

REPORT
OF THE COMMISSION
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
on the work of its second session

26 March-6 April 1979

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/34/8)



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established by General Assembly resolution 32/162, adopted on 19 December 1977. The report on the second session of the Commission is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.
2. The Commission consists of 58 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Argentina**	Malawi***
Australia***	Malaysia*
Austria*	Mexico**
Bangladesh***	Netherlands*
Benin***	Nigeria*
Bulgaria*	Pakistan**
Burundi**	Papua New Guinea*
Canada*	Peru*
Central African Empire**	Philippines**
Chile***	Poland***
Colombia*	Portugal**
Cuba*	Rwanda**
Czechoslovakia***	Senegal***
Ecuador**	Sierra Leone*
Egypt*	Sri Lanka****
Finland*	Sudan**
France*	Sweden**
German Democratic Republic*	Syrian Arab Republic*
Germany, Federal Republic of***	Togo***
Greece***	Tunisia*
Guatemala***	Uganda*
India***	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**
Iran**	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
Iraq*	United Republic of Cameroon***
Italy***	United Republic of Tanzania**
Jamaica**	United States of America**
Japan**	Venezuela***
Jordan***	Viet Nam***
Kenya***	Yugoslavia**

* Term of office expires on 31 December 1979.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1980.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1981.

3. The second session of the Commission was held at Nairobi, from 26 March to 6 April 1979, at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

4. The session was opened by His Excellency the Honourable Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, C.G.H., E.B.S, M.P., President of the Republic of Kenya, the text of whose address is reproduced as annex I to the present report. At the same time, the President declared open the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Kenyatta Conference Centre, Nairobi. The Executive Director of the Centre delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion, which is reproduced as annex II.

B. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Commission were represented:

Argentina	Malaysia
Australia	Mexico
Austria	Netherlands
Bangladesh	Nigeria
Bulgaria	Pakistan
Burundi	Papua New Guinea
Canada	Philippines
Chile	Poland
Colombia	Rwanda
Czechoslovakia	Sri Lanka
Egypt	Sudan
Finland	Sweden
France	Togo
German Democratic Republic	Uganda
Germany, Federal Republic of	Union of Soviet Socialist
Greece	Republics
Guatemala	United Kingdom of Great Britain
India	and Northern Ireland
Italy	United Republic of Tanzania
Jamaica	United States of America
Japan	Venezuela
Kenya	Viet Nam
Malawi	Yugoslavia

6. The following States not members of the Commission participated as observers:

Belgium	Israel
China	Madagascar
Cyprus	Norway
Denmark	Oman
Ghana	Republic of Korea
Honduras	Saudi Arabia
Hungary	Somalia

Spain
Switzerland
Thailand

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Turkey
Zaire
Zambia

7. The Holy See was represented by an observer.
8. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

9. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Fund for Population Activities
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

10. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

11. The following intergovernmental organization was represented:

League of Arab States

12. In addition, 43 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Establishment of Committees

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 26 March 1979, the Commission established two sessional Committees of the Whole, allocating agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: item 6 (a) and (c)
Committee II: items 6 (b) and 7 (b)

14. Committee I held eight meetings and Committee II held three meetings. The recommendations of both Committees have been incorporated in this report.

D. Election of officers

15. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 26 March, the Honourable Munyua Waiyaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs and representative of Kenya, was elected to the post of Chairman by acclamation. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 27 March, the following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairman and Chairman of
Committee I:
Vice-Chairman and Chairman of
Committee II:
Vice-Chairman:
Rapporteur:

Mr. Göte Svenson (Sweden)
Mr. Mohamed Quereshi (Pakistan)
Mr. Gregorio Valner (Mexico)
Mr. Andrzej Jedraszko (Poland)

E. Agenda

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 26 March, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda, contained in document HS/C/2/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
4. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
5. Review of human settlements conditions, policies and priorities for national and international (regional and global) action
6. Review of United Nations activities in human settlements
 - (a) Work programmes, organization and resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
 - (b) Co-operation and concerted action on programmes on human settlements within the United Nations system and co-operation with non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements problems and having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
 - (c) Regional commissions
7. Organizational matters
 - (a) Cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements in relation to the schedule of work of the relevant United Nations policy-making organs
 - (b) Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the Commission
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission

F. Adoption of the report

17. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 11th plenary meeting, on 4 April.

III. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) AND STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

A. Progress report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

18. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 27 March, the Commission had before it the progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (HS/C/2/2), which covered the actions taken by him in implementing General Assembly resolution 32/162. These actions included the organization of the Centre, the arrangements for the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements, the preparation of a unified work programme for 1980-1981, the establishment of working relationships with the regional commissions, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and preliminary discussions with other human settlements agencies inside and outside the United Nations system.

B. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

19. As provided for in General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Executive Director of UNEP addressed the Commission at its 2nd plenary meeting. He pointed out that, since its inception, UNEP had taken a special interest in human settlements policies, programmes and projects, but that, in his view, the international community could only advise and assist in an area which was essentially one for national action.

