



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/750/Add.3
15 December 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin WALTER (Czechoslovakia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 12 (see A/43/750), at the 10th to 15th meetings on 11, 13 and 14 October 1988. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/43/SR.10-15).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.28

2. At its 40th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/43/L.28) transmitting the text of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 11/3 ^{1/} entitled "Use of the term 'settlements' in relation to Israeli colonies in occupied territories", which read as follows:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in four parts (see also A/43/750 and Add.1 and 2).

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/43/8), annex I, sect. A.

"The Commission on Human Settlements,

"Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 2/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 3/ adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

"Taking note of the various reports presented by the Executive Director,

"Noting the conceptual conflict between human settlements terminology and that used for Israeli settlements,

"Convinced of the colonial nature of the Israeli settlements,

"Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption at its forty-third session of the following draft resolution:

'The General Assembly,

'Noting the definition of the concept "human settlements" in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 2/

'Also noting the aggressive, inhuman and colonial nature of the Israeli settlements,

'Convinced of the conceptual differences between the two terms,

'1. Decides to use the term "Israeli colonies in occupied territories" instead of "Israeli settlements" in all United Nations documentation;

'2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the present resolution throughout the United Nations system and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council.'

2/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

3. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José U. Fernandes (Philippines), in which he informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on document A/C.2/43/L.28, the Committee decided not to take action on the draft resolution contained in that document.

B. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.30

4. At its 40th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee had before it a document (A/C.2/43/L.30), which contained a draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José U. Fernandes (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations held on Commission on Human Settlements resolution 11/1, 1/ entitled "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.30 without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution I).

C. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.4 and draft decision A/C.2/43/L.68

6. By its decision 42/432 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, decided to consider anew at its forty-third session the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", in light of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. The text of the draft resolution was before the Committee in a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/43/L.4). The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recalling its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which it, inter alia, established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recalling also its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, by which it, inter alia, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee,

"Recalling further its resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979, in which it, inter alia, requested certain actions and measures within the framework of the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee,

"Reaffirming that the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system is an integral part of the efforts required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation,

"Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1979/57 of 2 August 1979, concerning the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

"Recalling, in particular, paragraph 13 of the annex to its resolution 32/197,

"Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 7 of its resolution 34/212 of 19 December 1979,

"Bearing in mind its decision 34/453 of 19 December 1979,

"1. Notes with regret paragraph (a) of Economic and Social Council decision 1979/57, concerning the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

"2. Recognizes the imperative need to enable the General Assembly to focus its attention on the major global issues relating to development and international economic co-operation, and to deal with other issues on a less frequent basis;

"3. Recognizes also that expansion of the membership of the Economic and Social Council to include all States Members of the United Nations as full members would make the Council a more effective organ for carrying out the functions assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations and for discharging the responsibilities laid down in section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, as well as for assisting the Assembly as may be requested by it;

"4. Decides therefore to adopt, in accordance with Article 108 of the Charter, the following amendment to the Charter and to submit it for ratification by the States Members of the United Nations:

'Article 61

'1. The Economic and Social Council shall consist of all the States Members of the United Nations;

'2. Each member of the Economic and Social Council shall have one representative';

"5. Urges all Member States to ratify the above amendment in accordance with their respective constitutional processes as soon as possible and to deposit their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General;

"6. Decides to delete, as from the date of the entry into force of the above amendment, rules 145 and 146 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

"7. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should decide at its organisational session for 1981 that, as from 1981, its sessional committees should be open to the participation of all States as full members;

"8. Recommends further that, until the amendment to the Charter set out in paragraph 4 above enters into force, the consideration of all substantive questions should be entrusted by the Economic and Social Council to its sessional committees;

"9. Decides to discontinue the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

"10. Decides also that the General Assembly will be directly assisted by the Council in respect of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 4/ and accordingly requests the Council to make adequate time provisions to that end;

"11. Decides, in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 11 (d) of the annex to its resolution 32/197, that the preparation of all future ad hoc conferences in the economic and social fields will be directly assumed by the Economic and Social Council;

"12. Decides further not to establish, in future, subsidiary bodies for the purpose of undertaking functions of a permanent or ongoing nature, but to assign such functions to the Economic and Social Council, as provided for in Article 66, paragraph 3, of the Charter;

4/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

"13. Requests the Economic and Social Council to discontinue the Commission for Social Development, the Population Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Transnational Corporations, while retaining the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct until completion of its mandate;

