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## PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997\*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENTProgramme 22. Human settlements

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\* The present document contains programme 22 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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## PROGRAMME 22. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

### A. Programme

#### 1. General orientation

22.1 The issue of human settlements provides a co-ordinating framework for the assessment of social, economic and physical needs and for a balanced allocation of resources for national development. This pivotal role of human settlements in national development, especially for the developing countries, has been increasingly brought to the attention of governmental policy-makers and administrators, international organizations, and training and research institutions. Indeed, sound management of rural and urban settlements can be the vehicle for overcoming many of the economic problems faced by developing countries. Even though a large number of countries have increased their attention to human settlements issues in recent years, the improvements achieved do not match the scale of the problems, partly owing to the continued application of outmoded approaches to the many critical aspects of human settlements. The most important of these are outlined below:

(a) Over 1 billion people live in inadequate shelter conditions whose improvement requires the concerted efforts of Member States and the international community, based on new approaches and undertaken on a scale never before attempted;

(b) Growing urbanization, requiring a better understanding of the role of cities in national development by Governments, policy-makers and the aid community;

(c) Inadequate policies and practices for the management of settlements of all sizes, from large urban agglomerations to small towns and rural centres, which are unable to provide the efficient base required for economic growth or to forestall social disruptions arising out of increasing poverty, inadequate shelter and services and poor health;

(d) Inadequate use of potential and resources - human, technical and financial - of a large number of actors in human settlements development, such as the private sector, community-based and non-governmental organizations and women's groups; and

(e) Inadequate use of indigenous natural resources, particularly those useful for producing affordable building materials.

22.2 The medium-term plan for human settlements for the period 1992-1997, in addressing these issues, takes into account all the relevant mandates of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Settlements. The most important of these are: the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 1/ designed to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000; the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/ which sets out various aspects of human settlements development in which women should be fully involved; the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade designed to improve infrastructural standards fundamental to human settlements programmes over the coming decade; the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 3/ in particular, the application of renewable-energy inputs to the production of building materials and to the

construction and operation of buildings; and the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000. 4/

## 2. Overall strategy

22.3 To address these issues, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will undertake technical research on substantive issues, prepare training curricula and training materials, publish and disseminate information, and undertake technical and other co-operation with member Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutions and specialized agencies in activities designed to meet programme objectives. Within the United Nations system, it is envisaged that collaboration will continue with the World Health Organization (WHO) on health aspects of human settlements, with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on employment in the human settlements sector, with the World Bank on urban management and training, with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the development of indigenous building materials and with other agencies executing programme elements relevant to the human settlements sector. It is expected that Member Governments will significantly increase their human settlements efforts as part of their commitment to implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

22.4 The development of human settlements is a multidisciplinary and intersectoral activity, and human settlements management is linked to all programmes of economic, social and physical improvement.

22.5 Co-ordination on human settlements programmes has been covered by the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Programme Co-ordination (E/AC.51/1989/8). Co-operation and co-ordination of the activities within the United Nations system are to begin from the planning and programming stage to ensure complementarity and effective co-ordination.

## 3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

22.6 Based on the above orientation, the human settlements programme has been divided into the following eight subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Global issues and strategies

Subprogramme 2: National policies and instruments

Subprogramme 3: Integrated settlements management

Subprogramme 4: Financial resources

Subprogramme 5: Land management

Subprogramme 6: Infrastructure development and operation

Subprogramme 7: Housing production

Subprogramme 8: Construction sector

22.7 Subprogramme 2, national policies and instruments, will have high priority, it being understood that this does not imply that subprogramme 1, global issues and strategies, can be seen in isolation from subprogramme 2. Subprogramme 5, land management, will have low priority.

## B. Subprogrammes

### SUBPROGRAMME 1. GLOBAL ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

#### (a) Objectives

22.8 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181.