20. He identified three areas of principal concern for planners of human settlements. First, there were the pressures of population growth and uncontrolled urban expansion which were making it extremely difficult to manage human settlements in a sustainable manner. Secondly, the analytical tools for approaching human settlements problems were inadequate and out of date. Thirdly, the growing waste and pollution in human settlements were reaching disquieting proportions, even though technologically sound solutions were available to avoid these problems.

21. Finally, he pointed to the lack of financial resources for the human settlements sector. Although the establishment of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation was a step in the right direction, it had not generated the support necessary to make it a viable entity. He urged member States to recognize the value of the Foundation and to strengthen its role as an effective international instrument by providing sufficient funds for the execution of realistic programmes.

IV. REVIEW OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONDITIONS, POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL (REGIONAL AND GLOBAL) ACTION

A. Introduction

22. This item was considered by the Commission at its 2nd to 7th plenary meetings, when it had before it the document entitled "Review of human settlements conditions for national and international (regional and global) action" (HS/C/2/3 and Add.1).

23. In his statement introducing agenda item 5, the Executive Director called the attention of the delegations to their responsibility in taking up complex and far-reaching substantive issues which would help shape the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and would point the way for national actions based on a proper recognition of the role of human settlements in economic and social development. In this connexion, the Executive Director broadly reviewed the important human settlements issues, problems and challenges facing the world in general and developing nations in particular. He emphasized that human settlements activities ought no longer to be limited simply to houses and buildings, nor confined to conventional concepts of town planning, but instead ought to be seen as forming an integral part of over-all national development. The Executive Director in particular singled out the role of human settlements (a) in helping achieve the goals of the new international economic order and the new international development strategy, (b) in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, (c) in achieving an optimal territorial distribution of population and economic activities, and (d) in improving the social, economic and environmental conditions of low-income and disadvantaged population groups.

24. With regard to the goals of the new international economic order, the Executive Director stressed the relationships that existed between international economic strategies and fundamental human settlements concerns, such as rates of urbanization, optimization of regional development patterns and patterns of population growth and distribution. For example, he pointed out that, in order to achieve desirable patterns of rural-urban migration, Governments could pursue actions designed to increase purchasing power at selected growth points, thus attracting market-oriented activities and creating a multiplier effect in employment and incomes. The provision of infrastructure, among other items, would be an element of the implementation of such settlement plans.

25. The Executive Director emphasized the importance of equitably distributing the benefits of economic growth anticipated from a new international development strategy, so that the quality of life of the masses of the population living in urban and rural areas of the developing countries could be substantially improved. He noted that, contrary to the conventional economic development theories which held that the benefits of accelerated modernization and of investments in the production sector eventually trickled down to the masses of the population, empirical evidence put forth no such promise in the developing countries. Stagnating rural communities and the ever-expanding ring of squatter settlements encircling the larger cities of developing countries, for example, demonstrated that the living standards of low-income households in developing countries were not being raised along with increase in the gross national product.

26. The Executive Director observed that conventional developmental theories must also be modified to reflect such modern-day constraints as energy-supply restrictions and rising energy costs, shortages of building materials, recurring food scarcities, the recognized importance of maintaining and improving the environment and the changing relationships between developed and developing countries.

27. Inasmuch as the trickle-down theory in developing countries seldom produced the desired effects in practice, and taking into account the new constraints (listed above) that faced modern-day developmental efforts, the Executive Director affirmed that human settlements activities ought to be considered an important means of redressing imbalances and of channelling the flow of resources into sectors where the poor and disadvantaged would directly receive an equitable measure of benefits. After gainful employment, he noted, the primary concern of every household, rich and poor alike, was with shelter, water supply, transportation, education, public health and other human settlements components. Therefore, he concluded, regulating the flow of resources so that every household received a fair share of them, and optimizing the return on these resources by efficient planning and implementation could be seen as the primary concern of human settlements programmes.

28. There were a number of subissues to consider in connexion with this general view, the Executive Director pointed out. They included such topics as the need to integrate human settlements issues with other social and economic development issues; the ways of achieving vertical and horizontal integration in human settlements programmes in distributing economic benefits to disadvantaged groups; and the achievement of public participation in human settlements decision making. The Executive Director noted that these subissues were discussed in his reports (ES/C/2/3 and Add.1), and he appealed to the delegations to exchange information on their experiences and successes in these areas, relating them to their own particular national context, so that new avenues of thinking and experimentation might open from which all could benefit.

29. In particular, the Executive Director posed two main questions to the Commission, the resolution of which he considered to be critical to the execution of human-settlement programmes. First, he asked how human settlements programmes could simultaneously contribute most effectively to the acceleration of national economic growth and to the alleviation of the poverty afflicting the least-advantaged groups in society, bearing in mind that these two goals were in some measure mutually exclusive and, therefore, could only be achieved to a suboptimal degree when pursued concurrently. Secondly, he asked what types of institutions, fiscal structures and management systems were needed to execute the programme mix decided on, since reorienting existing institutions and management practices might constitute the most difficult challenge confronting developing countries when designing effective human settlements programmes.

