



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/406
15 July 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fortieth session
Item 84 (h) of the preliminary list*

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 7	3
II. PROGRESS TO JUNE 1984	8 - 16	5
A. Intergovernmental	8 - 13	5
B. International	14 - 16	6
III. PROGRESS TO JUNE 1985	17 - 33	7
A. Intergovernmental	17 - 20	7
B. International	21 - 26	9
C. National	27 - 28	10
D. Inter-Agency	29 - 31	11
E. Information	32	12
F. Voluntary contributions	33	13

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
IV. CONCLUSIONS	34 - 35	13
<u>Annexes</u>		
I. Programme		15
II. Voluntary contributions		16

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, by which it proclaimed 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the International Year. The objectives before and during the Year would be to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by 1987, particularly in the developing countries according to national priorities, and to demonstrate ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000.

2. The General Assembly had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/527) which outlined the problems and issues to be addressed in the field of human settlements in the context of the International Year. The Assembly noted that, despite the many recommendations and continued national and international efforts since the 1976 Conference on Human Settlements, 1/ the overall conditions of shelter and related infrastructure and services for millions of poor families in the developing world and for a substantial number of families in many developed countries continued to deteriorate. Apart from absolute homelessness there were large numbers who found shelter in conditions of squalor and congestion, lacked basic services such as safe water and sanitation, continued to suffer from high rates of infant mortality and a high incidence of disease. The shelters of the poor were constructed on marginal lands often exposed to natural disasters and to other environmental hazards. It was also noted that the poor had inadequate access to public transportation, building materials, and technical and organizational skills.

3. The Secretary-General's report identified the following major goals for specific focus:

(a) Ensuring renewed political priority and commitment to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged;

(b) Consolidating the additional knowledge and practical experience which has been gained since the 1976 Conference on Human Settlements so that policy-makers and project managers have a full range of operational alternatives for improving the shelter and neighbours of the poor and disadvantaged;

(c) Developing and demonstrating new approaches and methods as a basis for new national policies and programmes for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000.

4. In order to achieve these goals Member States were urged to:

(a) Review and assess the needs and aspirations of the poor with respect to dwellings which provide security and protection from the elements and disease;

(b) Adopt and implement new and innovative human settlements policies and programmes;

(c) Develop and implement demonstration projects and specific training programmes;

(d) Develop or strengthen appropriate legislation, institutional arrangements and management capacities in the field of human settlements;

(e) Strengthen the capacity of the poor and disadvantaged to participate in the shaping of their own living environment by, for example, improving their access to administrative and basic services;

(f) Develop and disseminate action-oriented information;

(g) Generate the necessary resources within countries as well as through technical co-operation with and among developing countries.

5. The General Assembly endorsed the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the objectives and major organizational matters concerning the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It also recommended that the Commission should review annually the objectives, strategies and criteria for the International Year and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

6. In his report to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly entitled "Implementation of the Programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless" (A/38/233 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General outlined actions undertaken by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixth session, held at Helsinki from 25 April to 6 May 1983. It was noted that the Commission had agreed that, in order to achieve the stated goals, a distinctive and innovative approach was required, beginning with a commitment by Member States to obtain practical results in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of at least some of the poor before the International Year. Since most of the actions and resources would be required at the national and local levels, it was agreed that a major part of the limited funds for the International Year should be used to support and stimulate national and local action through demonstration projects. Moreover, the information programme should concentrate not on publicizing problems, but rather on supporting the search for solutions and making successful results more widely known. With the modest budget of \$US 4.9 million proposed for the five-year period from 1983 to 1987 to support this action-oriented programme, it was noted that the Commission had agreed that the International Year, if it were to be effective, would have to use a strategic and economical approach. Notably, the Commission had decided that the funds would not be used for a major global conference. The emphasis before, during and after the International Year would be on shelter and neighbourhoods rather than on conventional houses and on affordable improvements for many rather than on major improvements for a few. Further, the Commission decided that since the other major resource available is the time and effort of the people themselves, the priority need would therefore be to find and demonstrate new ways and means of helping the poor directly in their efforts to improve their shelter and neighbourhoods through demonstration projects around the world. Priority attention would also be given to new kinds of practical information and training projects directly related to self-help construction and improvements and to making extensive and effective use

of local skills, methods and building materials. Activities of the International Year would also be related directly to the main goals of national economic and social development plans in each country.