"14. Requests the Economic and Social Council, in adopting its biennial programme of work for 1981 and 1982 at its organizational session for 1981, to make provision for the consideration of the following questions on the dates and at the venues indicated:

"1981

- "(a) Population questions, including review, as appropriate, of the World Population Plan of Action (New York, 26 January-4 February);
- "(b) Social development questions (Vienna, 9-19 February);
- "(c) Science and technology for development (New York, 16-20 March or 26 May-5 June);
- "(d) Preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (New York, 30 March-10 April);
- "(e) Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (New York, 14-17 April);
- "(f) Natural resources (New York, 27 April-5 May);
- "(g) Transnational corporations (New York, 18-28 May);
- "(h) Human rights and related questions (Geneva, May/June (10 days));
- "(i) Final session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (New York, 8-26 June);
- "(j) Economic programme and co-ordination questions 5/ (Geneva, 1-24 July);

5/ This session in 1981 will include, inter alia, the following questions, on the understanding that new adjustments will have to be made in the light of future decisions of the General Assembly regarding further rationalization of its work:

- (a) General debate on economic and social policy;
- (b) Regional co-operation;

"(k) Special economic and disaster relief assistance (New York, September (one week));

"1982

"(a) Questions relating to the status of women, including the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (Vienna, February/March (10 days));

"(b) Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (New York, April (one week));

"(c) Science and technology for development (New York, April (one week));

"(d) Human rights and related questions (New York, May (10 days));

"(e) Transnational corporations (New York, May (10 days));

"(f) Economic, programme and co-ordination questions (Geneva, July (four weeks));

"(g) Special economic and disaster relief assistance (New York, September (one week));

"15. Requests the Economic and Social Council, as part of the measures required to attain the purposes of the present resolution, to revise, as necessary, its rules of procedure in order to ensure the adequate functioning of the Council until the amendment to the Charter set out in paragraph 4 above enters into force;

(continued)

- (c) Operational activities;
- (d) Food;
- (e) Environment;
- (f) Industrial development;
- (g) Human settlements;
- (h) Co-operation and co-ordination of United Nations system activities;
- (i) Administrative matters: calendar etc.

"16. Recommends, in the context of the above, that the Economic and Social Council, at its organisational session for 1981 and thereafter, should elect, among representatives of the States Members of the United Nations, those who are to preside over each of the sessional committees when dealing with each question listed in paragraph 14 above; in the transitional period, those representatives would participate in the meetings of the Bureau of the Council, if they are not members thereof;

"17. Decides, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 34/212, that beginning in 1981, it will give consideration to the following questions in accordance with the schedule outlined and that, in the intervening years, the Economic and Social Council will give substantive consideration and action to those items in the context of its own programme of work:

- | | |
|--|---|
| "(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council | Annually; |
| "(b) Development and international economic co-operation | Annually, with the exception of the following subjects: 6/ |
| | "(a) International development strategy (once every two years, beginning in 1982); |
| | "(b) Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (once every five years, beginning in 1985); |
| | "(c) Science and technology for development (once every two years, beginning in 1981); |
| | "(d) Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (once every two years, beginning in 1981); |
| | "(e) Environment) once every
) two years, |
| | "(f) Human) beginning in
settlements) 1982; |
| "(c) Operational activities | Once every two years, beginning in 1982; |

6/ Based on the sub-items on the agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under item 61.

- "(d) Training and research Once every two years, beginning in 1981;
- "(e) Special economic and disaster relief assistance Once every two years, beginning in 1981;

"18. Decides also to give further consideration to the provisions outlined in paragraph 17 above, in the light of experience and in order to examine similar measures in respect of other relevant committees of the General Assembly, and requests the Economic and Social Council to formulate and submit recommendations in this regard;

"19. Decides further, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 34/212, to consider at its thirty-sixth session those questions on its agenda which could be assigned to the Economic and Social Council for final decision;

"20. Further requests the Economic and Social Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the provisions of those paragraphs addressed to it in the present resolution;

"21. Decides to review the implementation of the present resolution at its thirty-sixth session."

7. At the 45th meeting, on 30 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José U. Fernandez (Philippines), introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/43/L.68), entitled "Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", on the basis of informal consultations held on document A/C.2/43/L.4.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/43/L.68 without a vote (see para. 25, draft decision I).

