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**COORDINATION MATTERS: 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

Summary

The present report covers coordination and cooperation since the seventeenth session of the Commission, between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

INTRODUCTION

1. Taking into consideration the leadership role of UNCHS (Habitat) in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, efforts have been made to foster extensive cooperation and collaboration with organizations both within and without the United Nations system to promote a coordinated approach to implementation at the global, regional, national and local levels.
2. The present report reviews cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations, with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations. The report also describes focal areas in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

* HS/C/18/1

I. COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA

A. United Nations Development Programme

3. The joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-UNCHS (Habitat) Urban Management Programme is one of the largest global urban technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and promotes the enhancement of urban management practices in developing countries. In its current phase (1997-2001), it has been implemented in 119 cities in 57 developing countries, through four regional offices, 19 regional anchor institutions and over 40 national and local institutions and other networks of community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and municipal associations. A programme review committee meets every nine months to review progress and approve the work programme for the next period. UNDP has provided core funding for the work of the Urban Management Programme and all donor agency funds are routed through UNDP to the executing agency, UNCHS (Habitat). UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat), together with several national Governments, continue to oversee the execution of technical cooperation and capacity-building projects in developing regions as described in the Operational Activities Report 2000 (HS/C/18/INF/3). In addition, the two organizations participated actively in the preparation of the Emergency Reconstruction Programme in Mozambique during flooding in February 2000. An important agreement has also been reached between UNDP/Libya United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNCHS (Habitat) to formalize and institutionalize future collaboration between UNDP, UNOPS and UNCHS (Habitat). UNCHS (Habitat) has provided support to UNDP's commitment to the eradication of poverty by the year 2015. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNDP are presently cooperating in various operational activities in the field that are contributing to capacity-building in areas of basic service and infrastructure.

B. World Health Organization

4. The World Health Organization (WHO) is collaborating with UNCHS (Habitat) in water resource management, waste and environmental health, and in the WHO thrust area, "Building healthy populations in communities". UNCHS (Habitat) is working with the WHO Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan, on a project concerned with urban health determinants and their interlinkages in megacities, which is being implemented in Jakarta, Karachi and the Ruhr area (Germany), and will be expanded to include Alexandria (Egypt), Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is collaborating with UNCHS (Habitat) to create a web site on activities of relevant organizations within the United Nations related to culture and development in the implementation of the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance with focused normative debate and capacity-building for participation, civic engagement and citizenship. Other areas of collaboration include joint activities on the protection of cultural heritage under the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme in Essaouira, Morocco, and the promotion of UNCHS (Habitat)'s Best Practices database.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

6. Cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP is documented in HS/C/18/10, a report by the Executive Directors of the UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, on cooperation between the Centre and UNEP and requested in Commission resolution 10/3 of 16 April 1987 and UNEP Governing Council decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987 on the same subject. The report describes the cooperation between the UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP in four areas (chapter I) within the United Nations (chapter II). It also describes future prospects of cooperation (chapter III). The report is a continuation of cooperation in city environmental profiles, city demonstrations in broad-based urban environmental planning and management,

normative work on guidelines and tools, and efforts for environmentally sound human settlements technology under the joint Sustainable Cities Programme. It further describes cooperation in disaster management, the joint UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Task Force on the Balkans, Managing Water for African Cities and the UNEP Training Programme in Environmental Law and Policy. Regarding cooperation in system-wide efforts, the report describes cooperation in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), the Environmental Management Group (EMG) and the Urban Environment Forum. A major breakthrough has been the catalytic effect of the Sustainable Cities Programme to bring together cities and urban programmes of other international organizations. The Executive Directors further agree that the Urban Environment Forum represents an important achievement towards a global partnership in urban environmental management. They felt, however, that the future of the Sustainable Cities Programme was unclear due to lack of funding and plan to explore options for mobilizing resources for support of the Urban Environment Forum. Cooperation in the Managing Water for African Cities project will continue and similar joint projects with extra-budgetary funding will be developed.

