



Eighteenth session  
Nairobi, 12-16 February 2001  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda \*

**ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT):  
PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**HOUSING SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES:  
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. The present report is submitted in response to operative paragraph 8 of resolution 17/9 of 14 May 1999, of the Commission on Human Settlements, on illegal Israeli human settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.
2. Following the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, UNCHS (Habitat) launched an appeal to Member States aimed at raising the estimated \$30,000 required to produce the report to be prepared on a three-month-work basis. The Centre received \$6,000 from the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, but initial indications of additional contributions did not materialize in the end.
3. Pending those anticipated additional contributions, the Centre commenced the study, limiting the scope of work and reducing the inputs to two work-weeks. With the available funds, a consultant was selected and commissioned, from 5 to 15 August 2000, to undertake the initial reconnaissance research of the situation. As a result of the eruption of violence in the occupied territories by the end of September 2000, however, the report could not be completed as envisioned. Furthermore, due to time restrictions, the consultant was also unable to meet Israeli officials and complete some important aspects of the preliminary report. Against this backdrop of constraints, the consultant submitted a report of her findings through August 2000.
4. The Centre reviewed that report and attempted to address the shortcomings by consulting a variety of secondary sources. Despite all these efforts, however, the Centre still found that the draft did not adequately address all the key aspects of the terms of reference. Therefore, the Executive Director concluded that the Centre could not finalize the report without additional field research. Once the situation in the occupied territories is more conducive to such field work, and more funds are made available for that purpose, the Executive Director intends to prepare a report for submission to the next session of the Commission.

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5. In the interim, the Centre attaches, herewith, the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/55/453), dated 5 October 2000. Paragraphs 38 to 68 address restrictions relating to land, housing and water; relations with settlers; and, environmental concerns which indicate the housing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.