9. In light of the adoption of the draft decision, the Committee decided that no action should be taken on document A/C.2/43/L.4.

D. Document A/C.2/43/L.2 and draft decisions A/C.2/43/L.58 and L.75

10. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 42/171 of 11 December 1987, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/43/L.2) containing the text of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/63 of 27 July 1988 entitled "Guidelines for international decades", the annex of which was recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The resolution read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, in which it adopted guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

"Noting General Assembly resolution 42/171 of 11 December 1987, in which the Assembly requested the Council to submit recommendations on guidelines for the designation of future international decades,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on guidelines for international decades, 7/

"Recommends that the General Assembly adopt the guidelines for international decades contained in the annex to the present resolution on the understanding that these guidelines are not intended to apply to United Nations development decades.

"ANNEX

"Guidelines for international decades

"A. Selection of subjects for and timing of international decades

"1. The subject proposed for a decade should be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter. It should be of priority concern in the political, economic, social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights field, and should require long-term action at the international or regional level and at the national level. Action on the subject should contribute to the development of international co-operation or the strengthening of universal peace.

"2. In areas where effective programmes already exist, international decades should be proclaimed only if they can be expected to produce results that would not otherwise be achieved.

"3. As a rule, overlapping of decades should be avoided. A new international decade should be initiated only if it is clear that the United Nations system has the substantive, administrative and financial capacity to play an effective role in the implementation of a programme for the decade.

"4. Before a new decade is proposed, consideration should be given to the possibility of an observance for a shorter period of time.

"B. Requirements for the proclamation of international decades

"5. Proposals for international decades should include a draft programme of action with well-defined objectives and activities to be carried out at the international, regional and national levels. The activities should be

designed to lead to clearly identifiable results. The draft programme of action should indicate the proposed organisational arrangements and modalities for financing, from both budgetary and extrabudgetary sources, as well as procedures for monitoring implementation. Provision should also be made for public information activities.

"6. The draft programme of action should indicate a lead agency or agencies for the decade and the mechanisms to be used for co-ordinating the activities of the organisations of the United Nations system, as well as those of the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations concerned.

"7. At the national level, the programme of action should provide for the establishment of national committees or other mechanisms to mobilize public support and carry out activities connected with the decade.

"C. Procedures for the proclamation of international decades

"8. Proposals for international decades should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council so that it may review the purpose and timing, drawing on the views of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and other intergovernmental bodies concerned.

"9. The General Assembly should proclaim an international decade after the proposal has been thoroughly reviewed by the intergovernmental bodies concerned and the views of all Member States and of the non-governmental organizations concerned have been taken into account. For this purpose there should be an interval of two years between the introduction of the proposal in the Economic and Social Council and the proclamation of the decade by the General Assembly.

"10. There should be sufficient time between the proclamation of the decade by the General Assembly and the start of the decade to allow for preparatory work at the international, regional and national levels.

"11. When a second decade on a particular subject is proposed, the following should be taken into consideration:

"(a) There should be a two-year preparatory period between the end of the first decade and the start of the second for drafting the programme of action for the second decade;

"(b) Steps should be taken to ensure that the expertise and experience acquired during the first decade are retained, in order to ensure the prompt implementation of activities once a second decade is launched;

"(c) The mid-term and end-term reviews of the first decade should be used as a baseline for the programme of action for the second decade;

"(d) A second decade should be proclaimed only if the objectives of the first decade have not been fully attained and if there are good prospects for attaining them, particularly in cases where projects or programmes of the first decade have reached an advanced stage of implementation.

"D. Review and appraisal of the implementation
of the programme of action of the decade

"12. The implementation of the programme of action of the decade should normally be reviewed by an appropriate intergovernmental body at the mid-point and end of the decade. When a world conference on the subject of an international decade is convened within the period of the decade, such a conference should serve, inter alia, as an instrument for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the programme of action of the decade."

11. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to documents A/C.2/43/L.60, L.61, L.62, L.63 and L.64 containing the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly on the guidelines, submitted by the Chairmen of the Main Committees in response to a request from the Chairman of the Second Committee.

12. At the 43rd meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/43/L.58) entitled "Guidelines for international decades", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly, noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/63 of 27 July 1988 entitled 'Guidelines for international decades', decides to transmit this resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session for consideration."

13. At the 46th meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José U. Fernandez (Philippines), introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/43/L.75) entitled "Guidelines for international decades", on the basis of informal consultations held on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.2 and draft decision A/C.2/43/L.58.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand made a statement (see A/C.2/43/SR.46).