E. United Nations High Commission for Refugees

7. UNCHS (Habitat) has collaborated with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the assessment of human settlements and environmental conditions in refugee camps, as part of the programme, Towards Sustainable Environmental Management Practices in Refugee Affected Areas. Collaboration at the national level involved training and capacity-building activities on conflict resolution for refugee camp management (Kenya) and for the regularization of housing and property rights in post-conflict situations, thus facilitating resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons (Province of Kosovo). Cooperation has also taken place in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. Discussions are underway for the development of joint programmes in Africa for the design of norms to mitigate the impact of refugee settlements on the environment.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

8. During the reporting period, UNCHS (Habitat) continued to cooperate with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the area of child-friendly cities. UNICEF together with the Government of Italy established a secretariat for child-friendly cities in Florence, and UNCHS (Habitat) is a member of the steering committee. UNICEF expressed interest in collaborating with UNCHS (Habitat) on the implementation of the Global Campaign for Security of Tenure in the Indian subcontinent. UNICEF is also a member of the steering group of the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance and a strategic partner for UNCHS (Habitat), especially in the context of its rights-based approach and as an advocacy agency.

G. United Nations Population Fund

9. As the lead agency on population matters within the United Nations system, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported implementation of the Habitat Agenda. UNFPA has participated globally and regionally in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), while maintaining its focus of poverty eradication, advancement and empowerment of women and capacity-building. UNFPA has supported UNCHS directly in its efforts to facilitate a coordinated reporting through the task manager mechanism. As co-task manager for gender equality with UNIFEM and for balanced settlements with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), UNFPA will continue to executive its responsibilities to collect and disseminate information, and further expand the network of partners and actors to achieve the optimum implementation of the Habitat Agenda in these critical areas at the country level and globally.

H. United Nations Development Fund for Women

10. In the area of women and secure tenure, UNCHS (Habitat) organized several events at the special session of the General Assembly in June 2000, on "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", addressing women's security of tenure to land and housing, jointly with the Huairou Commission, UNDP, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

UNCHS (Habitat) also published a book "Women's Rights to Land, Housing and Property in Post-conflict Situations and During Reconstruction", as an output of its long-standing collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on this issue. In the area of women and governance, UNCHS (Habitat) with the support of UNIFEM, has worked with the constituent networks of the Huairou Commission in Latin America, Africa and Asia on different aspects of women in governance, including capacity-building for women in grassroots organizations and local authorities, engendering budgetary processes, recognition of women's organizations as legitimate stakeholders, engendering the judiciary, development of gender training manuals and support to peer learning exchanges.

I. United Nations University

11. UNCHS (Habitat) is collaborating with the United Nations University in its international conference series on "Culture in Sustainability of Cities". The first event of the series was held in January 2000 in Kanazawa, Japan organized by Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre of the United Nations University and was co-sponsored by UNCHS (Habitat).

12. The second event of the series was held on 27 and 28 October 2000 (Culture in Sustainability of Cities II), and UNCHS (Habitat) made a substantive contribution through the Urban Management Programme.

J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

13. UNCHS (Habitat) has worked closely with FAO and other United Nations agencies through the regular activities of the ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security. Through that network and on the initiative of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), FAO and UNCHS (Habitat) contributed to a joint United Nations-FIG input to the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2000 with the presentation of the Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development. On the occasion of the special session of the General Assembly on Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century, held from 5 to 9 June 2000 in New York, (UNCHS) Habitat, FAO and other United Nations agencies organized parallel sessions on women and secure tenure. (UNCHS) Habitat also participated in the FAO initiative by organizing the virtual conference on the theme of urban and periurban agriculture on the policy agenda (from 21 August to 30 September 2000). (UNCHS) Habitat and FAO reached agreement at a meeting held in Rome on 21 September 2000, to strengthen collaboration on improving land tenure and administration as part of their strategies for enhancing sustainability, rural and urban development, equitable access to land and other resources, and reduction of poverty and food security.