30. The Executive Director proceeded to raise five subsidiary questions to the first of the two main questions. The first subsidiary question concerned the share of total national resources which might be devoted to human settlements, bearing in mind national development policies as well as human settlements goals and targets relating to shelter infrastructure and services, and to processes of public participation to ensure national consensus. The second subsidiary question raised by the Executive Director concerned the relative extent or degree to which human settlements resources ought to be allocated between actions designed to achieve an

immediate, short-term betterment of the situation, viz. rent subsidies and food supports, and those designed to bring about greater but deferred benefits in the long run, viz. investment in infrastructure and services which would provide the physical foundation needed for more lasting solutions. The third subsidiary question concerned the geographical allocation of resources within a country, that is whether it was preferable to direct productive investments to the less developed regions of a country or to agglomeration centres and other areas offering greater economic potential, the related issues of determining an appropriate balance between urban and rural development and the consequent impact such decisions might have on rural migration to the cities. The fourth subsidiary question concerned the inevitable increases in urban population and the need to search for means of absorbing rural migration into the larger communities of industrialized and post-industrial cities. The fifth and final subsidiary question raised by the Executive Director related the issue of human settlements programmes to the requirements of efficient, over-all national development, with particular attention to the optimal use of indigenous building materials, as opposed to imported materials, and the implications of the energy problem for future patterns and densities of human settlements, land use and transportation.

31. The Executive Director next turned his attention to the second of the main questions he originally posed, that is, what types of institution, fiscal structure and management system were needed to execute human settlements programmes. He divided the corresponding subsidiary questions along institutional, financial and management lines. With regard to institutional concerns, he raised the issue of how to provide the lowest income groups with security of rental and ownership tenure and with economic stability, thereby enabling them to concentrate their efforts and resources on productive activities and the improvement of their dwellings and communities. Under the subsidiary financial question, he raised the issue of the extent to which economic incentives, penalties, subsidies, and price and rent controls should be utilized to guide social and economic activities into patterns consonant with common societal goals, as well as, more specifically, what fiscal arrangements should support human settlements programmes and what the relative financing responsibilities of the various levels of government in executing such programmes should be. As for the subsidiary problem of programme management, the Executive Director indicated how human settlements programmes might promote public participation and self-reliance on the part of the poor, of women, of the socially disadvantaged and of the educationally deprived, and how more advantaged sections of society could be sensitized to and mobilized to alleviate the needs of other groups.

B. Discussion

32. The Commission in general supported the views of the Executive Director in his choice of the main areas of activity in which human settlements have an important role to play, that is, the achievement of the goals of the new international economic order, the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, the optimal territorial distribution of population and economic activities, and the improvement of the social, economic and environmental conditions of low-income and disadvantaged population groups. In particular, debate focused on the relationship of human settlements to the new international economic order, to the improvement of the living conditions of the rural and urban poor and to the effective territorial distribution of economic activities and population groups. National experiences in human settlements programmes were also reported by most of the delegations.

33. Some representatives stressed that co-operation among member States in the field of human settlements was only possible under conditions of peace, and that reductions in military budgets would make it possible to redistribute resources to meet the needs of human settlements in developing countries. One representative pointed out that war destroyed, in a few minutes, the efforts of whole generations who had worked in the building of human settlements. Another representative reminded the Commission that, in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements of 1976 of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the establishment of human settlements in territories occupied by force was considered illegal and is condemned by the international community.

34. With regard to the new international economic order, one representative pointed out that the new order had primarily focused on the need to diminish regional imbalances and to set better prices for raw materials in order to find and apply remedies for the unacceptable conditions of life and development in which such a high percentage of the human population found itself. This representative pointed out that the emphasis should be not only on the economic implications of a new order but also on human settlements dimensions of development, such as deficits in water supply and housing, malnutrition and loss of cultural identity. This representative emphasized, however, that human settlements development was not the mere consequence of socio-economic development, but also a factor that could promote or, by its absence, delay, the general development of a country.

35. A number of representatives were of the opinion that, without the full realization of the new international economic order, no developing country could be expected to resolve satisfactorily its problems in the field of human settlements, nor could any global action in the area of human settlements be tackled satisfactorily. In this connexion, one of the representatives recommended that strategies and approaches to human settlements problems should be elaborated and integrated in the deliberations and documents of the forthcoming 1980 special session of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with the new international economic order and the new international development strategy for the 1980s and beyond. In the same spirit, other representatives suggested that the Commission on Human Settlements should be seen as an agent of the new international economic order.

36. In speaking of economic development goals, a number of representatives pointed out that human settlements programmes, in their own right, produced economic benefits; they did not simply consume the benefits of economic growth. According to these representatives, investments in human settlements were productive in economic terms and had important multiplier effects and positive repercussions on the national economy in general. Such investments could also act as stabilizing elements when fluctuations occurred in the business cycle. In developing countries, where human settlements activities were labour-intensive, they also helped absorb much of the unemployed and underemployed parts of the population.

37. One representative stated that, in his view, the experiences of affluent countries demonstrated that economic strength, both in market and centrally-planned economies, often resulted in a short-sighted misuse of science and technology, an over-consumption of goods and an extravagant waste of resources. In his opinion, more emphasis ought to be given to the development of human settlements, because they could help establish social equality. Other representatives pointed out that measures were being taken in their countries to develop new construction techniques which would economize on energy and on building materials such as steel and cement.