15. At that meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/43/L.75 without a vote (see para. 25, draft decision II).

16. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Tunisia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) and Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries) made statements (see A/C.2/43/SR.46).

17. In light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/43/L.75, draft decision A/C.2/43/L.58 was withdrawn by the sponsors and the Committee decided that no action should be taken on document A/C.2/43/L.2.

E. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.29

18. At the 48th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José U. Fernandez (Philippines), introduced a document (A/C.2/43/L.29), which contained a draft resolution submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on resolution 11/2 of the Commission on Human Settlements, 1/ entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000".

19. At the same meeting, the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) and Tunisia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) made statements (see A/C.2/43/SR.48).

20. At that meeting, after a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee in which he informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/43/L.29, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution II).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Saudi Arabia made a statement (see A/C.2/43/SR.48).

22. At the 49th meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Tunisia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) made a statement (see A/C.2/43/SR.49).

F. Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

23. At its 48th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee adopted a draft decision on reports under the item on which no draft proposals had been submitted (see para. 25, draft decision III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

24. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Also recalling, in particular, the objectives of the Year as contained in its resolution 37/221,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: activities and achievements", g/ and the comments of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Economic and Social Council on that report,

1. Welcomes the success achieved in attaining the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the numerous and encouraging reports, which were received from a total of 130 countries as at 31 December 1987, on activities, policies, programmes and projects undertaken by those countries within the context of the Year and towards the successful attainment of its objectives;

3. Commends Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the efforts and resources that were effectively mobilized for the programme of activities for the Year;

4. Requests Governments to sustain the momentum generated during the programme for the Year and to continue implementing concrete and innovative programmes aimed at improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to assist Governments in their efforts towards that goal, within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; q/

g/ HS/C/11/2.

q/ A/43/8/Add.1.

6. Recommends that Governments indicate, if possible on World Habitat Day, the concrete actions to be taken and the specific targets to be achieved during each successive year;

7. Also recommends that Governments maintain, where appropriate, the national focal points and national committees for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless for the purpose of monitoring and assessing the progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly periodically informed, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976 ^{10/} and the recommendations for national action ^{11/} adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which, inter alia, the importance of the provision of basic shelter and infrastructure was stressed,

Recalling also its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Further recalling its resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987, in which it decided that there should be a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

^{10/} Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

^{11/} Ibid., chap. II.

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 12/

Recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 9/9 of 16 May 1986 13/ and 10/17 of 16 April 1987 14/ on the participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems,

Also recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolution 10/16 of 16 April 1987 14/ on the effect of the external debt of the developing countries and their ability to raise the funds needed to solve the housing problems of the homeless up to the year 2000,

Noting Commission on Human Settlements resolution 11/7 of 11 April 1988 15/ entitled "Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system",

Convinced that the continuous, co-ordinated and widely based efforts of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and individuals, when guided by an appropriate strategy, will reverse the alarming trends in the field of human settlements and produce clear and visible improvements in the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000, and that this should be a global responsibility,

Encouraged by action already taken or being taken in many countries to prepare national shelter strategies and to adopt other measures that will promote achievement of the goal of shelter for all,

Recognizing that, despite such efforts, more than one billion people have shelter unfit for human habitation, that this number will increase dramatically, partly as a result of population and urbanization trends, and that determined measures must be taken aimed at profiting from these trends, rather than being penalized by them,

12/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

13/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/41/8), annex I, sect. A.

14/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/42/8 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

15/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/43/8), annex I, sect. A.

Also recognizing that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless has confirmed the need to intensify national and international efforts to produce, deliver and improve shelter for all, with specific emphasis on the poor and disadvantaged,

Convinced that shelter problems are universal and that no country has yet completely met its shelter needs, but that every country can profit from the experience of others,

Also convinced that shelter problems are a global concern that requires solutions that should relate to other global problems and that also require the efforts of all countries to reach such solutions, that the demand for shelter in each country can be met by applying a set of common principles, but that goals can only be met by the individual efforts of each Government acting in its own political, economic, social and cultural context,

Recognizing that the core of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 ^{16/} consists of integrated national shelter strategies that need to be based on a full understanding of the scale and nature of the problem and the national resource base available to address the problem,

