



Eighteenth session
Nairobi, 12-16 February 2001
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA, INCLUDING
ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

Opening of the session

1. The eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 February 2001, by the Chair of the Commission at its seventeenth session, or, in his absence, by one of the other officers of the Commission at its seventeenth session.

Item 1. Election of officers

2. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Commission will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. The geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Commission is shown in annex II below.

Documentation

Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work (HS/C/18/1/Add.1: paragraphs 2 and 3 of annex III) - for decision

Item 2. Credentials

3. Under rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the credentials of representatives must be submitted to the Executive Director at the latest before the end of the first meeting of the session of the Commission. The Bureau must then examine such credentials and report on them without delay to the

* HS/C/18/1.

Commission.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. Under this item the Commission will adopt its agenda for the eighteenth session and thereafter decide on the organization of work for the session. The provisional agenda was approved by the Commission at its seventeenth session, held in Nairobi from 5 to 14 May 1999. A note by the Executive Director proposing an organizational structure and timetable for the eighteenth session appears below in annex III and annex IV respectively.

5. Attention is drawn to the fact that, in pursuance of Commission resolution 8/8 of 8 May 1985, provision has been made for a pledging meeting in the plenary on Tuesday, 13 February 2001, for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the work of the Centre (see annex III, paragraph 14).

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (HS/C/18/1) - for decision

Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work (HS/C/18/1/Add.1) - for decision

State of preparedness of documents for the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session as at 18 December 2000 (HS/C/18/INF/1) - for information

List of documents before the Commission (HS/C/INF/2) - for information

Item 4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director

6. Under this item, the Executive Director will report to the Commission on, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Centre's mandate and work programme, the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session, and on the global report on human settlements.

Documentation

Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/2) - for decision

Housing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/2/Add.1) - for decision

Operational activities report, 2000: note by the secretariat (HS/C/18/INF/3) - for information

Item 5. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

7. Under this item the Executive Director will report to the Commission on the implementation of the three substantive areas of the Habitat Agenda identified by the Commission at its seventeenth session.

Documentation

Local implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the role of the local authorities: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/3) - for decision

Consultations on the effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations

and networks: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/3/Add.1) - for decision

International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (HS/C/18/4): report of the Executive Director - for decision

Lessons learned from best practices and partnerships in the achievement of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world (HS/C/18/5): report of the Executive Director - for decision

Item 6. Special themes

8. In its decision 17/24 of 14 May 1999, the Commission decided that it would, at its eighteenth session, consider the following two themes: security of tenure and urban governance. Under this item, therefore, the Commission will have for its consideration the reports of the Executive Director on these two special themes.

Documentation

Security of tenure: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/6) - for decision

Urban governance: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/7) - for decision

Item 7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 2002 - 2003 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2002 - 2003

9. The work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) is synchronized with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations as a whole. Consequently, the current 2000-2001 work programme will end on 31 December 2001. Accordingly, the Executive Director will submit to the Commission for its consideration at its eighteenth session a draft work programme and programme budget for the biennium 2002 - 2003.

Documentation

Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 2002 - 2003: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/8) - for decision

Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2002-2003: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/9) - for decision

Proposed budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (HS/C/18/9/Add.1) - for information

Financial matters: Use of extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the 2000-2001 period: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/9/Add.2) - for decision

Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 2002-2003: note by the secretariat (HS/C/18/BD/1) - for information

United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 and report of the Board of Auditors: note by the secretariat (HS/C/18/BD/2) - for information

Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 30 November 2000: note by the secretariat (HS/C/18/INF/4) - for information

Item 8. Coordination matters.

- (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;
- (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

10. The Commission, in its resolution 8/14 of 8 May 1985, and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its decision 13/12 of 23 May 1985, decided to include in their respective agendas for future sessions an item on cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP, and to discuss the item on the basis of a progress report prepared jointly by the Executive Directors of the two organizations. Accordingly, under this item, the Commission will have before it the report that has been prepared jointly by UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP as called for in the above-mentioned resolution and decision.

11. In pursuance of its resolution 11/7 of 11 April 1988, entitled "Coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system", and General Assembly resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979, entitled "Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international cooperation and assistance on human settlements", the Commission will also have before it, for its consideration, a report by the Executive Director on cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

12. Under this item, the Commission will also be apprised of relevant matters arising out of the decisions of major legislative organs of the United Nations, particularly the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly, and other relevant intergovernmental bodies, since the seventeenth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/10) - for decision

Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/11) - for decision

Matters arising out of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies that are brought to the attention of the Commission: note by the secretariat (HS/C/18/12) - for decision

Item 9. Themes for the nineteenth and future sessions of the Commission

13. Under this item, the Commission will consider the report of the Executive Director containing proposals and preliminary outlines of the themes that could be considered by the Commission at its nineteenth and future sessions.