K. World Bank

14. UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank launched the Cities Alliance at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements in May 1999 as a joint initiative to improve the effectiveness and impact of efforts to reduce urban poverty. Ten bilateral organizations have joined the Cities Alliance's governing body, the Consultative Group. These include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. Three meetings of the Consultative Group have been held in Berlin (December 1999), Montreal (June 2000) and Rome (November 2000).

15. A Cities Alliance vision statement was adopted by the Consultative Group in June 2000, which commits the Consultative Group to support new forms of partnership between Governments, cities and organizations of the urban poor. The statement also expressly links the Cities Alliance's operational components of slum upgrading and city development strategies to UNCHS (Habitat)'s global campaigns for Security of Tenure and Good Urban Governance. Promoting security of tenure is fundamental to successful slum upgrading. Inclusive decision-making and good urban governance are fundamental to successful city development strategies. The Cities Alliance, therefore, is central to implementation of UNCHS (Habitat)'s

global campaigns. Action plans for city development strategies and slum upgrading have also been prepared.

16. A series of video conferences were held in January and February 2000 between the World Bank, (UNCHS) Habitat and several bilateral agencies, together with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Public policy forums involving local authorities and non-governmental organizations have been held during the Consultative Group meetings in Montreal and Rome. Workshops on urban indicators, Asian examples of City Development Strategies and African approaches to slum upgrading were held in 2000 in Washington, D.C., Fukuoka (Japan), and Johannesburg.

17. Major progress has been made in promotion of awareness. The United Nations Millennium Declaration endorses the Cities Alliance target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million urban poor by 2020. In addition, at the Berlin meeting of the Consultative Group, Nelson Mandela agreed to serve as the Cities Alliance patron. These events will have major implications for mobilizing international support and resources to implement the Cities Alliance's mandate.

L. United Nations Volunteers

18. UNCHS (Habitat) has continued its cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) through the implementation of joint activities, particularly in the area of disaster management and in support given to the UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States. UNV has assigned volunteers to the UNCHS (Habitat) Disaster Management Programme to assist in the development and formulation of technical support programmes.

M. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. On the occasion of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Human Rights, in 2000, consultations were held between the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNCHS (Habitat) (Shelter Branch). The focus was on housing rights being put into practice with particular attention to promoting equal rights for men and women to land, housing and property, including inheritance rights. A memorandum of understanding was signed in September 2000 on a joint housing rights support programme to support the activities of the newly appointed special rapporteur on housing rights. The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, the Habitat International Coalition, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights and other partners will join that partnership programme for its implementation and monitoring.

N. Economic Commission for Africa

20. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been participating actively in the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. ECA attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee held in Nairobi in May 2000 and hosted the regional preparatory meeting in Addis Ababa in November 2000. The results of this meeting will be reported to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

O. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

21. Close collaboration has been developed between the UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Division for Environment and Human Settlements, which are assisting the eighth regional meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities for Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI). MINURVI is a key forum for involving central governments in formulation of the Habitat normative agenda, and ECLAC coordinates the preparation of regional documents. ECLAC worked closely with UNCHS (Habitat) in preparing the regional meeting (Santiago, October 2000) for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, coordinating background papers and the agenda and ensuring that special sessions are devoted to

the global campaigns launched by UNCHS (Habitat) (see HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.5 - of the above-mentioned Preparatory Committee. ECLAC and UNCHS (Habitat) also collaborate on the issue of vulnerability reduction in human settlements, following joint missions after natural catastrophes.

P. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

22. A regional seminar on urban indicators was organized by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in parallel to the regional conference on environment balance and sustainable urban development (Cairo, 21-24 February 2000). A regional preparatory meeting for the special session for a review of the Habitat Agenda was organized by the Government of Bahrain, ESCWA and UNCHS (Habitat) in Manama, Bahrain, from 16 to 18 October 2000. The report of that meeting is submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

Q. Cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Conference

23. The Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), one of the specialized bodies of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), has organized together with the City of Tunis and UNCHS (Habitat), its twentieth anniversary congress on the implementation follow-up of the Habitat Agenda in Islamic cities, which was held in Tunis in March 2000. The OIC continues to collaborate with UNCHS (Habitat) in various aspects concerning the follow-up to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Islamic cities.