Recognizing further that national shelter strategies need to contain four complementary parts: clear and measurable objectives; national mobilization and distribution of financial resources; promotion of shelter production and improvement with special reference to the management of land, the supply of infrastructure and encouragement of the use of appropriate building materials and technology; and the gradual reorganization of the shelter sector,

1. **Adopts** the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. **Decides** that the main objective of the Strategy is to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000, that the main focus should therefore be on improving the situation of the disadvantaged and the poor, and that the following fundamental objectives and principles should form the basis of the Strategy:

(a) Enabling policies, whereby the full potential and resources of all governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of human settlements are utilized, must be at the heart of national and international efforts;

(b) Women, as income-earners, home-makers and heads of households, and women's organizations fulfil a crucial role as contributors to the solution of human settlements problems, which should be fully recognized and reflected in equal participation of women in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects, and that the specific interests and capabilities of

women should be adequately represented in human settlements policy formulation and in government mechanisms employed at all levels for the implementation of housing policies, programmes and projects;

(c) Shelter and development are mutually supportive and interdependent, and policies must be developed in full recognition of the important links between shelter and economic development;

(d) The concept of sustainable development implies that shelter provision and urban development must be reconcilable with a sustainable management of the environment;

3. Designates the Commission on Human Settlements to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the secretariat for the Strategy and the lead agency for co-ordinating and monitoring the relevant programmes and activities of other United Nations organizations and agencies concerned;

4. Urges Governments to develop appropriate national and sub-national strategies for shelter in the light of the guidelines provided in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000" ^{17/} and regularly to report to the Commission on Human Settlements, beginning at its twelfth session, on their relevant experience and progress in implementing those strategies;

5. Requests the Executive Director to monitor and subsequently to report to the Commission, beginning at its thirteenth session, on the relevant global experience and progress of all countries in implementing the Strategy;

6. Decides to review and clarify the Strategy on a biennial basis, within regular budgetary resources, with the assistance of experts selected on the basis of equitable geographic representation, and to revise the Strategy in the light of global and national experience from all regions and subregions;

7. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements, as the body designated to co-ordinate implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the General Assembly on progress made in its implementation;

8. Also requests the Commission to strengthen, within existing resources, its role in regard to the promotion of innovative measures by which bilateral and multilateral financial institutions may support the shelter strategies of developing countries, for example, by way of suitably devised loan agreements that would lead to the building up of national revolving funds for shelter;

^{17/} HS/C/11/3. See also the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/43/8/Add.1).

9. Requests financial institutions and creditor countries, as one of the conditions for the success of the Strategy, to consider immediate measures to reduce the external debts by their conversion into long-term loans;

10. Adopts the guidelines for steps to be taken at the national and international levels, as set out in the annex to the present resolution, in support of the guidelines for national and international action contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 16/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/191;

11. Calls upon all States and others in a position to do so to make generous contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.

ANNEX

I. GUIDELINES FOR STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Considerations for Governments when formulating a national shelter strategy

1. A national shelter strategy must spell out clear operational objectives for the development of shelter conditions both in terms of the construction of new housing and the upgrading and maintenance of existing housing stock and infrastructure and services.
2. In the definition of those objectives, development of shelter should be seen as a process whereby conditions are gradually improved for both men and women. The objectives need to address the scale of the problem, while the "adequate" standard aimed at should be identified on the basis of an analysis of the standards and options affordable to the target population and society at large. The objectives should be based on a comprehensive view of the magnitude and nature of the problem and of the available resource base, including the potential contribution of men and women. In addition to finance, land, manpower and institutions, building materials and technology also have to be considered irrespective of whether they are held by the public or private, formal or informal sector.
3. The objectives of the shelter sector need to be linked to the goals of overall economic policy, social policy, settlement policy and environmental policy.
4. The strategy needs to outline the action through which the objectives can be met. In an enabling strategy actions such as the provision of infrastructure may mean the direct involvement of the public sector in shelter construction. The objective of "facilitating adequate shelter for all" also implies that direct government support should mainly be allocated to the most needy population groups.

5. The public sector is responsible for developing and implementing measures for national shelter policies and for the adoption of measures to stimulate the desired action by other sectors. This can happen through measures in areas such as the locally based small-scale building-materials industry, appropriate financial schemes or training programmes.

6. Another important component is the development of administrative, institutional and legislative tasks that are the direct responsibility of the Government, e.g., land registration and regulation of construction.