Another representative similarly noted that developmental policy should be aimed at improving society generally rather than solely at the achievement of economically and technically favourable solutions to development problems.

38. All the representatives agreed that the field of human settlements should be oriented primarily to satisfying the fundamental needs and aspirations of the lowest-income groups of the populations of developing countries. These groups generally form the bulk of the population of developing countries and are disadvantaged, owing in large part to the poverty of the countries concerned. One of the representatives stressed that a significant segment of the African population was deprived of adequate shelter in a proper environment through the operation of apartheid, and he condemned this policy as undermining basic human rights.

39. Many representatives, however, differed on the relative emphasis to be placed on the urban and rural poor. Some maintained that the primary challenge lay in the urban areas, but most representatives felt that emphasis should be placed on the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas. Representatives agreed, however, that the problems of urban and rural settlements, though different, were both in urgent need of attention. Some representatives pointed out that rural development was closely linked to the processes of urbanization and that, consequently, the separation of rural issues from urban needs may be too sectoral an approach.

40. Highlighting national experiences, a number of representatives informed the Commission about their countries' rural settlements programmes. The representative of one developing country, for example, described a rural housing programme which had resulted in approximately 7.5 per cent of the total population now living in dwellings constructed by the programme over the past 21 years. Rural communities have also been fully equipped with infrastructure, health centres and schools.

41. Another representative explained how the rural service centres programme operated in his country, where the rural population was spread out in more than 40,000 villages. In a concerted attempt to bridge the gap between rural and urban living conditions, rural service centres were established at central locations to serve the human settlements requirements that outlying villages could not meet. Such services included secondary schooling, health centres, banking facilities, industries and employment opportunities that could not be economically provided at the village level. The rural service centres were part of a national effort which also included agrarian land reform, the construction of road systems, the establishment of co-operatives, and technical assistance to farmers to convert their increased incomes into productive investments in the rural service centre communities or in outlying villages. The goal of these efforts, according to the representative, was to facilitate rural development, achieve balanced socio-economic growth, and ensure a smooth and progressive shift from an agrarian to an industrial society.

42. Related to the same question, a number of representatives discussed the benefits and drawbacks of creating growth poles and new settlements as means of drawing off some of the rural migrants heading for the principal cities. Mention was made, for example, of government inducements to industries to locate in certain areas and the refusal of permission to locate in highly urbanized areas. One representative noted that in his country there existed an inadequate relationship between the location of basic natural resources (water, energy and food) and of

population and industrial centres. As a result, cities were continuing to grow and industries to expand without the possibility of obtaining sufficient basic services. From a long-term investment perspective, the representative concluded, the creation of new cities made both economic and ecological sense.

43. Another representative, on the other hand, explained that, on the basis of his country's long experience in this matter, it seemed that human settlements policies would produce better, more immediate and less costly results if directed towards solving urban problems within the troubled cities themselves, rather than attempting to reduce these problems by redistributing patterns of migration and urban growth. He indicated that his country's experience pointed to urban rehabilitation and renovation as effective means of improving the urban habitat.

44. Many of the representatives concurred that the upgrading or rehabilitation of the existing stock at least equalled in importance the construction of new human settlements. One of the representatives spoke of his Government's policy of conserving the existing stock and of revitalizing communities. The national Government, it was explained, granted low-interest rehabilitation loans through city governments to younger households which could not afford new housing but sought instead to purchase, at lower cost, neglected housing in decaying neighbourhoods. As a result, there had been a great increase in inner-city housing rehabilitation by private households and small-scale developers. Moreover, housing had been made more affordable, decaying areas were being revitalized and the self-help capacity of local community organizations and local governments to achieve mutually supported goals was being strengthened.

45. Statements by representatives seemed to indicate that the problem of inadequate maintenance of the existing stock was perhaps even more acute in the developing countries than in the developed countries. One representative noted that, in one of his country's cities, over 100 buildings collapsed prematurely each year owing to inadequate maintenance, leaving some 25,000 persons homeless. He urged the need for programmes to recondition old buildings to increase their life span, in particular since such programmes were much less costly per family-year of shelter than the construction of new houses.

46. Also on the subject of maintenance and rehabilitation, representatives from developing countries spoke of the importance of squatter-settlement upgrading programmes. Several representatives spoke of their countries' programmes to improve conditions of life in these settlements. In one developing country, over \$US 400 million had been invested annually to construct more than 200 multiple social-service centres to date in the squatter settlements of 36 cities. These multiple social-service centres were located in the heart of squatter areas to provide a range of services, including health care, recreation, security patrols, day care, and telephone and postal communications, to the benefit of 10,000 to 20,000 squatter residents. The programme also included small loans and technical assistance to business in squatter settlements. Water and sewerage lines had also been installed in a number of them.