R. Economic Commission for Europe

24. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) participated in the meeting of ministers responsible for human settlements in European countries with economies in transition in Zakopane, Poland, from 5 to 8 December 1999. This meeting was organized by the State Office for Housing and Urban Development of Poland. A preparatory meeting on the special session for a review of the Habitat Agenda was also held in Geneva from 18 to 20 September 2000. The report of that meeting has been submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

S. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

25. UNCHS (Habitat) has continued its collaboration in support of human settlement development in Asia and the Pacific. UNCHS (Habitat) Fukuoka Office has collaborated closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) since August 1997, attending and contributing to ESCAP events and meetings and serving also as a member of many of its agency coordination committees.

26. UNCHS (Habitat) collaborated with ESCAP in the joint organization of the regional preparatory meeting for Asia and the Pacific, relating to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the Habitat Agenda, which was held from 19 to 22 October 2000 in Hangzhou, China. The meeting attracted a high level participation of over 24 countries and representatives of all Habitat Agenda partners.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN UNCHS (HABITAT) AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Caribbean Community

27. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is the intergovernmental interlocutor of UNCHS (Habitat) for programmes in the English-speaking Caribbean. Its secretariat is currently reviewing a regional programme document for settlements improvement prepared by UNCHS (Habitat) for which multilateral and bilateral financing is being sought. CARICOM also participates actively in the organization of

subregional consultations to prepare the Caribbean input to the regional report for the special session of the General Assembly for an the overall review of the Habitat Agenda.

B. Inter-American Development Bank

28. UNCHS (Habitat) collaborates with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at the programme and project levels. IDB is a crucial partner in the preparations of the regional consultations for the special session of the General Assembly for an the overall review of the Habitat Agenda and is also involved in initiatives of the Cities Alliance together with UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank to coordinate external agencies' strategies and programmes around a common agenda. UNCHS (Habitat) and IDB are both active members of the International Forum for Cooperation with Local Government in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by the International City County Management Association (ICMA) which sponsors the Habitat Municipal Forum on Best Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean. IDB collaborates in the review and selection of best practices. At the project level, UNCHS (Habitat) is currently executing important components of an IDB-funded project in Quito and continues to support, through UNDP financing, a major IDB-funded project in Panama and preparations of a loan programme for low-income housing in Nicaragua.

C. League of Arab States

29. A regional conference was organized by the Government of Egypt, the League of Arab States and UNCHS (Habitat) on environment balance and sustainable urban development, in Cairo, from 21 to 24 February 2000. At the invitation of LAS, UNCHS (Habitat) attended the eighteenth session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Reconstruction (CAMHR). The League follows up on the implementation, at the regional level, of resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements concerning the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and Urban Observatories.

D. Shelter Afrique

30. UNCHS (Habitat) was invited to participate in the annual symposium organized by the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter Afrique) in June 2000 and presented a paper that contributed to the discussions on housing delivery for Africa in the new millennium. Shelter Afrique participated in the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. In addition, Shelter Afrique was a key partner in the organization of the regional preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the Habitat Agenda, which was held in Addis Ababa in November 2000 with the collaboration of ECA, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and UNCHS (Habitat).

E. Organization of African Unity

31. OAU participated effectively in the first session of the Preparatory Committee and has been active in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa. OAU is also an active partner in the organization of the November 2000 regional preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly for an the overall review of the Habitat Agenda in Addis Ababa, organized jointly by OAU, ECA and UNCHS (Habitat). UNCHS (Habitat) and OAU, as a follow-up to the completed Global Project on Human Settlements Development early in 1998, are working on a proposal to make the OAU a partner of the Global Urban Observatory. This cooperation envisages the establishment of a regional facility within the OAU that will focus on developing and maintaining a regional urban database on human settlements.