7. In sum, at its sixth session, the Commission agreed that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 1987 would be an end in itself and also a crucial transition phase between an intensive search for solutions and the extensive application of them. The present report is in response to General Assembly resolution 39/171.

II. PROGRESS TO JUNE 1984

A. Intergovernmental

8. At its seventh session, held at Libreville from 30 April to 11 May 1984, the Commission on Human Settlements discussed the progress of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The Commission had before it the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year (HS/C/7/5), a list of countries that had designated national focal points for the Year (HS/C/7/Inf.8 and HS/C/7/Inf.8/Add.1), the Guidelines for projects (HS/C/7/Inf.9), a report on the status of voluntary contributions to the Year (HS/C/7/Inf.5) and a report on national plans, priorities and activities for the Year (HS/C/7/Inf.11 and HS/C/7/Inf.11/Add.1). A concise overview and schedule was also before the Commission to show the sequence of relationships between the major activities for the International Year leading up to 1987. A copy of the overview and schedule is annexed to the present report.

9. All delegations reaffirmed their support for the objectives of the International Year, noting that it provided a unique opportunity to focus world attention on the persistent and growing shelter and settlements needs of the homeless, the poor and the disadvantaged. Many delegations provided a concise overview of their national programmes for the International Year. It was noted that in nearly all cases the nominated national focal points were ministries or agencies with substantive responsibilities for the provision of shelter. Many focal points were supported by national committees for the International Year consisting of representatives of ministries or agencies with responsibilities for social and economic development. In some countries, participation had also been expanded to include non-governmental organizations. Many countries outlined a range of completed, ongoing and new projects which were related to activities for the Year. The types of projects identified include upgrading of inner-city housing, the provision of shelter through mass housing; self-help and site services; upgrading of village infrastructure, squatter settlements and unplanned developments; water supply and sanitation, drafting of legislation to adapt existing building codes and regulations to meet basic minimum standards, to improve land supply and to ensure security of land occupancy tenure; institutional improvements leading to better co-ordination and decentralization; and training programmes with special emphasis on development of basic and medium skills.

10. Several specific suggestions were offered to improve planned activities for the International Year: research to ensure comparability in the evaluation of national monographs and projects for the Year; emphasis on research at the policy level; the need for activities relating to the Year to be reflected in all elements of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) programme; the mobilization of governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, bodies and agencies in an "IYSH movement", and greater encouragement to the involvement of non-governmental organizations in activities for the Year, both nationally and internationally.

11. The Commission agreed that for 1987 itself to be a significant period of transition and renewal at the national level the following four major reporting goals will need to be achieved by the end of 1986:

(a) Projects: implement and report on the results of a significant number of projects around the world;

(b) National assessment reports: countries to complete and issue a report on their shelter and settlement conditions and prospects and priorities for action to the year 2000;

(c) Policy and technical options: complete and distribute widely a series of reports which consolidate and present concisely the results of IYSH projects and activities;

(d) Shelter and national economic and social development: prepare and issue an authoritative report.

12. The Commission agreed that, taken together, these reports would provide national policy-makers and others concerned about the improvement of shelter and settlements with the basis and practical options for revising or developing new strategies, and policies and programmes during 1987 aimed at improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000.

13. The Commission called upon national Governments that have not yet done so to make voluntary contributions to the budget, designate official focal points, establish procedures for monitoring and reporting on the progress of projects, initiate shelter and settlements assessments of prospects and priorities for action to the year 2000, implement information campaigns and provide a progress report to the Commission. The Commission also called upon international agencies to support the International Year in various ways: contributions to the budget, identification and support of projects for the Year, technical and other assistance to implement projects, support to training and in the dissemination of information.

B. International

14. An IYSH brochure as well as guidelines and criteria for the identification and selection of IYSH projects were distributed to Governments, United Nations and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations by the UNCHS

(Habitat). Contact had been made with many multilateral and bilateral agencies for initiating a review of their existing or planned projects which could be adopted or adapted as IYSH projects and the UNCHS roster of experts had been updated to incorporate information on expertise that may be required to provide technical support for IYSH projects.