47. A number of representatives addressed themselves to the fifth subsidiary question posed by the Executive Director in his introductory remarks, in particular to the issue of indigenous building materials. These representatives stressed that, whether for upgrading, rehabilitating or building new housing, investments in housing and in human settlements generally should be based on the maximum use of

indigenous materials and resources, thereby reducing the impact of imported materials and technologies on the balance-of-payments situation of the developing countries. In this connexion, one representative pointed out that in his country an intensive research programme had been established for the development of local building materials and appropriate construction systems, which were to emphasize simplicity, practicability and reduced costs. Another representative noted that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had placed building technology development on its priority list of items to be discussed at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

48. In connexion with this question of local building technologies, one representative raised the issue of devising less pretentious codes and standards, which would be more compatible with the resources available to developing countries, more relevant to the cultural and climatic conditions of communities and less imitative of affluent societies than those now in widespread effect. In developing countries, the same representative observed, codes and norms copied from developed countries had provided solutions affordable only to the privileged groups, while squatter settlements, marked by squalor, misery and privation, proliferated without the benefit of any norms or codes at all. This representative noted that, while there was no technical reason to prevent developing countries from devising their own codes and standards, experience had demonstrated that efforts to develop realistic norms often evoked opposition from elitist planners and decision makers.

49. In response to the part of the Executive Director's fifth subsidiary question that dealt with the implications of the energy problem for appropriate future patterns and densities of human settlements, land use and transportation, a representative from one of the developed countries pointed out that, in his country, newly created metropolitan areas, which placed extraordinary reliance on the automobile as the primary mode of transportation, had contributed to that country's high energy costs and fuel importation needs. He warned that developing countries were likely to face the same problems resulting from urban sprawl.

50. In addressing the other subsidiary questions posed by the Executive Director in his introductory statement, most representatives confined themselves to the issues of the institutions, fiscal structures and management systems needed to execute human settlements programmes. One representative noted that the formulation of policies and strategies was a question not only of planning, but also of the political will relating planning to decision making. This representative emphasized the need to develop institutions and procedures to promote and facilitate efficiently structured and interrelated human-settlements decision making at all the levels and sections of government.

51. In this connexion, several representatives spoke of the ministerial-level bodies set up in their countries to oversee, orient and co-ordinate the implementation of all programmes and activities in the human settlements field. One representative, for example, informed the Commission that the recommendations from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements constituted the principal guidelines for the general law on human settlements which his country had adopted. The law was the basis of governmental action in the sphere of human settlement: it established rights and obligations related to urban development and it specified the need to carry out the corresponding national, state and municipal plans. In order to implement the general law on human settlements, a Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works was created to formulate and implement plans for urban

development in close relationship with the national socio-economic development plan and in connexion with the construction activities of the Government. Thus, it was believed, coherence between economic and urbanization objectives was being ensured.

52. Particular emphasis had been given by the Ministry to, among other matters, the planning of new settlements within regional frameworks to achieve national settlement strategies and development objectives; provision for the community needs of squatter settlements and for their integration into the permanent network of settlements; the integrated planning of shelter, infrastructure and services so as to provide them in an appropriate sequence; the adoption of standards that are compatible with local resources and also evolutionary, realistic, and adaptable to local, social, economic and cultural conditions; the efficient utilization of energy and its various mixes in guiding the relative location of work places and dwellings; the recapture by public bodies of unearned increments resulting from the rise in land values; public participation in human settlements planning and implementation; and a continuous monitoring and evaluation of human settlements programmes and conditions.

53. As for the financing of human settlements activities, representatives from two developed nations explained that their Governments were granting blocks of national funds to local governments, giving the latter a large degree of autonomy and latitude in the disposition of these funds to develop their communities. One of these representatives added that, to qualify for such grants, communities must formulate an over-all community development plan that included information on how low-income housing needs were expected to be met. One representative made a brief allusion to his country's National Housing Trust, which mobilized funds from employers and employees by means of compulsory levies on wages and salaries, to finance the development of human settlements activities.

54. In dealing with the fiscal aspects of human settlements, several representatives made references to rent-control legislation, which was a matter raised by the Executive Director in his introductory statement. Representatives from both developed and developing countries considered that rent freezes had contributed to the accelerated decay and even collapse of older residential buildings. One representative noted that, in his country, a "fair rent act" had been passed that would ensure reasonable investment returns to landlords as well as safeguard the social needs of tenants, with the added expectation of better maintenance of property. Another representative informed the Commission that his Government, rather than continue to subsidize the house rents of its civil servants - a practice which favoured them at the expense of the majority of the population - was instead planning to sell the houses to their occupants, who thereafter would be responsible for maintaining them. He furthermore noted that his country had created a rent control board to keep the potential exploitation of tenants in check.

55. The representatives from centrally-planned-economy countries spoke of the vast housing programmes they had undertaken following the Second World War to replace the housing stock destroyed by the war and to provide improved residential conditions for their populations. They declared that problems of rent gouging, land speculation and other human settlements abuses did not exist in their countries. One such representative accordingly proposed that the real solution to human settlements problems lay in the adoption of legislation guaranteeing the right of citizens to shelter, and in central State management and planning of the development of settlements, environmental protection, town planning, housing

construction, the construction industry and the building materials industry. Another important aspect of the centrally planned system noted by the same representative was the allocation of a share of the total national income for guaranteeing low and stable rents. The representatives described the various forms of assistance provided in the field of human settlements, such as the training of specialists from developing countries, the holding of scientific seminars and the operating of study tours. Assistance was provided through both bilateral and multilateral channels, an example of the latter being the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

56. As regards the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, one of the items touched on by the Executive Director in his introductory statement, several delegations strongly endorsed the notion that developing countries need to collaborate with each other to their mutual advantage in matters related to the development of human settlements. One representative noted that a great deal could be learned from the developed countries, but that developing countries could probably learn much more from one another concerning issues directly relevant to their own problems.