F. The African Development Bank

32. The African Development Bank (ADB) participated in the third International Conference and International Forum on Urban Poverty (IFUP) on social integration and security for the urban poor organized in Nairobi by UNCHS (Habitat) in October 1999. The African Development Bank also attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

G. Asian Development Bank

33. The Asian Development Bank (AsDB) has collaborated with UNCHS (Habitat) through the Urban Management Programme in the planning and organization of two Asian mayors' conferences in Colombo from 28 to 30 June 1998 and China from 26 to 29 June 2000. Consultations are now in progress for developing a joint initiative to provide implementation assistance to the recommendations of those meetings. The Asian Development Bank was a joint sponsor with ESCAP and UNCHS (Habitat) of the regional meeting of the second session of the Preparatory Committee in Hangzhou, China from 19 to 22 October 2000 and participated in the meeting on City Developments Strategies held in Fukuoka in July 2000, jointly organized by the World Bank, the Japanese Ministry of Construction and the UNCHS (Habitat) Fukuoka office.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER HABITAT AGENDA PARTNERS

34. During the period 1997-2000, cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners were intensified within the context of the revitalization of UNCHS (Habitat) and focused on the implementation of UNCHS (Habitat)'s global campaigns for security of tenure and good urban governance and on the global monitoring of urbanization trends.

35. The partnerships established with the parliamentarians and the private sector, in addition to the UNCHS (Habitat)'s traditional non-governmental organization partners, have been strengthened, and UNCHS (Habitat) is currently capitalizing on its new partnerships with the regional networks of non-governmental organizations, urban professionals, researchers, academics and women and youth groups. Joint activities with local authorities, the UNCHS (Habitat)'s leading Habitat Agenda partner, are covered in the Executive Director's progress report (HS/C/18/2).

36. The following sections review the UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners in 1999-2000.

A. Projects and programmes

37. A public policy forum on city partnerships was held on 12 June 2000 in Montreal, Canada, with the participation of twelve bilateral agencies, local authorities and non-governmental organizations to discuss the lessons learned in the projects being undertaken by Cities Alliance, a joint initiative between the World Bank and UNCHS (Habitat) in Johannesburg, Colombo, Bombay, Phnom Penh and San Salvador.

38. In support of the Sustainable Ismailia Governorate Programme, UNCHS (Habitat) initiated a joint action plan with the Arab Women and Shelter Network in May 1999. In the period July–August 1999, the programme facilitated an exchange between local women in Ghana and Senegal. The activity enabled the sharing of expertise and experiences, especially in the field of microcredit initiatives.

39. Over 700 best practices on urban environment and sustainable development were submitted to the programme during the reporting period. Among the forty short-listed finalists, ten outstanding initiatives were chosen by an international jury. Participation by non-governmental organizations counts as the key criteria for establishing a best practice. An Award Winning Practices Ceremony was held in November 2000 in Dubai. The following initiatives were awarded: Luanda Sul Self-financed Urban Infrastructure (Angola); Public Security, Human Rights and Citizenship (Brazil); Creating a Sustainable Community, Hamilton-Wentworth Vision 2020/Air Quality (Canada); (Comprehensive Revitalisation of Urban Settlements (Chengdu, China); Democratization of Municipal Management for Equitable (Cotacachi, Ecuador); Cost Effective and Appropriate Sanitation Systems (India); Women's Empowerment Programme (Nepal); Spanish Greenways Programme: (Spain); hambob Brick Producers Co-operative (Kassala, Sudan); and Tourism and Coastal Zone Management, (Cirali, Turkey).