Documentation

Themes for the nineteenth and future sessions of the Commission: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/13) - for decision

Item 10. Other matters

14. Under this item, the Commission will consider matters which, although not covered under any particular agenda item, are believed to merit its attention.

Item 11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the nineteenth session of the Commission

Under this item, the Commission will adopt a provisional agenda for its nineteenth session and decide on the date and other arrangements for that session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the nineteenth session of the Commission (HS/C/18/15)
(to be prepared in-session) - for decision

Item 12. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. In accordance with paragraph 6, section II, of General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, the Commission will adopt the report on the work of its eighteenth session for submission to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Item 13. Closure of the session

Annex I

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(Membership in 2001)*

(58 members)

African States (16)

Algeria (2003)
Benin (2003)
Cameroon (2002)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2002)
Gabon (2002)
Gambia (2002)
Guinea (2004)
Kenya (2003)
Madagascar (2004)
Mali (2002)
Morocco (2003)
Senegal (2002)
Uganda (2003)

3 vacancies**

Asian States (13)

China (2004)
India (2003)
Iran, Islamic Republic of (2002)
Iraq (2004)
Japan (2002)
Jordan (2003)
Malaysia (2003)
Pakistan (2002)
Philippines (2003)
Sri Lanka (2003)
United Arab Emirates (2004)
Viet Nam (2002)

1 vacancy**

Latin American and Caribbean States (10)

Argentina (2002)
Barbados (2003)
Bolivia (2002)
Brazil (2002)
Chile (2002)
Colombia (2003)
Jamaica (2004)
Mexico (2003)

2 vacancies**

Eastern European States (6)

Croatia (2003)
Czech Republic (2003)
Lithuania (2002)
Republic of Moldova (2004)
Russian Federation (2002)
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2004)

Western European and other States (13)

Austria (2004)
Finland (2002)
France (2004)
Germany (2003)
Greece (2003)
Italy (2004)
Norway (2003)
Spain (2003)
Sweden (2004)
Turkey (2002)
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland (2002)
United States of America (2002)

1 vacancy**

* Information received from the Economic and Social Council as at 5 May 2000.

Note: Membership expires on 31 December of the year indicated.

** Elections to the vacant seats are scheduled to take place in New York on 18 October 2000 at the resumed session of the Economic and Social Council.

Annex II**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS ELECTED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS
OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

Year	Session of the Commission	Chair	Vice-Chair	Rapporteur
1978	First	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Eastern European States (Poland) Latin American States (Mexico)	Asian States (Philippines)
1979	Second	African States (Kenya)	Asian States (Pakistan) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1980	Third	Latin American States (Mexico)	African States (Nigeria) Asian States (Iraq) Eastern European States (USSR)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1981	Fourth	Asian States (Philippines)	African States (Lesotho) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (Federal Republic of Germany)	Latin American States (Jamaica)
1982	Fifth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Latin American States (Jamaica) Western European and other States (Canada)	African States (Egypt)
1983	Sixth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European and other States (Bulgaria) Latin American States (Argentina)	Asian States (Bangladesh)
1984	Seventh	African States (Gabon)	Asian States (India) Latin American States (Chile) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Eastern European States (USSR)
1985	Eighth	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Tunisia) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Hungary)	Western European and Other States (Greece)
1986	Ninth	Western European and other States (Turkey)	African States (Kenya) Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
1987	Tenth	Eastern European States (Bulgaria)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Colombia) Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Kenya)

Year	Session of the Commission	Chair	Vice-Chair	Rapporteur
1988	Eleventh	Asian States (India)	African States (Botswana) Latin American States (Brazil) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1989	Twelfth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Gabon) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Asian States (Sri Lanka)
1991	Thirteenth	African States (Zimbabwe)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (USSR) Latin American States (Brazil)	Western European and Other States (Netherlands)
1993	Fourteenth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Uganda) Asian States (Philippines) Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American States (Chile)
1995	Fifteenth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Venezuela) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	African States (Cameroon)
1997	Sixteenth	Asian States (Bangladesh)	African States (Kenya) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Norway)	Eastern European States (Romania)
1999	Seventeenth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Senegal) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Asian States (Iran)

Under the principle of geographical rotation provided for in rule 12, paragraph 2, of the Commission's rules of procedure, the following regional groups should provide candidates for the offices in question for the eighteenth session of the Commission:

2001	Eighteenth	African States	Asian States Eastern European States Latin American States	Western European and other States
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Annex III

PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Note by the Executive Director

1. The Commission may find it conducive to the efficient conduct of its work during the eighteenth session to adopt the specific organizational arrangements set out below.

