide the leadership and political commitment which will mobilize the resources of mankind. (But we must not be daunted by the task. The dimensions of the challenge to human settlements policy have been defined: during the next quarter of a century man must plan and build again as much as now exists.)*

4. The challenge provides the opportunities for changing the living conditions of the majority of mankind by:

- (i) Adopting a bold, meaningful and effective human settlements policy strategy, realistically adapted to the indigenous conditions of the locality to which it is applied;
- (ii) Creating more livable, aesthetically attractive and resource efficient settlements of human scale with social justice for every individual human being;
- (iii) Creating possibilities for effective participation by all people in the planning and building of human settlements;

* Idea could be incorporated either in para. 3 or in para. 4.

- (iv) Developing innovative approaches in planning and building human settlements by applying and making available appropriate technology;
- (v) Exploiting the unprecedented means of communications among and within countries for facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements;
- (vi) Expanding the strong and growing bonds of international co-operation, both regionally and globally.

5. If we are to succeed in seizing these opportunities, human settlements must be seen as an instrument of development. The goals of settlement policies are linked inseparably to the goals of every sector of social and economic life. The solutions to the problems of human settlements must therefore be seen and conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community.

6. With these opportunities and considerations in mind, and being agreed on the necessity of finding common principles that will inspire Governments and the world community to solve the problems of human settlements, the Conference recommends the following general principles and guidelines for action:

II

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Human beings are the most important element in the universe. The primary objective of public policy is to achieve a progressive improvement in the quality of life beginning with the most basic needs of all people - food, shelter, employment, health, freedom and dignity and opportunity for personal fulfilment - without discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth, or other status.

2. In striving to improve the quality of life, priority must be given to the needs of the least advantaged people as defined by the people themselves.

3. Economic development should contribute to the satisfaction of human needs and is a necessary means toward achieving a better quality of life provided that it contributes to a more equitable distribution of the benefits to improve human welfare and social justice.

4. Human dignity and the exercise of free choice consistent with over-all public welfare are basic rights which must be assured in every society. It is therefore the duty of all people to join in the struggle against any form of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid and any other discrimination.

5. Every nation has the right to choose its economic, political and social system in accordance with the freely expressed will of its people

(and to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities.) 1/

(and to exercise authority over all its resources and the activities within its borders, subject to international law and those treaties and contracts to which it has subscribed.) 1/

6. The environment is the common property of all mankind. Nations should seek to avoid major and undesirable disturbances of the biosphere. The necessity to live in productive harmony with nature must be recognized by all peoples. All human acts must therefore be guided by a deep respect for the protection of the natural environment upon which depends the survival of life itself.

7. All nations must join in the effort to end irresponsible exploitation of all resources which may become either physically exhausted or lose their capacity to regenerate. All nations also have the responsibility to ensure the national use of such resources in the best interests of future generations. (Special attention should be given to the waste and misuse of resources through war and armaments. All nations should seek to promote general and complete disarmament, under effective international control, with the goal of using the resources thus released to achieve a better quality of life.) 2/

8. (The declaration of the United Nations on the New International Economic Order should be the principle upon which the redistribution of resources among nations should be based.) 3/

(To achieve universal improvement in the quality of life, there should be a more balanced and equitable structure of economic relations among nations. Included is the more equitable distribution of opportunities, goods and services. The achievement of these goals can help lead to a new international economic order.) 3/

9. Women, who constitute more than half the world's population and human resources must be fully involved in efforts to improve the quality of life and should have equal opportunity to participate actively in that process.

1/ Alternative formulations for consideration.

2/ Formulation included, but not discussed in the Drafting Committee - for consideration.

3/ Alternative formulations for consideration.

III

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

1. National Governments should assume the responsibility for establishing human settlement policies. Such policies must be an essential component of an over-all development strategy, linking and harmonizing it with policies on industrialization, agriculture, social welfare, and environmental and cultural preservation so that each supports the other in the promotion of national development.
2. A human settlement policy must seek to achieve the harmonious integration or co-ordination of a wide variety of components, including, for example, population growth and distribution, employment, shelter, physical and social services and infrastructure. Governments should ensure that mechanisms and institutions are created to develop and implement a settlement policy which is comprehensive.
3. The demographic characteristics of the contemporary world make necessary in many countries the adoption by Governments of policies related to the growth and distribution of population in order to orient the rural-urban migration, ensure planned urbanization, and minimize rural dispersion so as to achieve a balanced regional development.
4. Human settlement programmes should establish and progressively extend and raise standards for an acceptable quality of life and at the same time discourage conspicuous consumption with a view to making available scarce resources for a better and more equitable distribution. These standards will vary within and between countries, as well as over periods of time, and therefore must be regularly reviewed. Some standards are most appropriately defined in quantitative terms, thus providing precisely defined targets. Others must be qualitative, with their achievement subject to felt need.
5. Access to adequate shelter and services is a basic human right which places an obligation on Governments to help all people to achieve them, consistent with resources, and beginning with direct assistance to the least advantaged, including guided programmes of self-help. At the same time, Governments should endeavour to remove all impediments, which unnecessarily hinder attainment of these goals. Of special importance is the reduction and ultimate elimination of social segregation.
6. Health is an essential element in the proper development of human settlements. Accordingly, human settlement policies should ensure adequate provision of basic health services to all individuals.
7. Basic to human dignity is the right of people, individually and collectively to participate directly in shaping the policies and programmes that affect their lives. The process of choosing and carrying out a given course of