40. The Global Urban Observatory has initiated action towards establishing new partnerships with the University Consortium on Geographical Information Systems, a group of about 40 universities in the United States of America, which is keen on working with organizations in the South to create a sustainable geographical information system support network for urban observatories. The programme for increasing the number of observatories has adopted a software and Internet facility with its non-governmental organization partner, the Together Foundation for the dissemination and collection of information on the priorities of policy makers and civil society.
41. The training of Trainers Initiative of the programme has also collaborated with ENDA Third World, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Society for Development Studies towards the building of national and local urban observatories.
42. The Urban Management Programme facilitated an international workshop on law and urban governance organized by the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space in collaboration with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (Massachusetts) and the Institute of Housing Studies (Netherlands). The workshop was held in Cairo from 27 to 29 June 2000.
43. UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with UNEP, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICLEI to cooperate more closely in the fields of sustainable urban development, local governance and capacity-building. Collaborative activities have started within the framework of the Urban Indicators Programme, the Managing Water for African Cities project and the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance.
44. The Disaster Management Programme is facilitating the partnerships on disaster management and supporting the establishment of a dialogue between United Nations agencies, the donor community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In February 1999, the Disaster Management Programme organized the Disaster 99 East Africa Conference with the aim of developing new and innovative approaches to improve disaster management capacity for local governments.
45. The Sustainable Cities Programme has been collaborating with the Africa Water Network in the implementation of the Nairobi River Basin project. The Kenya Organization for Environmental Education and Law Society of Kenya involvement in the drafting of the Kenya Environment Act was also another example of the Centre's collaboration with non-governmental organizations. The programme also participated in the International Round Table on Managing Air Quality in Cities in May 15-19, 2000 in Cairo, and collaborated with the Centre for Environment and Development of the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and the Centre's sister agency UNEP in the management of air quality in cities through documentation of useful strategies. The Sustainable Cities Programme also organized the Salt Lake City Forum on Urban Air Quality in Salt Lake City from 17 to 20 June 2000 in collaboration with the Air and Waste Management Association and the Southern California Association of Governments. The conference was attended by over 100 participants from various sectors including non-governmental organizations and professionals.
46. The third international conference of the International Forum on Urban Poverty (IFUP) was held in Nairobi from 12 to 14 October 1999 with the participation of over 250 people from 43 countries, of which over 150 were non-governmental organization representatives. The focus of the forum was social integration and security for the urban poor. IFUP partners made a strong commitment to be active in their respective organizations and regions in the implementation of the two UNCHS (Habitat) global campaigns. The Safer Cities Programme initiated action towards a project in Cape Town through relevant non-governmental organizations and community centres to facilitate youth integration and to identify youth at risk who have been pulled into a cycle of criminal violence. A special workshop was also organized at Africities 2000 in Windhoek from 16 to 19 May 2000 around the theme of safer cities and was attended by local partners, particularly non-governmental organizations.

47. The Local Leadership and Management Training Programme (LLM) has signed a grant agreement with ENDA-ECOPOP in January 2000 for adaptation of the UNCHS (Habitat) training materials to be used in Senegal and the region. In 1999, LLM initiated action towards refining strategies for developing training modules to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations and to improve non-governmental organization and community-based organization - local government collaboration in addition to its contacts with Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme in Lomé towards supporting training initiatives in French-speaking Africa. The programme's workshop on Local Government Capacity - Building Strategies 2000 in New Delhi gathered 47 participants from South Asia. The workshop generated new ideas and strategies on local government training and institution strengthening. Another initiative "The Councillors as Guardian of the Environment", in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Administration and the Kenya Polytechnic with the support of the Green Towns Project, took place in 1999.

48. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Centre and the International Federation of Surveyors for the period 2000 to 2003 for increased cooperation between the Federation and UNCHS (Habitat) and an international conference on land tenure and cadastral infrastructure for sustainable development, which was held in Melbourne in October 1999 with the support of the Federation. UNCHS (Habitat) also made presentations at the annual Federation meeting held in Prague in May 2000 on Challenges in Re-building the Cadastre Information System in a War-torn Society and on Women and Land Management.

49. In November 1999, UNCHS (Habitat) organized a briefing in New York for non-governmental organizations, the press and United Nations delegations on the Global Campaign for Security of Tenure, parallel to a regional workshop on Housing and Environment in Vienna on "The Role of the Private Sector in Housing Supply" and "Environmentally Sound Construction Practices".

50. UNCHS (Habitat) is presently collaborating with the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) on the preparation of a report on the "Contributions of Cooperatives to Shelter Development in Eastern and Southern Africa".