15. Meetings and consultations exclusively on the IYSH programme and preparatory work were held with the following United Nations organizations: Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activity, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization and World Bank. All United Nations organizations and specialized agencies agreed to identify ongoing and proposed projects which meet the guidelines and criteria of the International Year and which may be designated as national projects. Many organizations also expressed their willingness to provide support to countries, on request, in preparing project monographs and in assessing their national shelter and settlement policies. UNDP requested all resident co-ordinators and representatives to support countries in the development and implementation of their IYSH programmes and all organizations and agencies offered space in their information bulletins, newsletters and journals to publicize the International Year.

16. Meetings and consultations on the International Year were also held with representatives of the following international non-governmental organizations; CARE, Habitat International Council, Help the Aged, International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Real Estate Federation (FIABC) and the International Union of Architects.

III. PROGRESS TO JUNE 1985

A. Intergovernmental

17. At its eighth session, held at Kingston, from 29 April to 10 May 1985, the Commission on Human Settlements discussed further progress made in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The Commission had before it the report of the Executive Director on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (HS/C/8/4), the information strategy for the International Year (HS/C/8/4/Add.1), a report on the geographical and substantive coverage of projects for the Year, (HS/C/8/4/Add.2), a status report on the voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (HS/C/8/Inf.5), a list of national focal points designated for the International Year (HS/C/8/Inf.10), a list of projects submitted by a number of Governments and other agencies (HS/C/8/Inf.12/Add.1 and 2) and a progress report on plans and activities of United Nations agencies and organizations (HS/C/8/Inf.13).

18. All delegations reaffirmed their support for the objectives and the programme devised for the International Year and stressed the opportunity it provided to focus local, national and international attention on the persistent and growing

needs of the homeless, poor and disadvantaged for shelter and settlement. Many noted the increased attention that is being given to the role of shelter and settlements policies as a key instrument in the pursuit of economic and social development objectives through national activities for the International Year. Most delegations provided a more detailed overview of their national programmes for the International Year and the structures that had been established for their implementation. In many countries, the national focal points were supported by a national committee consisting of representatives of ministries and agencies having responsibilities for economic development. In some countries, participation had been expanded to include the private sector, professional groups and trade unions as well as non-governmental organizations and interest groups. Several delegations noted measures that had been taken to ensure active participation and support at the sub-national and community levels. A number of countries provided an overview of their shelter needs, ongoing shelter programmes and recent initiatives in policy, programmes and projects, including special information activities which form an integral part of their national programmes for the International Year. Several countries once again outlined a range of completed, ongoing and new projects which had been designated as projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. In addition to the designation of projects, many delegations expressed the view that the International Year had given a new impetus to a wide range of initiatives, particularly in the field of information, research, training and co-operation between the public and private sectors. Several delegations noted that the International Year was being used to define better the types and numbers of the homeless, poor and disadvantaged within countries while others, noting that homelessness did not constitute a problem in their countries because housing was provided and continuously improved for all the citizens as a constitutional right, were using the International Year to focus on upgrading housing conditions. Some delegations noted that the goals of the International Year could only be achieved in a climate of lasting peace and reduction in expenditure on armaments and that the resolution of shelter and human settlement issues required the restructuring of international relations on a just and equitable basis within a new international economic order based on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

19. In its resolution on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the Commission on Human Settlements recognized that an estimated one quarter of the world's population do not have adequate shelter and live in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions and that the programme for the Year provides a timely and unique opportunity for countries to review their shelter and settlements prospects and priorities and to develop, before or during 1987, new national policies and strategies aimed at providing and improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000.

20. The Commission called upon those countries that have not done so to establish official focal points for the International Year, formulate national programmes and projects for the International Year and give special attention to policies and strategies to the year 2000. The Commission also appealed to Governments and international agencies to support the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in various ways including contributions to its budget and financial assistance to specific projects and activities for the Year.