action on human settlement issues should be designed to fulfil that right. Government at all levels has the responsibility to provide channels for continuous interaction so that people can participate widely and effectively. Effective human settlement policies, in short, require a co-operative relationship between a Government and its people.

8. The most effective use possible must be made of all human resources, one of a nation's most important assets. Women must be enlisted equally with men, the unskilled with the skilled. To promote the mobilization of human resources Governments must provide training which should be co-ordinated with a technology that is appropriate to national, regional and local conditions, and provide adequate opportunities for productive employment.

9. Land must be recognized as an essential element in human settlements development, both urban and rural, because of its limited supply. This fact makes it necessary to recognize that the use and tenure of land should be subject to public control in the interest of social justice for the whole population. Legislation should be enacted to ensure that land is used in the public interest. Land use controls or other government measures should seek to capture for the benefit of society the value added to the land by public decision and investment. Governments should ensure that the invaluable resource of prime agricultural land is not diverted indiscriminately from its vital use in food production.

10. Harmonious development of human settlements requires the reduction of disparities between rural and urban areas, within urban areas themselves and between the regions. Human settlements are characterized by significant disparities of living standards and opportunities. Governments should therefore adopt policies which will tend to equalize the living standards and opportunities between urban and non-urban areas so that people may exercise a freer choice in their selection of habitat and style of life. Towards this end, Governments should attach great importance to adopting appropriate townplanning and architectural and engineering concepts and controls to improve the urban settlements. Governments should also evolve policies for rural development to increase the opportunities for a better, healthier and more comfortable living.

11. Diversity in the characteristics of settlements must be respected and encouraged. The limitless variety of human experience and aspiration is reflected in the forms of human settlements for which no single model can be conceived. It is therefore essential that there be respect for a diversity of settlement forms, whether they arise from historical tradition or from contemporary social experiment.

12. Cultural and aesthetic values embodied in settlements must be respected. A human settlement is not merely a grouping of people, shelters and work places, but also embodies cultural and aesthetic values as in areas of historical, religious or archaeological importance. These values and traditions must be preserved for the benefit of all.

13. The world's knowledge and experience in matters affecting human settlements must be available to all. Governments and the international community should

facilitate the transfer of relevant technology and experience and should encourage and assist the creation of endogenous technology, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

14. International co-operation should contribute to national efforts to improve the quality of life in human settlements by an expanded exchange of knowledge and experience, through co-operation and research, and by more effectively mobilizing resources. Valuable progress has already been achieved in articulating the principles that should govern international co-operation and development assistance. Some principles have been stated in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; others in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order; still others have emerged from previous United Nations conferences: the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972) the World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974), the United Nations World Food Conference (Rome, 1974) and the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975). The international community must constantly bear in mind/reaffirm these principles and, at the same time, seek new and more effective ways to support the self-reliant development of those societies that are struggling to meet the human settlement challenges facing them.

Annex IV

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL ACTION: BASIC LIST OF SUBHEADINGS

A. Settlement policies and strategies

1. National settlement policies
2. Settlement development strategies
3. National physical planning

B. Settlement planning

1. Hierarchy of planning
2. Regional planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Local planning:
 - (a) urban renewal
 - (b) urban expansion
 - (c) new towns
 - (d) towns in disaster prone areas
 - (e) rural settlements
 - (f) special groups
5. Neighbourhood planning
6. Planning and implementation procedures and instruments

C. Institutions and management

1. Hierarchy of institutions for policy planning and implementation
2. Institutions for different levels
3. Institutions for special cases
4. Development and use of human resources

D. Shelter infrastructure and services

1. Comprehensive approach to planning of shelter infrastructure and services
2. Requirements and standards for shelter infrastructure and services
3. Financial instruments for shelter infrastructure and services
4. Technological choices and their implications in shelter infrastructure and services
5. New dimensions in national housing policies
6. Squatter settlements
7. Construction industry
8. New dimensions in infrastructure policy:
 - (a) energy
 - (b) transportation and communication
 - (c) water supply and waste disposal
9. New dimensions in social services

E. Land

1. Land tenure and control
2. Land resource management
3. Valuation and taxation

F. Public participation

1. Role of public participation
2. Forms of public participation
3. Development of public awareness