51. Discussions were also held with the European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) regarding the inputs by FEANTSA to the report on "Strategies to Combat Homelessness" in 1999. UNCHS (Habitat) also worked with the Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction (COHRE) towards undertaking a research to produce a case book on national legislation.

52. The Regional Office for Asia and Pacific based in Fukuoka, Japan, organized an international symposium on the urban environment in Tokyo in December 1999 in collaboration with the National Land Agency and the Nikkei Research Institute. An international symposium on efficient water use in urban areas held in Kobe, Japan, in June 1999, co-sponsored by the Centre, enabled the participation of various UNCHS (Habitat) partners and non-governmental organizations. The regional office also collaborated with the Kyushu Environmental Evaluation Association in designing a project in China under the framework of the establishment of Cleaner Production Mechanisms in the year 2000.

53. The regional office located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was awarded a grant from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) through its cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to launch a search for municipal best practices in the region. The office invited all municipal associations and regional municipal networks in the region to submit relevant programme initiatives. The Rio de Janeiro Office also collaborated with the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a prestigious university specializing in economics and public management, for a specific partnership on assistance on urban management related activities. The agreement between the Institute for Leadership Development of the University of York in Canada and the Rio de Janeiro Office continues to provide qualified young professionals to the human settlements sector in the region. UNCHS (Habitat) through its regional office, organized in November 1999, an international seminar on housing and urban development in collaboration with the Union Obrera de la Construcción (UOCRA), the Hassan Fathy Institute and the International Construction Institute to evaluate the past ten years of housing policies in Argentina.

54. The Regional Office for Africa prepared a strategy for the Chiobe district in Botswana and organized a consultation for consensus building in March 2000. Programme initiatives to involve all stakeholders in the implementation processes are underway.

B. Awareness raising and information dissemination

55. In terms of awareness raising and information dissemination, a panel discussion organized by UNCHS (Habitat) on the role of partners in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through the global campaigns was held on 14 June 2000 in New York.

56. The global celebrations of World Habitat Day in 1999 took place in Dalian, China, on the theme "Cities for All" with the participation of all Habitat Agenda partners. Out of nine Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards distributed, two were given to non-governmental organizations namely, the "National Slum Dwellers Foundation - India" and "Operation Firimbi - Kenya". The event was also celebrated in New York with the collaboration of the International Real Estate Federation, one of the leading partners of UNCHS (Habitat) in real estate issues. The theme of the World Habitat Day for year 2000 was "Women and Urban Governance" and the global celebration was held in Kingston, Jamaica. The celebrations on 2 October were hosted by the Governments of Jamaica, and UNCHS (Habitat). The Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards were distributed to ten individuals and organizations, of which two were non-governmental organizations, "Women and Peace Network", for reaching out to women's organizations in war-torn societies and promoting participation in reconstruction programmes, and the "International Union of Local Authorities" for its lead role in championing the role of women in local governments worldwide.

57. UNCHS (Habitat) has prepared the third edition of the Directory of NGOs in the Field of Human Settlements, which will be put on the UNCHS (Habitat) Web site. The database is currently being used as a major reference for other United Nations agencies.

C. Collaboration with global networks

58. Some partner groups continue to work actively towards implementing the Habitat Agenda. Apart from participation in the dialogue sessions held during the first session of the Preparatory Committee and parallel events.

59. Youth for Habitat International Network, a global representative organization of the youth initiatives on human settlements, organized an international summer school in Izmir, Turkey in September 1999. The Participants discussed the UNCHS (Habitat)'s global campaigns and preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the Habitat Agenda and prepared a plan of action. The global network also prepared a report entitled Contributions of Youth to the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, on the evaluation of seven national reports and which was distributed during the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

60. In October 1999, the UNCHS (Habitat) supported the Central American Regional Summit entitled Cities for People and its parallel events. A regional plan of action was agreed upon by all the participants. During the summit, a round table discussed the issue of women and habitat and produced a common declaration to create the Central American Women and Habitat Coalition comprising of all the organizations represented at the meeting.