B. International

21. In the field of international co-operation many activities of the International Year have been undertaken by developed countries in co-operation with developing countries. In addition to field projects to improve shelter and neighbourhoods for the poor, the activities include the application of models for the assessment of shelter needs, the provision of experts on a wide range of issues and training courses as well as financial and logistic support for subregional seminars.
22. With respect to projects for the International Year, UNCHS developed a system for classifying and monitoring them and it was used to identify their substantive and geographical coverage. Although there is fair geographical representation from all parts of the world, there is room for better coverage. In the course of 1985 and 1986, UNCHS will continue to maintain contact with Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to expand the inventory of projects for the Year. UNCHS will put together more information about these projects in order to identify the ones that require more detailed documentation. UNCHS (Habitat) will also produce and distribute a limited number of monographs on projects for the Year and will encourage Governments and other agencies to produce monographs on experiences relevant to the Year. The Habitat International Council (HIC), with UNCHS support, has catalogued over 250 projects by non-governmental organizations from around the world which are relevant to the International Year.
23. One approach for sharing experience and for the dissemination of information on the International Year and which is receiving growing support from Governments consists in subregional meetings, seminars and consultations. The first subregional meeting took place in Lusaka, Zambia, in March 1985 for the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). In addition to exchanging experiences and ideas with respect to national action programmes for the Year, the meeting considered specific issues common to the subregion and considered methodologies for assessing shelter needs and the formulation of shelter strategies and programmes. Among the specific issues discussed by SADCC countries was the possibility of using the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to stimulate and support the preparation of data sheets appropriate to self-help shelter and infrastructure in the subregion. The second subregional meeting was held in June in Papua New Guinea for the countries in the Pacific region. Other planned meetings on a subregional basis are being discussed by UNCHS for countries in West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, Northern Africa, West Asia, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The typical agenda for these meetings will cover national plans and projects for the Year, national shelter assessments, and information strategy as well as specific shelter issues. Other meetings which have been held and related in the International Year were "Shelter for All" organized by the African Union of Architects at Yaounde; a Seminar on Research Needs and Priorities for Low Cost Technology, organized by Lund University; an International Shelter Conference, organized by the National Association of Realtors etc. in Washington D.C.; Strategies for Urban Renewal, organized by the International New Towns Association at Rotterdam; Dwellings for Humanity, organized by the Japan Association for the International Exposition 1985 at Tsukuba; the European Round Table Meeting on Housing Construction, organized by the Consortium of Building Workers Unions in Helsinki; and, a round-table discussion in Stockholm on The Future of Third World Cities.

24. Several state of the art reports relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless have been issued by UNCHS. Among these were publications on human settlements' policies and institutions, community participation, the construction industry and guidelines for the preparation of shelter programmes. The latter was prepared in co-operation with the Government of Finland and is being widely used for national shelter assessments in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Similarly, a USAID model to assist in the assessment of shelter needs and the preparation of shelter strategies has been made available and tested in a number of countries.

25. A number of policy papers are under preparation by the UNCHS with the intent of demonstrating to the macro-development decision-makers and their advisers, particularly those of developing nations and aid agencies, that investments in shelter, infrastructure and settlements in general need not and should not be perceived as unproductive in economic terms but as fundamental to national development. Indeed, the main purpose of the papers will be to demonstrate that such investments can be a major development opportunity in terms of generating employment, industrial development, capital formation and social stability, without the need for massive increases in government expenditure.

26. In addition to the above, UNCHS has developed a series of reference sheets for national action to assist national focal points promote the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and to assist in the design and implementation of a national programme of action. The series will be expanded during 1985. A logo poster for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in all official languages has been produced and widely distributed to national focal points, non-governmental organizations and other bodies throughout the United Nations system. A substantive poster depicting a family's search for a home has also been widely distributed. Progress reports on the International Year have become a regular feature in Habitat News, the newsletter of UNCHS. In addition, the first issue of the International Year Bulletin has been introduced and others are planned for publication every three to four months.

C. National

27. As far as national action is concerned, as of 31 May 1985 a total of 120 IYSH national focal points had been officially designated in 96 developing countries and 24 developed countries. Several countries have notified the UNCHS of formal national organization structures to guide and support an IYSH national programme of action. These include India, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates. India, the Netherlands and Nigeria have held national meetings to develop a detailed national action programme and initiate the preparation of shelter strategies to the year 2000. Twenty-one countries submitted written progress reports to the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements while 40 countries presented oral reports on national action.