~~57. A number of representatives addressed themselves to the last of the subsidiary~~
questions, concerning the issue of public participation and self-reliance on the part of the poor and the socially disadvantaged. One representative, in this connexion, expressed his belief that new reserves of talent and leadership could be identified by involving people in the planning and management of their own homes and immediate environment. These positive forces relieve hard-pressed administrators and professionals for more urgent tasks. Other representatives noted that sites-and-services and squatter-settlement upgrading programmes readily lent themselves to an emphasis on self-help and self-reliance. One representative also pointed out that non-governmental organizations had certain inherent advantages in catalyzing and organizing public participation and that, with the advantage of their non-governmental status, they could, under most circumstances, act relatively freely without being encumbered by the usual constraints under which governmental organizations must operate. The representative noted that, for these reasons, non-governmental organizations could be useful partners for Governments in mobilizing popular action for improving human settlements.

58. In reviewing the years that had elapsed since the Habitat Conference, held at Vancouver, the general consensus of the delegations was that, by and large, the conditions of human settlements and of the poor in developing countries had worsened. While a few developing countries were adopting new legislation, institutions and expanded programmes to improve human settlements conditions, there remained much still to be accomplished. The Commission hoped that the creation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would renew the spirit and sense of purpose proclaimed at the Habitat Conference. One representative pointed out, however, that Vancouver had been only a starting point and that it was now necessary to translate its principles into action-oriented programmes for execution by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. He expressed the hope that the programmes would reflect action requirements and would be matched with available resources. He welcomed the idea of joint projects being executed with UNEP and also requested the Centre to examine the possibility of collaborating with the United Nations University on the development of theoretical aspects of human settlements. However, he pointed out that a prerequisite for execution action by the Centre was the winning-over of national Governments to the idea of

raising the priority of human settlements and of increasing human settlements resource allocations.

C. Special presentations

59. In addition to the opportunities presented in the plenary meetings for delegations to speak of human settlements activities in their own countries, member States were also invited to prepare and make special presentations for the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements. Pursuant to paragraph 17 of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, 1/ 11 member Governments made audio-visual presentations in plenary meetings held on 29 March 1979. Each presentation was introduced by a representative of the sponsoring Government. The countries giving presentations were Argentina, Australia, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, the Federal Republic of, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Poland and Sri Lanka. Discussion followed and a number of representatives expressed appreciation for the opportunity of viewing the special presentations which are listed in annex V.

60. The Commission recommended that special presentations should become a regular feature of the sessions of the Commission and invited interested countries to submit such material to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements at least one month in advance, to enable the necessary technical arrangements to be made.

D. Action by the Commission

61. In summing up the general debate, the Executive Director focused on the main issues raised by the representatives, which he identified as follows:

(a) The need for practical, concrete and realistic outputs from the work of the Centre rather than theoretical and academic studies;

(b) The desire to have the Centre concentrate its attention on the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas;

(c) A general agreement that shelter, infrastructure and services should carry the main thrust of the Centre's activities, particularly in technical co-operation;

(d) The requirement for appropriate indigenous systems of building technology, supported by appropriate codes and regulations and by programmes of building and infrastructure facilities maintenance and rehabilitation;

(e) The training of national staff to take up management responsibilities in human-settlement programmes; and

(f) The intensification of efforts in public participation, including an intensive programme of information dissemination, including audio-visual activities.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8).

He assured the representatives that the implementation of the Centre's work programme would be guided by the set of criteria and priorities expressed by the representatives. He closed his comments by informing the representatives that the organizational structure of the Centre was under study and would be finalized by the end of the year, and that he would report on the arrangements to the Commission at its third session.

62. In closing the general debate, the Chairman appealed to the developing countries to give greater attention to the human-settlement sector in their programming of UNDP technical co-operation funds, as a concrete gesture of recognition of the importance of human settlements. He suggested that funds should be primarily used in formulating projects which would generate follow-up support from agencies such as the World Food Programme, World Bank, regional banks and United Nations Capital Development Fund. He appealed, also, to the developed countries to make up the funding gap in the work programme of the Centre by sponsoring elements of technical co-operation and pilot projects. The Chairman concluded by suggesting the form of a resolution which would reflect the priority concerns expressed by the Commission, would urge member Governments to increase the share of national resources devoted to human settlements and would ask member Governments to report to the Commission on actions taken to meet the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) Conference held at Vancouver. Subsequently, the Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution in those terms (see annex I, resolution 2/6).

V. REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A. Work programmes, organization and resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (agenda item 6 (a))

1. Introduction

63. The Commission considered agenda item 6 (a) at its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April. For its consideration of this item, it had before it the following documents:

(a) Activities and current work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (HS/C/2/4);

(b) Human and financial resources and technical co-operation capability of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (HS/C/2/5);

(c) Proposals for the 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); report of the Executive Director (HS/C/2/6);

(d) Proposals for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: report of the Executive Director (HS/C/2/7) and report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (HS/C/2/7/Add.1);

(e) The feasibility of undertaking the special studies requested by the Commission at its first session (HS/C/2/8);

(f) Activities of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements (HS/C/2/11).