22.9 One of the main responsibilities of Habitat is to ensure harmonization at the intersecretariat level of human settlements programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system, and to assist the Commission on Human Settlements in co-ordinating human settlements activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness. The experience of 10 years' work on human settlements policy formulation and analysis has confirmed that human settlements and their accelerating development through population growth and urbanization are a high-priority global challenge and a growing concern for national and international policy-makers. Moreover, the future of human settlements is inextricably linked to other global development issues - conditions of trade, population growth, employment characteristics, technology transfer, environmental protection, the policies and impact of international aid and development agencies - and the strategies devised to deal with each of these issues.

22.10 It is expected that the global human settlements trends identified during the previous medium-term plan period will continue. In the developed regions, countries will have to deal with problems similar to those which have made themselves felt in the last part of the 1980s - aging population, disparities in quality and availability of housing, services and employment in different regions, environmental pollution and marginalization of underprivileged groups. It is likely, however, that the continuation of economic growth in industrialized countries and the increasing demand for an improved and sustainable quality of life will prompt policies and investments to address problems with more vigour than in the 1980s and bring about a general improvement of human settlements. In developing countries, trends suggest that the early 1990s will witness limited improvements in certain countries, with an overall deterioration of the quality of life in the urban and rural areas of the great majority of countries, due to continuing population growth, growing shelter demand, lack of sound settlement management and unjustifiably low priority to public and private investment in human settlements.

22.11 The objective of this subprogramme is therefore to identify and respond to global human settlements trends, particularly as they affect economic and social change in developing countries.

#### (b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.12 The Secretariat plans to underline the importance of these issues and their global character through sustained emphasis on, first, the primary importance of

urbanization and its potential, with international support, for improving incomes, living conditions and the use of space and resources in both urban and rural regions, and, secondly, the necessity to replace national policies based on dependence on external aid, rigid controls and top-down provision of settlement infrastructure and shelter to the few with an enabling approach based on the mobilization of the human and financial resources of the private and community sectors and the recognition of the right of low-income groups to multiply their options for access to low-cost shelter. These changes will be pursued through intensified co-operation with multilateral agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, increased contacts and co-operation with bilateral donors and stepped-up co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and its Urban Affairs Programme. The framework for this strategic approach will be the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, an undertaking which will require close co-ordination and co-operation by all agencies at national and international levels. Progress in this direction will be monitored and evaluated through regular progress reports to the Commission on Human Settlements on the Global Strategy and on co-operation with and among developing countries on human settlements. It is expected that Habitat will thereby be established as a full partner of all global and sectoral development agencies on the grounds of its unique responsibilities and experience in human settlements development and on the strength of the impact of human settlements on the quality and sustainability of life.

## SUBPROGRAMME 2. NATIONAL POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS

### (a) Objectives

22.13 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and United Nations Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 12/14 and 12/22.

22.14 Experience over the previous medium-term plan period shows that the main constraint to human settlements development, particularly in developing countries, is not only the absence of an explicit national human settlements policy but also the lack of its internal integration with policies and strategies in other sectors, the lack of appropriate implementation mechanisms and the lack of consistency between objectives and programmes. It is expected that partly owing to the constraints mentioned above, the capacity of national Governments in most developing countries to cope with settlements management and with dramatically rising quantitative and qualitative demands for shelter and basic infrastructure will be put to an increasingly severe test. This situation will be compounded by the scale of the challenge and by the tendency for national policies to be based on optimistic expectations rather than on innovative options and hitherto neglected resources.

22.15 The objectives of this subprogramme are therefore to:

(a) Integrate national settlements policies with overall development policies and set up implementation mechanisms for human settlements programmes;

(b) Assist Member Governments in eliminating policy and programme constraints, with particular reference to the implementation of the Global Strategy

for Shelter to the Year 2000, which is based on an integrated concept of shelter and human settlements development and the mobilization and involvement of all sectors of the economy.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.16 These objectives will be pursued through technical co-operation, research, training and information dissemination, which will focus on:

- (a) Integration of national socio-economic and human settlements planning;
- (b) Integration of national population and human settlements planning, with specific emphasis on population-distribution strategies;
- (c) Improvement of national implementation instruments, within the framework of an enabling approach, and streamlining of legislation;
- (d) Improvement of national institutional arrangements, with specific emphasis on measures supporting local governments and all non-governmental actors in the human settlements development process;
- (e) Strengthening of institutional capacity through national and international training programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. INTEGRATED SETTLEMENTS MANAGEMENT