28. As at 31 May 1985 a total of 170 projects for the International Year had been identified in 60 countries. While there is a large number of projects addressing

issues in shelter and services per se, there is a paucity of projects in the more critical areas of policy, legislation and institutional change. It is also noted that there are insufficient examples of successful projects addressing problems of land, finance, building materials, transportation and employment. Although there was a number of schemes in water supply and sanitation, these are not on a scale which would confirm feasibility in servicing large communities of low-income people. Furthermore, important issues like solid waste disposal, maintenance of infrastructure and services have not figured in the projects designated for the International Year. It is also noted that a significant number of countries have not as yet designated projects for the Year and that others have yet to submit complete information on their projects. Project Information Sheets and supporting documents are needed for the UNCHS monitoring system and are essential if the full benefit from the programme is to be realized. Governments and agencies are also urged to carry out project assessments or evaluations so that the experience from these projects can be widely disseminated in a concise and well focused manner.

D. Inter-Agency

29. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was an agenda item at the October 1984 and April 1985 meetings of the United Nations Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters). It was agreed that all United Nations agencies, including the regional commissions, would provide the UNCHS with a copy of their current and 1986-1987 work programmes, so annotated as to indicate those elements which are or could be relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It was also agreed that each agency would identify at least one project to be designated as a project for the International Year and would indicate how each intended to use its information programme to promote the Year. As of 31 May 1985, 11 agencies and organizations had responded to the request of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters).

30. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities has identified certain activities relevant to work programme and objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It has also planned a conference on population and small and medium-size cities in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held at Mexico City in November 1985 as well as an International Conference on Urbanization, to be held in Madrid in 1986. The World Food Programme has also identified activities relevant to the International Year and is willing to provide food assistance to Governments on request, for any project relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports about 150 projects which are relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. In addition, meetings have been held with a number of UNDP resident representatives or co-ordinators and several have been active in promoting the International Year. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) identified a number of activities in their current work programme relevant to the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. UNIDO has also designated two projects specifically for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and has in addition, planned certain activities relating to the International Year in the areas of building materials and the construction industry. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) is considering a number of training and research activities within the framework of the International Year. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has designated specific projects for the International Year and has planned a number of activities which are relevant to the goals of the Year. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has also identified activities and projects of interest to the International Year in its current work programme. The World Health Organization has also identified a number of activities relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in its present and future work programme.

31. Most of the economic commissions have identified activities related to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. In September 1984, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations University (UNU) sponsored a conference of Latin American Mayors which focused mainly on self-help shelter and infrastructure. ECLA has nominated three projects from its 1984-1985 work programme as being relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and has also identified a number of projects in its 1986-1987 work programme for the same purpose. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has similarly identified 13 projects in 1984-1985 as being of particular relevance to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Project Information Sheets have been submitted on two projects designated for the International Year. ESCAP has also identified eight outputs in its proposed work programme for the biennium 1986-1987 as being of particular relevance to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and will feature shelter as the main human settlements theme at its next session. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has agreed to exchange information on national and international programmes initiated by ECE countries in preparation for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless at its Housing Committee's 1985 and 1986 sessions. It has also identified four projects in its work programme for 1984-1989 as being relevant to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

E. Information

32. With regard to information, the strategy developed by UNCHS to assist organizations and interest groups in determining what will be their contributions to the information programme for the Year and how they expect to benefit from it was considered at the eighth session of the Commission. The extent to which all are prepared to take responsibility for the production and dissemination of information will determine the scale and success of the programme. In effect, the strategy is an umbrella for the series of information plans that must be developed individually by various organizations and interest groups. The information strategy for the Year involves three major types of information, namely general information, policy information and technical information. In order to generate renewed political commitment on the part of the international community to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, greater awareness of the shelter issues must be promoted. General information describing the nature of the issue will have to be disseminated to the public on a broad scale. This type of information can serve to inform the public as to why it was considered necessary to designate 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the need for a meaningful and long-term commitment to resolving the shelter issues. Another

expected result of the programme for the International Year will be the wide distribution of information on the policy aspects of the shelter issues. Information materials will need to clarify socio-economic issues in shelter, its link to related subject areas in such a way that they can be useful to development ministries and aid agencies. Again, a major feature of the International Year is to document and disseminate information on construction techniques, methodologies and approaches for helping the homeless, the poor and disadvantaged construct their shelter and neighbourhoods. This type of information will be of a technical nature and of use to those involved in programme and project execution. A number of organizations will have to be involved in the IYSH information network. In addition to the UNCHS these include the United Nations system, Governments and national focal points, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional societies, international NGOs, bilateral development co-operation agencies, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions.

