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100th plenary meeting

Tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it made institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, including the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to provide institutional focus to the activities of the United Nations system in that field, as recommended by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Noting with utmost concern that, although some progress has been achieved in that field in the past decade, the living conditions of the majority of people in urban and rural slums and squatter settlements, especially in developing countries, continue nevertheless to deteriorate in both relative and absolute terms,

Recalling the important initiative taken by Member States to reverse that negative trend through the proclamation by the Assembly, in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, of the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, with the aim of securing renewed political commitment by the international community to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged,

Taking note with appreciation of the fact that over one hundred and thirty countries have responded positively to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by establishing national focal points for the Year

and that over three hundred and sixty projects for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged have been officially designated around the world in the context of the Year,

Recalling that, in its resolution 37/221, it designated the Commission on Human Settlements, in the framework of its regular sessions, to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and noting that 1987 will mark not only the observance of the Year but also the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission,

Convinced that the tenth session of the Commission, commemorating its tenth anniversary and coinciding with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, provides therefore a timely and unique opportunity for the international community to assess the results of the efforts of the past decade, including the results of the many programmes and projects around the world identified as demonstration projects for the Year and, on the basis of such assessment, decide on new directions and approaches for national policies and strategies that will bring closer the objective of shelter for all by the year 2000,

Recognizing that universal participation by States in the commemorative session of the Commission will greatly enhance the significance and usefulness of the deliberations and conclusions of that session,

1. Appeals to all Member States of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, to participate at the highest possible level in the tenth session of the Commission, commemorating its tenth anniversary, in order to highlight the significance of that session and the critical importance of the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. Decides that for the duration of the tenth session no distinction shall be drawn in the application of the rules of procedure between States members of the Commission and other participating States and for that purpose suspends for the duration of the session the operation of rule 56 of the Commission's rules of procedure.