7. An analysis of affordability will provide the criteria for defining the right priorities and appropriate approaches and standards for public sector involvement. Likewise, such an analysis gives the criteria for planning the indirect involvement of the public sector, that is, the type of activities to be promoted and the appropriate way of going about it.

8. The appropriate institutional framework for the implementation of a strategy must be identified, which may require much institutional reorganization. Each agency involved must have a clear understanding of its role within the overall organisational framework and of the tasks expected of it. Mechanisms for the co-ordination of inter- and intra-agency activities need to be developed. Mechanisms such as shelter coalitions are recommended and may be developed in partnership with the private and non-governmental sectors. Finally, arrangements for the continuous monitoring, review and revision of the strategy must be developed.

B. Steps to be taken by Governments when implementing a national strategy

9. Organize work for the preparation of the strategy. For instance, a task force may be appointed for the actual work and a steering committee ensuring high-level political commitment set up to guide its work. Alternatively it may be possible to use existing mechanisms. Equal participation of women should be ensured at all levels.

10. Assess needs and resources. Estimates are required of the needs in housing construction and in upgrading and maintenance (including housing-related infrastructure), as well as of the resources that can be mobilized over the period to the year 2000 to cover those needs.

11. Analyse shelter options and standards that are affordable by the target groups and society at large, taking into account both the scale of need and all the resources available - finance, land, manpower and institutions, building materials and technology.

12. Set objectives for the construction of new housing and for the upgrading and maintenance of the existing housing stock in terms both of the scale of the activities and of the housing standards to be met.

13. Identify action through which those objectives can be realistically met. The estimated required resources for this action must not exceed those that can be made available by society. The action includes both direct government involvement and measures needed to encourage, facilitate and integrate active participation of other sectors in shelter delivery.

14. Prepare a plan of action in consultation and partnership with non-governmental organizations, people and their representatives, which:

(a) Lists the activities that are the direct responsibility of the public sector;

(b) Lists the activities to be taken to facilitate and encourage the other actors to carry out their part of the task;

(c) Outlines resource allocation to the aforementioned activities;

(d) Outlines the institutional arrangements for the implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and review of the strategy;

(e) Outlines a schedule for the activities of the various agencies.

II. GUIDELINES FOR STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

15. International action will be necessary to support the activities of countries in their endeavour to improve the housing situation of their poor and disadvantaged inhabitants. Such assistance should support national programmes and use know-how available locally and within the international community.

16. The goal of external assistance should be to enhance and support national capabilities to develop and implement national action components of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

17. Mutual co-operation and exchange of information and expertise between developing countries in human settlement work stimulate and enrich national human settlement work.

18. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will act as the co-ordinating agency in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, on the basis of biennial plans to be drawn up with the involvement of experts working with Governments and the Centre on a regional and subregional basis.

19. As the co-ordinating agency for the Strategy, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will stimulate international and national action by incorporating the Strategy in its future medium-term plans and biennial work programmes.

20. An inter-agency-level working arrangement will be made within the existing budget to provide continuous co-ordination of the Strategy.

21. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will prepare a reporting format to facilitate monitoring by the Commission on Human Settlements of progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Strategy.

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25. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The General Assembly decides to refer the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" 18/ to its forty-fifth session, to be considered in the context of the review of the implementation of all aspects of Assembly resolution 32/197, in accordance with section VI of Assembly decision 37/442 of 20 December 1982.

DRAFT DECISION II

Guidelines for international decades

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 42/171 of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Economic and Social Council to submit recommendations on guidelines for the designation of future international decades, taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, in which the Council adopted guidelines for international years and anniversaries, and also taking note of Council resolution 1983/63 of 27 July 1988, in which the Council proposed guidelines for international decades for consideration by the Assembly, and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on guidelines for international decades, 19/ decides to refer this issue to the Council in 1989 for further consideration as appropriate, with a view to enabling the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session to consider and take the appropriate action on guidelines for international decades.

18/ A/C.2/43/L.4. For the printed text, see decision 35/439, annex.

19/ E/1988/58 and Corr.1

DRAFT DECISION III

Documents relating to the report of the Economic
and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communication Decade in Africa; 20/
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award; 21/
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on indigenous entrepreneurs in economic development; 22/
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General on Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. 23/

20/ A/43/325-E/1988/54.

21/ A/43/336.

22/ A/43/360-E/1988/63.

23/ A/43/432-E/1988/68.