(a) Objectives

22.17 The legislative authority of this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 11/7, 8/9 and 9/9.

22.18 Many industrialized countries, despite massive progress in economic growth and productivity and in improvement of living conditions for the vast majority of their populations, are experiencing some of the classic side-effects of growth: environmental degradation, traffic congestion, inadequacy of some essential services and housing shortages. These are not insurmountable problems, given the resources available and the prominence of these issues on the political agendas of most industrialized countries. Much more disturbing is the surfacing of the same problems in the rapidly growing settlements - large and small - of the developing countries, which manage, at best, to cope with only a fraction of the demand for the basic components of human settlements development on an ad hoc and haphazard basis. Yet the future price to be paid for unplanned settlement development in the developing countries is such that settlements management is not an option but an imperative for the decade ahead. The problem is to meet, in a coherent technical way, the quantitative and qualitative demand for land, infrastructure, services and housing required for decent living, social well-being and economic output.

22.19 More specifically, the objectives of this subprogramme are to:

- (a) Manage human settlements so as to maximize productive output and provide acceptable living conditions for all population groups, with special attention to the needs of women, of the poor and of other disadvantaged elements;

(b) Support Governments in achieving responsive, participatory administration, efficient service delivery, effective transport provisions, adequate access to open space and recreational facilities and healthy environments.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.20 These objectives will be pursued through technical co-operation, research, training and information dissemination, which will focus on:

(a) Metropolitan management: Improvement of planning systems and techniques, of implementation performance, of operation and maintenance of metropolitan systems, and of metropolitan administration;

(b) Secondary-centre management: Improvement of planning systems, of implementation programmes and performance, of operation and maintenance, and of municipal administrative practice;

(i) Subnational-systems management for predominantly rural regions: Improvement of planning systems and techniques, of implementation performance and of the functioning of local authorities;

(ii) Human resources development: Carrying out of training-needs assessments, development of training curricula and materials, testing of training methods and improvement of training programmes in all skills related to settlement management, with special emphasis on the provision of equal opportunity for women in management of metropolitan and secondary centres and rural regions.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

(a) Objectives

22.21 The legislative authority of this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 12/14, 11/17 and 11/12 and decision 10/24.

22.22 Providing the financial resources needed for investment has, in the past, proved to be one of the main bottle-necks to human settlements development. Efforts to mobilize financial resources in the private and public sectors have not been able to yield the volume required. While this failure is closely linked to the overall performance of economic development, which, in recent years, has been hampered by deteriorating terms of trade and by the burden of international debt on the developing countries, problems of insufficient development of financial institutions, inefficient systems of resource allocation and, in the public sector, lack of cost recovery and utilization of potential sources have contributed to the inadequacy of human settlements investment.

22.23 The objectives of this subprogramme are therefore to:

(a) Mobilize resources for human settlements development and establish financial systems in such a way that the flow of financial resources is assured on a sustainable and equitable basis, bearing in mind the special needs of low-income groups, women, etc.;



(b) Formulate and promote the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 with regard to financing shelter, infrastructure and services, with particular emphasis on the needs of low-income communities and households in urban and rural areas. Research objectives are to develop strategies for the development of financial systems, for improving cost recovery in the public sector and for allocating resources efficiently (1995); to monitor and evaluate development of financial systems and their responsiveness to the needs of low-income groups in developing countries (1997); to develop training materials and to assist in improving the skills of personnel concerned with managing financial resources for human settlements development (1997).