F. Voluntary contributions

33. Of the \$US 4.9 million budget required to fund the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless over the period 1984 to 1987, \$4.3 million is expected from voluntary contributions. As at 31 May 1985 official pledges of voluntary contributions for the programme of the International Year totalled nearly \$2.5 million and had been made by 31 developing countries and five developed countries. A chart showing the IYSH pledges as at 31 May is reproduced in annex II to the present report. In his statement to the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Executive Director of the UNCHS (Habitat) stressed that, unless pledges are received to ensure receipt of the nearly \$2 million still required in voluntary contributions, UNCHS may not be able to implement fully the approved programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

34. As at April-May 1985 when the Commission on Human Settlements took stock of the overall progress of activities for the International Year, there was optimism in relation to the immediate objectives of the Year, although there was concern about the feasibility of meeting the objective of securing an improvement in the shelter and neighbourhoods of all the poor within a specified time frame. This concern arose partly from an awareness of the economic crises that have plagued most developing countries throughout the last decade, thus draining resources for all but the most critical sectors of their economies, and secondly from the sheer magnitude and complexity of the problem. Overall however, there remains considerable optimism stemming from the known disposition and resilience of the mass of the urban and rural poor who, in every continent, have displayed remarkable enterprise, skills and energy to cope with the problems of living space, basic services, transportation and employment. This spirit of enterprise, energy and disposition to self-help among the poor and disadvantaged has been appropriately recognized by the Commission on Human Settlements and the General Assembly as a major resource for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. This spirit

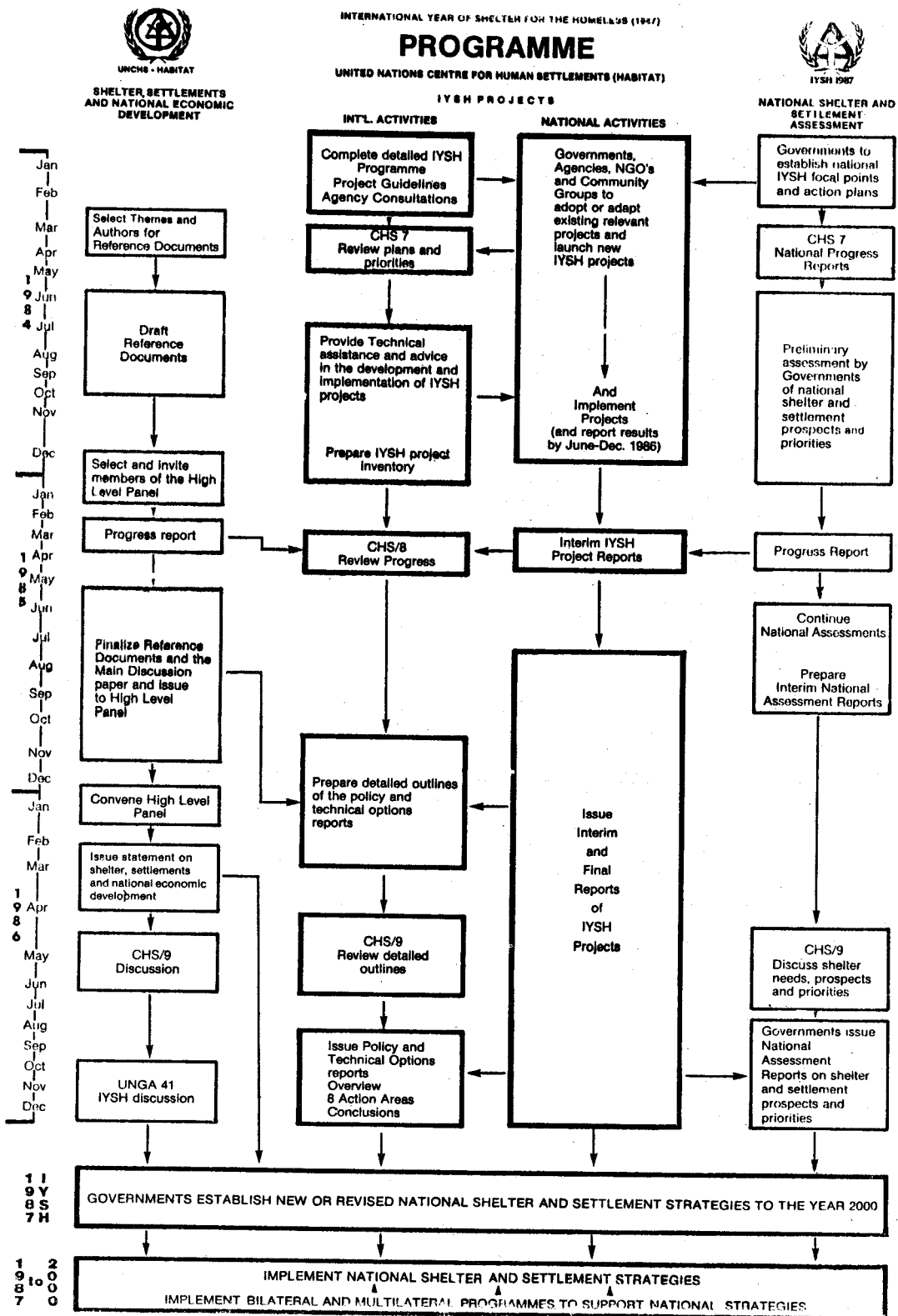
of self-help manifested in a variety of projects being carried out with little or no outside assistance by people and communities everywhere, is a beacon of hope in an otherwise difficult situation in most developing countries. The message of these successful experiences need to be disseminated in the context of the IYSH programme for the International Year. The role of Governments as facilitators of these remarkable initiatives of ordinary people is being increasingly recognized and advocated.