A. Bureau

2. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the Bureau should consist of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution and rotation among the groups. Annex II shows the geographical distribution of members of the Bureau at the Commission's previous sessions.

3. As provided for in rule 13 of the Commission's rules of procedure, one of the Vice-Chairs should be designated to chair the sessional committee of the whole referred to in paragraph 17 below. The remaining two Vice-Chairs would assist the Chair of the Commission directly in his or her duties in plenary and chair the ad hoc drafting committee referred to in paragraph 18 below.

B. Plenary

4. Following consultations with the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements, it is recommended that the plenary divide its work into two segments: first, a high-level segment of ministers, heads of delegations and mayors, which would be held on the morning and afternoon of the first day and on the morning of the second day; and, second, dialogues with local authorities and other partners to be held on the afternoon of the second day and morning of the third day.

C. The High-level segment (first segment of the plenary)

5. It is suggested that the high-level segment of ministers, heads of delegations and mayors focus its discussions on the following two agenda items: activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director (item 4 of the provisional agenda) and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): (i) local implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the role of local authorities; (ii) international cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and (iii) lessons learned from best practices and partnerships in the achievement of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world (item 5 of the provisional agenda).

6. Secondly, and with a view to accommodating the 60-80 delegations who normally attend sessions of the Commission, it is recommended that during the high-level segment, each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes speaking time and that this limit be strictly adhered to. In this context, it should be noted that part of the morning sessions for the first and second days will be taken up by organizational matters and pledging for the Foundation, respectively.

7. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to ministers and deputy ministers. They will be followed by other heads of government delegations and Habitat Agenda partners.

**D. Consultations on the decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
(third segment of the plenary)**

7. In operative paragraph 9 of its resolution 1/5, the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, recommended that "the Commission on Human Settlements should include a consultation on the effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks on the agenda of its eighteenth session, in relation with the item on local implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the role of local authorities".

8. Accordingly, arrangements have been made by the secretariat for these consultations to be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 13 February. Detailed information on the organization of these consultations is contained in annex VI.

E. Dialogues with local authorities and other partners (second segment of the plenary)

9. In operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12, the Commission decided "to provide, at future sessions of the Commission, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments; such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations of the Commission".

10. In pursuance of the above decision, and with a view to increasing the participation and contribution of local authorities and other partners in the work of the Commission, arrangements have been made for dialogues with local authorities and other partners to be held in the plenary on the third day, as indicated in annex IV. These dialogues will be based on the format followed by Committee II at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul whereby the representatives of each group of partners will be given an opportunity to make a substantive presentation followed by a dialogue or discussion between Governments and partners on the presentations.

11. To this end, local authorities and other partners are encouraged to submit, in advance, a written summary of their presentation to the secretariat for distribution to all participants ahead of the meeting. They are also encouraged to include in their presentations specific issues of strategic importance to the implementation of the work programme of UNCHS (Habitat) for the biennium 2002-2003 (HS/C/18/8).

12. It is expected that the presentations to be made by representatives of local authorities and other partners will be the result of a preparatory process (consultations) by these groups, including non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector as well as professionals, researchers and labour unions. Arrangements would be made for local authorities and each group of partners to have, if they so wish, consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the convening of the eighteenth session of the Commission, or at any other time and venue of their choice.

13. Detailed information on the organization of these dialogues is contained in annex VII.

F. Summaries by the Chair

14. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogues with local authorities and other partners, the Chair, drawing from the deliberations in the two plenary segments, will prepare a summary by the Chair of first, the main issues raised in the high-level segment and, second, the conclusions (or recommendations) made in the dialogues. These summaries would reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions stated during the two segments and would be submitted to plenary for endorsement.

15. Once endorsed by the Commission as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the high-level segment and in the dialogues with partners, the Chair's conclusions and recommendations would serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and the secretariat.