61. UNCHS (Habitat), in partnership with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and affiliated trade union organizations and training centres, continued developing a project aimed at promoting adequate and affordable housing solutions for low-income groups. The project's three-pronged approach is implemented by task forces dealing respectively with mobilization of international trade union support, identification of innovative sources of housing finance and wide application of sustainable, locally-based housing construction methods. The project's task force on sustainable architecture, with support from the

USAID, is organizing a conference in Cairo to endorse an architectural charter or manifesto containing the principles of sustainable housing. The conference will be held in Cairo during the first week in April 2001.

62. Professional organizations and researchers on human settlements issues, particularly the International Society of City and Regional Planners, the International Federation of Surveyors and the International Union of Architects have continued to actively cooperate with UNCHS (Habitat) in seeking to improve human settlements conditions around the world.

63. The Habitat Professionals Forum, in collaboration with UNCHS (Habitat), mounted an event at the Urban 21 (Global Conference on the Urban Future) in Berlin from 4 to 6 July 2000, at which UNCHS (Habitat) activities and the process leading to the special session for the overall review of the Habitat Agenda were explained. The Forum, in collaboration with UNCHS (Habitat), contributed to the Berlin Declaration on the Urban Future.

64. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, a global forum of parliamentarians on Habitat was held in Manila from 25 to 28 July 2000. The meeting was attended by about 2000 participants from 40 countries and included mayors, governments officials, non-governmental organizations and other partners.

65. UNCHS (Habitat) has also participated in major non-governmental organization meetings during the past two years. In those meetings, non-governmental organizations once again showed their commitment to a great diversity of human settlements work at all levels, interacting with all sectors, facilitating activities on capacity-building, information retrieval and dissemination and monitoring of the implementation process.

66. While participating in the International Year of Older Persons 1999, the UNCHS (Habitat) undertook research with the Institute of Public Administration on living conditions of low-income older persons in human settlements. The UNCHS (Habitat) New York Office organized a meeting with the International Council for Caring Communities on "Caring Communities for the 21st Century: Imagining the Possible, Towards a Community for All" in February 2000 at the United Nations Headquarters. The meeting was attended by 300 to 400 participants, including representatives from permanent missions, non-governmental organizations, media, local authorities and students from schools of architecture and interior design.

67. UNCHS (Habitat) participated in the fifth congress of the World Organization of Building Officials in Dubai from 26 to 29 March 2000 and in the international seminar organized in Lisbon by the United Towns Organization on sustainable financing for urban development.

68. The UNCHS (Habitat) New York Office co-sponsored a panel discussion organized at the United Nations Headquarters as an extension of the American Planning Association Millennium Conference (15-19 April 2000), which was attended by non-governmental organizations and professionals. Another major non-governmental organization gathering in New York was the collaboration of UNCHS (Habitat) New York office with the United Nations Association and the National Collegiate Conference Association, to discuss the theme "Visions for a New Millennium" with a special focus on the work of the Commission on Human Settlements.

D. Preparations towards the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the Habitat Agenda

69. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, took place in Nairobi on from 8 to 12 May 2000 and was attended by approximately 200 participants from the non-governmental organization community representing 61 organizations. During the session, dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners were held to enable partners to discuss their contributions to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to the Preparatory Committee's preparations for the special session. The three dialogue sessions, namely, "Towards norms of good governance", "Towards a world

charter of local self-government" and "Towards global norms of secure tenure" all concentrated on normative aspects of the two global campaigns.

70. Parallel to the official meetings of the Preparatory Committee, a series of events with the involvement of professional, legal and non-governmental organization key partners such as Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Mazingira Institute, Youth for Habitat International Network, COHRE, FEANTSA, European Housing Forum, FIG, HIC (Women and Shelter Network) and Global Innovative Tenure Research Network were held on how to promote the normative programmes of UNCHS (Habitat).

71. During the session, the non-governmental organization community announced the establishment of an interim international facilitating group to serve until the second Preparatory Committee session and to create an open and diverse platform to represent and ensure effective participation of civil sector groups in the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the Habitat Agenda.