64. In introducing the report on the current work programme (HS/C/2/4) the Executive Director explained that the activities described correspond to the biennium 1978/1979, which preceded the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and was at a time when its present components were not yet integrated. Thus, by necessity, the report dealt with the activities carried out by the former Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre for Human Settlements (Vision Habitat).

2. Discussion

65. The Commission accepted the view of certain delegates that the report on ongoing activities (HS/C/2/4) and the one on the human and financial resources and technical co-operation capability of the Centre (HS/C/2/5) would not be subject to discussion, but would be used as background documents to the "Proposals for the 1980-1981 work programme" (HS/C/2/6).

66. In reviewing the proposed work programme, the Commission generally felt that it was well conceived, comprehensive and sufficiently detailed. It also reflected the urgent needs of the developing countries. The Commission undertook to give policy guidance for setting priorities within the proposed work programme.

67. A view was expressed that the programme reflected the request of the Commission at its first session that the Centre should prepare an integrated programme that would serve to motivate the member States to implement the action-oriented human settlements programme and to encourage their interest and contributions. The programme now presented met these conditions.

68. As for the strategy of the programme, the Commission felt that the thrust of activities was focused on priority problem areas and was addressed to the needs of the least advantaged within the countries. The emphasis was on action at the national, regional and subregional levels, limiting the global activities basically to support for these levels and assistance to the Commission in discharging its responsibilities.

69. Some delegations expressed the view that the programme did not reflect the available resources. Consequently, it was felt that there was a need for reassessing the priorities and matching the programme to the existing and anticipated resources. However, a large number of delegations stated that only a programme on such a scale was in keeping with the enormous needs of such a complex sector. They therefore recommended that the programme as a whole should be endorsed and that the Executive Director should mobilize support from the member States through voluntary contributions. Only a strong endorsement of the programme by the Commission would strengthen the hand of the Executive Director to obtain such support for the programme.

70. A number of delegations said that the Commission should have the opportunity to discuss budgetary matters. Consideration of a detailed budget presented in accordance with a standard United Nations format should form part of the normal workload of future sessions of the Commission.

71. There was agreement about the high priority that should be accorded to technical co-operation. In technical co-operation activities, emphasis should be put on the promotion, co-ordination and integration of human settlements, in particular through research, training and dissemination of information. Within this frame, more attention should be given to training, particularly on the national, regional and subregional levels.

72. A number of delegations pointed out that it was inappropriate to set up a rigid order of priorities for the subprogrammes, given the variety of conditions and needs of countries. Therefore, it should be the prerogative of Governments to express their respective priorities.

73. Nevertheless, a consensus was reached that highest priority should be accorded to subprogramme 3 on shelter, infrastructure and services. Some delegations felt that subprogrammes 5 and 6 were in essence support programmes for all the other subprogrammes.

Subprogramme 1. Settlements policies and strategies

74. The particular importance of this subprogramme for national-level assistance to developing countries was emphasized, specifically when it addressed critical and urgent issues of policies and strategies for settlements. Questions were raised, however, about the type of assistance an international agency could give to national Governments in evolving and implementing human settlements policies

and strategies so closely connected to the peculiar social, physical and political situation of each country.

75. Differing views were expressed about the extent to which the United Nations should engage in assistance to countries on policies for human settlements. Various delegations pointed out, however, that planning and implementation could not be effective and efficient without policy determination and that many countries did not have the know-how for policy formulation in human settlements for which they required support.

76. There was general acceptance that technical co-operation had a vital role to play in the strategy of implementing subprogramme 1. Some reservations were expressed as to the adequacy of technical assistance proposed under this subprogramme.

77. Suggestions were made to regroup some elements and bring them into better focus with regard to the over-all objectives. Similar suggestions were voiced on the need to consolidate reporting and dissemination of information in order to co-ordinate these activities better with the technical co-operation, research and training envisaged.

Subprogramme 2. Settlement planning

78. It was felt that settlements planning could be more action-oriented and in line with reality if past experience could be incorporated in it. It was mentioned that subprogramme 2 lent itself to technical co-operation between developing countries.

79. Research and training were accorded a high priority for subprogramme 2. The Commission believed that expertise, advice, training, and dissemination of research results enhanced the possibility of influencing the priorities Governments give to human settlements planning. There was general agreement on the important role that training, mainly at the national and regional levels, had to play in achieving better and more realistic settlements planning. The Commission recommended that full advantage be taken of existing experience in these areas.

80. There was agreement on the greater emphasis the subprogramme gave to rural development, as compared with past work programmes. Some delegations welcomed the systems approach proposed in the work programme for rural settlements planning and placed emphasis on the positive experiences a number of countries have gained with this approach. There remains the problem, however, of the appropriate transfer of these experiences. In this context, the Centre was asked to explore ways of organizing training and the transfer of expertise.