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.24 These objectives will be pursued through technical co-operation, research and information activities, which will focus on:

(a) Resource mobilization: Mobilization of financial resources deals with the public and the private sectors. Efforts will focus primarily on the identification of revenue potential at national and local levels, on analysis of taxation and subsidy systems and on means of recovering costs of human settlements investment. A second concern will be the mobilization of savings, with emphasis on the untapped savings potential of low-income groups and the informal sector. The Secretariat will, therefore, collect information and prepare case studies in developing countries on systems of local-government financing of human settlements investment, on financial-management practices and on subsidy systems which reach various target groups. After analysis and evaluation, the findings will be published for general dissemination and integrated in the development of training material. Similarly, information on innovative approaches to mobilizing the savings of low-income groups will be collected, analysed and made available to relevant institutions. The role of shelter-finance systems in contributing to the development of financial systems and to financial penetration of societies in developing countries, will be studied, to gain an understanding of links and impacts and to provide a basis for governmental action on innovative mechanisms and appropriate regulatory frameworks;

(b) Resource management: The Secretariat will address problems of resource management in the public sector, where inefficiencies in budgeting and control are still pervasive. The thrust of the Global Strategy for Shelter is to create an enabling environment for shelter development, by streamlining operations of local government in human settlements development and improving its ability to deliver infrastructure and services for the poor. Many countries have created public funds based on mandatory saving schemes or earmarked tax revenues which have, so far, not been able to fulfil their objective of improving the human settlements conditions of low-income groups. Management of such funds, their links to the shelter-delivery system and their impact on savings behaviour and on capital markets need to be understood. The Secretariat will, therefore, collect information and prepare case studies in developing countries on sound management of local-government finances, on efficient practices for management of public funds and on systems to reach various target groups. After analysis and evaluation, the findings will be published for general dissemination and integrated in the development of training materials;

(c) Financial institutions: The impact on access to housing for low-income groups of specialized shelter-finance institutions, which have been set up by many

countries, has so far remained very limited. Similarly, specialized institutions for financing infrastructure investment have failed to improve delivery of services to the poor. Problems are frequently caused by an institutional and regulatory framework which was set up under development strategies that are no longer valid. The Secretariat will collect information on effective institutional set-ups and on principles that guide sound development of financing institutions, with special reference to the need to reach all target groups. Particular attention will be paid to community-based finance institutions, to promote local financial services and to tap the savings potential of low-income groups. After analysis and evaluation, the findings will be published for general dissemination, and guidelines will be prepared for the development of a regulatory framework that is responsive to the financing needs of low-income groups.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 5. LAND MANAGEMENT

##### (a) Objectives

22.25 The legislative mandate for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 12/22, 11/17 and 10/12.

22.26 Land and land management will continue to be important issues in all countries, regardless of their level of development. Land scarcity and land prices, particularly in intensely developed regions and in metropolitan areas, will continue to be a primary issue. Nevertheless, mature economies can count on an established range of instruments to address such problems and will be favoured by very slow population growth and mobility rates. Many developing countries will be confronted with similar problems, varying in scale, but all of them will have to make available and develop enormous quantities of land in a context of extremely high population growth and mobility, high urbanization rates and persisting weaknesses in national policy instruments and land-management capacity.

22.27 The objectives of the subprogramme are therefore to:

(a) Devise land-management systems that will ensure an adequate, affordable supply of land to meet all settlements functions, with particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged groups, including women;

(b) Assist member Governments in exploiting the land asset in settlements development, particularly in rapidly growing urban settlements.

##### (b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.28 These objectives will be pursued through research work, which will focus on the following issues:

(a) Land supply: Identification and application of procedures to improve the operation of land markets and to promote land-supply systems capable of meeting the large-scale needs of present and future settlements, drawing on the capacities of the public, private and community sectors;

(b) Land instruments: Development and operation of all legislative and administrative systems required for the management of land-supply systems, including land-registration, land-transaction and property-taxation procedures

needed for the efficient functioning of land markets and the generation of revenues.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 6. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION

##### (a) Objectives

22.29 The legislative mandate for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/169, 35/18 and 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolution 12/15.

22.30 Water supply and sanitation are the first expressed priorities of poor communities. While some progress has been made in identifying and promoting the use of low-cost technologies for water supply and sanitation, much still needs to be done. Particular emphasis and attention must be given to technologies appropriate for high-density, low-income urban settlements where problems are critical and available solutions limited. Basic services, such as water supply, sanitation, refuse disposal and surface drainage, need to be provided in an integrated manner to optimize investments in infrastructure.