G. Pledging meeting

16. In pursuance of resolution 8/8 of 8 May 1985 of the Commission, provision has been made for a pledging meeting in the plenary on Tuesday, 13 February, for announcements of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

H. Sessional committee of the whole

17. Bearing in mind the organization of work in previous sessions of the Commission, and the above recommendations on the work of the plenary, the Commission may find it advisable to establish a sessional committee of the whole, which would be given the responsibility for items 6 (a), 6 (b), 7, 8 and 9, with the remaining items being considered in the plenary.

I. Drafting committee

18. At the seventeenth session, on an informal basis, the Commission established an ad hoc, open-ended drafting committee under the chairmanship of one of the Vice-Chairs to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by the delegations with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to consideration by the Commission. The Commission may wish to continue this practice which was widely acknowledged to have enhanced the efficiency of its work.

J. Proposed timetable

19. For the ease of reference of participants, a proposed timetable for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements is presented in annex IV.

20. A list of the agenda items for the eighteenth session of the Commission, with corresponding documents, is presented in annex V.

Annex IV

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND TIMETABLE FOR
THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

Nairobi, 12 - 16 February 2001

		PLENARY	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	DRAFTING COMMITTEE
Monday, 12 February	a.m.	Opening of session Organizational matters: Items 1, 2 and 3. High-level segment: Items 4 and 5	-	-
	p.m.	High-level segment: Items 4 and 5	Items 6 (a) and 6 (b)	-
Tuesday, 13 February	a.m.	(Pledging for UNHHSF) High-level segment: Items 4 and 5		Consultations on draft resolutions*
	p.m.	Consultations on the decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	Items 6 (a) and 6 (b)	
Wednesday, 14 February	a.m.	Dialogue I with local authorities and other partners	Item 7	
	p.m.	Dialogue II with local authorities and other partners	Item 7	
Thursday, 15 February	a.m.		Items 8 and 9	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.		Draft reports on items 6 (a), 6 (b), 7, 8 and 9	Consultations on draft resolutions
Friday, 16 February	a.m.	Draft reports of the committee of the whole. Draft reports of plenary on items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and of the dialogues and consultations.		
	p.m.	Draft resolutions from the drafting committee. Items 10, 11, 12 and 13.		

Note: * The drafting committee will start its work, formally, on Tuesday morning, 13 February. It may continue its work, informally, on Tuesday afternoon, and the whole of Wednesday. The meetings of Thursday 15 February (morning and afternoon) will be provided with full interpretation facilities.

Annex V**LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS WITH CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS**

- Item 1** Election of officers
- Item 2** Credentials
- Item 3** Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
HS/C/18/1; HS/C/18/1/Add.1; HS/C/18/INF.1; HS/C/18/INF.2
- Item 4** Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director
HS/C/18/2; HS/C/18/2/Add.1 HS/C/18/2/Add.2; HS/C/18/INF.3.
- Item 5** Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II):
- (a) Local implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the role of local authorities
HS/C/18/3.
 - (b) International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda
HS/C/18/4.
 - (c) Lessons learned from best practices and partnerships in the achievement of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world
HS/C/18/5.
- Item 6** Special themes:
- (a) Security of tenure
HS/C/18/6
 - (b) Urban governance
HS/C/18/7
- Item 7** Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 2002-2003 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2002-2003
HS/C/18/8; HS/C/18/9; HS/C/18/9/Add.1 HS/C/18/9/Add.2; HS/C/18/BD.1, HS/C/18/BD.2; HS/C/18/INF.4
- Item 8** Coordination matters:
- (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme
HS/C/18/10
 - (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations
HS/C/18/11

(c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission
HS/C/18/12

Item 9 Themes for the nineteenth and future sessions of the Commission
HS/C/18/13

Item 10 Other matters
HS/C/18/14

Item 11 Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
HS/C/18/15 (prepared in-session)

Item 12 Adoption of the report of the session

Item 13 Closure of the session.

Annex VI**CONSULTATIONS ON DECENTRALIZATION AND WAYS AND MEANS OF STRENGTHENING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA**

