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Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. As noted in paragraph 8 of document A/31/156/Add.2, the present units in the United Nations which would comprise the secretariat of the proposed Habitat institutional unit are found in section III of the annex to Habitat resolution 1. As stated in paragraph 18 (d) of the annex, the new unit would include

"As appropriate, selected posts and associated resources from relevant parts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs".

2. Eight posts are provided for under this subheading in the table appearing as annex II of document A/31/156/Add.2, on the basis of the information contained in paragraph 33 of annex I of document A/CONF.70/6. This annex, entitled "Institutional Arrangements for Human Settlements: a proposal submitted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs", was considered by the Conference under item 11 of its agenda. In the same paragraph 33, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs indicated that the staff of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning would be incorporated into the new institutional unit.

3. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has now stated that the reference to eight posts in its proposal submitted at Vancouver should be taken to mean an expression in terms of departmental input of approximately 100 work months or 8 work years in relation to human settlements. It regards the 100 work months as a composite of time devoted by staff members representing various percentages of their total time and cannot be separated from the other work done by those staff members. The Department further points out that the actual transfer of staff to a new institution would make it impossible for various parts of the Department to execute present or planned work programming.

4. It should be noted that annex II of document A/31/156/Add.2, which also contains a reservation in foot-note (b) in relation to the United Nations Environment Programme, nevertheless provides the best estimate of the quantity and location of the human resources now being devoted by the United Nations to human settlements activities.