22.31 Ongoing research points to the need to enhance concerted settlement-planning, land-use and transport-development policies. These should aim at reducing growth of traffic demand and at providing for expansion of transport services at low per-capita investment and operating costs so that services are affordable to the bulk of the population.

22.32 Developing countries face an acute shortage of various forms of energy required to install and operate settlement infrastructure. Furthermore, large-scale use of biomass, specially by rural and peri-urban populations, unable to afford alternative sources of energy, is having a disastrous ecological effect.

22.33 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are to:

(a) Provide infrastructural facilities to meet the expanding need for serviced land;

(b) Provide developing-country Governments with information and tools for increased basic-service coverage in their countries, especially for disadvantaged groups, such as women.

##### (b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.34 These objectives will be pursued through research and technical co-operation activities which will focus on three issues:

(a) Water-supply and sanitation services: During the previous medium-term plan period, efforts were made to increase the real value of resources available for extending drinking-water supply and sanitation coverage, by identifying and promoting low-cost technologies for these services. However, the coverage of water supply and sanitation in developing countries will have, at best, only managed to keep pace with population increase, except in rural water-supply coverage, which will have increased globally by over 50 per cent. A continuing goal will be the reduction in the per-capita (unit) cost of basic infrastructure, through the identification and promotion of low-cost technologies and standards (1997);

additional goals will include the promotion of cost-effective techniques for maintaining infrastructural stock and the promotion of efficiency in services provision and maintenance through public/private partnerships, informal-sector involvement and improved revenue generation and management (1996);

(b) Transport: A comprehensive analysis and evaluation of different transport modes in developing countries will have been developed during the previous plan period. Interdependence between transport modes and development patterns will be investigated on the basis of empirical studies, and guidelines on planning transport infrastructure will be formulated for implementation by Governments (1996);

(c) Energy: New and renewable energy sources, such as biogas and solar, should start having an impact on energy supply, especially in rural areas. Energy conservation in buildings will be an established policy in many developing countries. Research and empirical studies will establish the parameters required to improve energy-supply processes in urban and rural areas. Emphasis will be given to the application of proven new and renewable energy sources and to the provision of energy supply to rural women (1996).

The dissemination of research findings during the current medium-term plan will be improved by taking advantage of various forms of communications, such as the production of audio-visual materials and seminars or workshops.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 7. HOUSING PRODUCTION

##### (a) Objectives

22.35 The legislative mandate of this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 12/14, 10/12 and 9/9.

22.36 The world-wide problem of inadequate housing, particularly as regards the conditions of low-income households, defies the capacity of most Governments to deal with it by conventional means. Efforts are needed by Governments, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local communities, to support the provision of acceptable housing at affordable costs, in pursuit of the general goal of adequate shelter for all by the year 2000. Inadequate housing conditions, particularly as concerns the needs of low-income groups in developing countries, result from the limited capacity of conventional programmes to produce affordable units at the required scale and the continuing problem of widespread poverty. Knowledge of and experience with the application of shelter strategies has increased, and the goal of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is to mobilize a broad range of measures in support of housing production.

22.37 More specifically, the objectives of this subprogramme are to:

(a) Put in place systems of housing delivery which are capable of addressing the housing problem at the required national scale and at costs affordable to households and society;

(b) Formulate and promote the implementation of enabling shelter strategies within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, with

particular emphasis on contributing, through technical co-operation, research, training and dissemination of information, to solving the housing problem of the poor in developing countries. For this purpose, enabling shelter strategies, expressed through forms of collaboration and participation among all concerned institutions, organizations and communities, require the formulation and testing of appropriate and innovative management procedures.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.38 To pursue the above objectives, the strategy will be one of collection, evaluation and dissemination of experiences with workable housing-development programmes. The assessment of experiences through the analysis of case studies, will focus on the workability of solutions: (a) on a large scale; (b) with minimal administrative control; and (c) based on co-operative forms of participation with and between communities, non-governmental organizations and the formal and informal private sector. Special attention will be given to research on housing production by the poorest groups, including women, which do not have sufficient income to offer effective demand for the formal housing market. Elements of the strategy will include the review and evaluation of housing-production systems, with a view to identifying support measures for enhanced production. Attention will be given to the problem of delivering housing at affordable costs and to the capacity of the formal and informal housing markets to meet the needs of low-income groups. Special emphasis will be given to the application of solutions which support the self-help efforts of communities and the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