35. The challenge of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless is addressed to all the actors in the shelter process, from national development and aid decision-makers to community groups in squatter settlements. The results of the last two years give us reason to believe that all these actors are responding, albeit in different degrees, to the challenge of the IYSH programme. However there are still areas of concern. Shelter and settlement issues, particularly those of developing countries, are still too frequently perceived by development ministries and aid agencies as peripheral to the development process, whereas for most countries they represent a major development opportunity in terms of capital formation, employment generation and socio-political stability. Secondly, it would appear that many intergovernmental agencies have not sufficiently seized the opportunity provided by the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to demonstrate in their substantive and information activities, the indispensable role of shelter and decent living conditions for the achievement of objectives in such fields as health improvement, poverty alleviation, environmental protection and the like. Thirdly, the paucity of voluntary contributions for the IYSH programme from the developed nations remains a source of deep concern.

Notes

1/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7, and corrigendum Chap. II.

ANNEX I



ANNEX II

Status of pledges for the International Year of Shelter
for the Homeless as at 31 May 1985

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total pledges</u> (in United States dollars)
1. Botswana	13 000
2. Burma	1 000
3. Burundi	6 000
4. Cameroon	10 638
5. Canada	246 000
6. Chile	5 000
7. Cyprus	2 000
8. Egypt	5 000
9. Fiji	10 000
10. Finland	88 830
11. Greece	20 000
12. Gabon	30 000
13. India	100 000
14. Indonesia	20 000
15. Jamaica	9 500
16. Jordan	15 000
17. Kenya	100 000
18. Lesotho	3 000
19. Malawi	25 000
20. Netherlands	250 000
21. Nigeria	100 000
22. Pakistan	38 500
23. Papua New Guinea	17 952
24. Philippines	100 000
25. Saudi Arabia	100 000
26. Sierra Leone	5 000
27. Sri Lanka	1 000 000
28. Sudan	5 000

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total pledges</u> (in United States dollars)
29. Swaziland	2 000
30. Sweden	111 200
31. Thailand	1 000
32. Tunisia	7 000
33. Turkey	30 000
34. Uganda	3 000
35. Zambia	2 000
36. Zimbabwe	8 695
	<u>2 491 315</u>