1. Following the discussions and debate on the proposed world charter of local self-government at its first substantive session, the Preparatory Committee, in operative paragraph 9 of its resolution I/5 of 12 May 2000 on the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the structure and preparatory process of the special session, recommended that the Commission on Human Settlements include a consultation on effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks on the agenda of its eighteenth session, in relation with the item on local implementation of the Habitat Agenda including the role of local authorities. The Preparatory Committee further requested the Commission to report on this issue to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.
2. That decision reflected the general view held at the first session of the Preparatory Committee, that although the issues of empowerment of local authorities and decentralization were of great importance to the successful implementation of the Global Plan of Action adopted at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, and reaffirmed especially in paragraph 12 of the Istanbul Declaration and in paragraph 170 of the Habitat Agenda, these matters, given their importance, required further discussions by the Commission on Human Settlements in order to arrive at recommendations, including on the preparation of an international framework agreement, to be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee for its consideration.
3. It is therefore proposed that at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, consultations among Governments take place to consider ways and means of how best to implement the recommendations of the Habitat II Conference on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities. It is further proposed that the consultations take place in plenary on 13 February. The Commission will have before it the following document for background information: Consultations on the effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/3/Add.1.)
4. Following a technical introduction on the purpose and format of the consultations by the secretariat, the consultations will begin with opening statements by the representatives of the five regional groups, the Group of 77 and the European Union. A representative of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and a representative of the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) will also make a statement.
5. It is expected that the debate in the consultations will lead to specific recommendations to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session, on the best ways and means of strengthening local authorities so as to enable them to carry out their central role in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including through international agreements and conventions, such as, but not limited to, the proposed world charter of local self-government.

Annex VII

DIALOGUES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER HABITAT AGENDA PARTNERS

Schedule

The dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will be held in plenary on Tuesday afternoon, 13 February and Wednesday morning, 14 February.

Format

The dialogues will be based on the innovative model launched at Habitat II and successfully revived at the last session of the Commission on Human Settlements and at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. Accordingly, the Executive Director and designated representatives of local authorities and other groups of Habitat Agenda partners will make a short substantive presentation followed by a discussion between delegates and panelists.

The two dialogues will be conducted as informal discussions between panelists and delegates directly related to the themes of the three dialogues and their presentation. The discussions will thus be inclusive and substantive, and their results will be action-oriented. Governments wishing to do so can, however, provide the secretariat with written statements in 250 copies, which will be circulated and synthesized in the Chair's summary to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee.

Expected results

The main purpose of the two dialogues is to present and discuss the planned contributions of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, work-programme related outputs and to the Preparatory Committee's preparations for the special session. In accordance with the focus provided by the Commission at its last session on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the dialogues at this session of the Preparatory Committee will concentrate on normative and operational aspects of the global campaign on urban governance and of the global campaign on secure tenure.

Accordingly, panelists and delegates are invited to help focus the discussion on conceptual and operational aspects of this normative strategy. Once adopted, the Chair's conclusions and recommendations will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and UNCHS (Habitat).

DIALOGUE I: The global campaign on good urban governance

Tuesday, 13 February 2001, 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Setting: In the twenty-first century, the battle for sustainable development will be either won or lost in cities. It is Habitat's firm position, in line with its governing body, that the quality of urban governance will make the difference between success and failure. The United Nations campaign on good urban governance designed by Habitat and launched by the Commission seeks to identify and operationalize the norms of good governance as a means of improving the quality of life in cities. In operational terms, this process is linked to the city development strategies being developed in partnership with the World Bank within the "Cities Alliance" initiative.

The dialogue builds on Dialogue II, "The Divided City", held during the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. Its results will feed into the consultations on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks, being held during the Commission's eighteenth session.

Background documentation:

- (a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its seventeenth session;
- (b) Urban governance: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/7);
- (c) Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/2).

Panelists:

Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat)
 Chair, United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
 Mayors and presidents of international associations of local authorities
 Representatives of civil society

DIALOGUE II: The global campaign for secure tenure

Wednesday, 14 February 2001, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Setting: Security of tenure and the elimination of violent forced evictions have been identified as key elements for reducing poverty. Secure tenure improves access of the poor, especially women, to affordable shelter, access to basic services, as well as to informal and formal spacing employment opportunities and direct political representation. The United Nations global campaign for secure tenure, also designed by UNCHS (Habitat) and launched by the Commission on Human Settlements, is therefore essential for the realization of an affordable shelter strategy and sustainable human settlements development.

In operational terms, this process is linked to the slum upgrading projects being developed in partnership with the World Bank within the "Cities Alliance" initiative.

The dialogue builds on Dialogue I, "Shelter and Security of Tenure for the Urban Poor", held during the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. Its results will feed into the consultations on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks being held during the Commission's eighteenth session.

Background documentation:

- (a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its seventeenth session;
- (b) Security of tenure: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/6);
- (c) Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/2).

Panelists:

Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat)
 Member of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
 Mayors and presidents of international associations of local authorities
 Representatives of civil society
 Parliamentarians.