22.39 Mainly through case studies, information on such experiences will be collected and analysed (1993); an in-depth assessment of the potential for application at national scales will be made, including an assessment of the transferability of experiences with enabling shelter strategies (1995); and dissemination of experiences of workable and cost-effective housing-development programmes will be done through and publication of case studies, organization of workshops and seminars and provision of advisory services to Governments (1997).

SUBPROGRAMME 8. CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

(a) Objectives

22.40 The legislative mandate for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/181; and from Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 12/22, 10/12 and 9/10 and decision 10/24.

22.41 In many developing countries, despite the proven opportunities to develop an efficient indigenous construction industry, this sector still operates with severe limitations, with a high dependence on expensive, imported and, often, inappropriate factor inputs, regulatory instruments and institutional set-ups, so that the most basic demands are not fulfilled. Worse still, the contributions of the sector to national economic growth have not yet been realized.

22.42 The objectives of the subprogramme are therefore to:

(a) Attain adequate capacity for the construction sector to meet the requirements for physical infrastructure, housing and related facilities within national resource limitations;

(b) Promote and co-ordinate programmes to overcome barriers confronting the construction sector, notably, weak institutional and legislative support for the construction sector, inadequate local skills, over-reliance on imported factor inputs and technologies, and inability to mobilize local resource endowments for the development of an indigenous construction sector.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

22.43 These objectives will be pursued through research, technical co-operation and information activities which will focus on:

(a) Building materials: By the end of the previous medium-term plan period, activities in relation to the subprogramme should have strengthened the network of countries collaborating in the field of local building materials and technologies, and a framework should have been set for establishing demonstration projects in appropriate production technologies for selected local building materials. Approaches to effective transfer of technology for production of local building materials and a shift towards attaining local technological capacity should have been well rehearsed, thus paving the way for country-specific projects to be implemented. Innovations for the formulation and promotion of standards for selected local building materials, which were demonstrated in three countries, should have been popularized and replicated in several other countries. Some measures in the previous medium-term plan will continue to be applied, though with a shift in emphasis, notably:

- (i) Demonstration projects on transfer of technology for production of selected local building materials will be replicated (1995);
- (ii) Programmes will be carried out to strengthen national technological capacity to deal with key aspects of local building materials production (1996);
- (iii) The network of countries collaborating in the field of local building materials and technologies will be expanded, with a target of achieving universal participation among developing countries, as well as a shift from information exchange to collaboration in actual implementation of specific field activities (1997).

In both items (i) and (ii) above, the shift in emphasis will be on increased involvement of the private sector, both in the production cycle and end-use of building materials.

(b) Construction industry: By the end of the previous medium-term plan period, programmes in relation to the construction industry should have disseminated information on strategies and policies to guide Governments in restructuring the entire construction sector. Specific components of the construction sector should have been tackled in detail, notably development of the construction sector in response to the needs for low-income housing and infrastructure, reformulation of regulatory instruments of the construction sector and strengthening of local capacity to tackle the lack of building maintenance. Under the current medium-term plan, the following will be undertaken:

- (i) Programmes to improve the data base for planning the construction sector, including simple computer software applications, will be established (1993);
- (ii) Data will be compiled on appropriate plant, equipment and tools for the construction sector to provide countries with an informed choice of correct hardware (1997);
- (iii) Local manpower will be upgraded and new skills promoted in several aspects of building materials production, building construction techniques, institutional support and management of the construction sector (1997).

#### Notes

1/ See General Assembly resolution 43/181, and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/43/8/Add.1).

2/ 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.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

4/ World Health Assembly resolution WHA34.36.

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