Subprogramme 3. Shelter, infrastructure and services

81. The Commission noted particular interest in projects related to the preparations of new codes, norms and standards appropriate to new approaches for the poor. It also supported the emphasis placed on the use of indigenous materials, development of appropriate technology, energy requirements in human settlements and energy conservation in buildings, as well as information exchange on construction and pooling of information on building materials.

82. Further, it emphasized the need to give priority to projects related to upgrading slums and to innovative approaches in the improvement of these areas.

83. Technical co-operation activities were thought to be more meaningful for developing countries if labour-intensive techniques at lower cost are used. It was felt that the technical co-operation projects should give due attention to the generation of employment.

84. Additional note was made of the special importance of promoting and encouraging small enterprises, especially in the informal sector, for the construction and maintenance of shelter, infrastructure and services in developing countries and of suggested concentration on measures for this purpose, such as better access to financial resources, technology and management in order to increase efficiency.

Subprogramme 4. Land

85. The subprogramme elements considered most important were land tenure and land resource management; national legislation and establishment of national institutions to deal with land values, acquisition, and administration; and methods for collecting and updating information on land, as well as all the project elements under research and training.

Subprogramme 5. Public participation

86. There was general agreement with the emphasis on research and training at the national and regional levels, particularly in respect of co-operative housing and for the benefit of the informal sector. It was also felt that the dissemination of information was a key component for an adequate programme of public participation in human settlements.

Subprogramme 6. Institutions and management

87. The element particularly noted as important was that of strengthening the capability of Governments to provide services vital to low-income settlements. The emphasis of this programme should be to assist countries in establishing and strengthening administrative and financial institutions to deal with human settlements issues. It was suggested that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements could play an active role in the co-ordination of research being undertaken in many countries. On dissemination of information, it was emphasized that this is a vital activity for which the Centre should serve as a clearing house with the objective of reaching the people in need of information through regional and subregional information centres.

88. It was understood that all of these and other subprogramme elements should be concentrated on the principal objective of national institution building and effective operation for the implementation of human settlements policies and programmes.

Special studies

89. The timing and periodicity of the special studies referred to by the Executive Director in his report (HS/C/2/8) was commented upon by several delegations. It was agreed that the five-year period for the global review should be based on the decennial census cycle. In respect of the periodicity of the reporting on the human settlements dimension of financial and other assistance to developing countries, it was requested that consideration be given to the issue of

this report every two years, rather than every three, in order to coincide better with the planning of bilateral aid programmes.

90. It was also felt that the co-operation of the non-governmental organizations and organizations outside the United Nations system should be actively sought for specialized inputs to these reports, in addition to the input of organizations within the United Nations system.

91. The Commission agreed that reports II and III should be combined by incorporating their information into a single report. It further agreed that the reports should be re-examined with a view to simplifying their contents, reducing their size and introducing economies in their preparation.

92. The Commission placed particular emphasis on the importance of the reports on the periodic review of the state of and prospects for, human settlements on a global scale and the report on financial and other assistance to developing countries.

93. The Commission accepted the Executive Director's recommendation that the world housing survey requested by the General Assembly should be transformed into a global report on the state of, and prospects for, human settlements on a global scale.

94. One delegation requested that the Executive Director report to the Commission at its third session on the functional integration of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and indicate any further legislative action that was necessary on the part of the General Assembly.

95. Some delegations requested that the biennium programme budget on human settlements to be submitted to the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination, be circulated to States which are members of the Commission. Another delegation asked that the view be recorded in the report that the work programme was only an initial programme and was not commensurate with world needs.

3. Action by the Commission

96. At its 11th meeting on 4 April, on the recommendation of Committee I, the Commission adopted two draft resolutions (HS/C/2/SC.I/L.2 and HS/C/2/SC.I/L.3) on the work programme and on the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (see annex I, resolutions 2/1 and 2/2).

97. At the same meeting, acting on the recommendation of Committee I, the Commission adopted two draft resolutions (HS/C/2/SC.I/L.7 and HS/C/2/SC.I/L.4) on special studies to be prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and by the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat) (see annex I, resolutions 2/3 and 2/4).

B. Co-operation and concerted action on programmes on human settlements within the United Nations system and co-operation with non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements (agenda item 6 (b))

1. Introduction

98. The Executive Director introduced his report on co-operation and co-ordination in programmes on human settlements within the United Nations system (HS/C/2/9), outlining the progress so far achieved in co-ordination of human settlements activities with UNEP, the appropriate departments of the United Nations Secretariat, with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. The Executive Director observed that the Bureaux of UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements had met on 5 and 6 March at Nairobi to review together their respective priorities and programmes and had agreed on objectives and strategies of improving human settlements and on ways to strengthen and extend co-operation between the two organizations (HS/C/2/INF.3).

99. The establishment of the Centre's office at New York would facilitate continuing co-ordination with relevant divisions of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and other Secretariat units at Headquarters. In comments during the Committee meetings, representatives of the regional commissions welcomed the consultations initiated by the Centre in the preparation of the 1980-1981 work programme and looked forward to their continuance.

2. Discussion

100. Some delegations underlined the complexity of human settlements issues and called upon the Executive Director to initiate and promote innovative approaches for solving these problems. It was emphasized that the Centre as a focal point for human settlements action should co-ordinate activities in this field in the United Nations system.

101. Most delegations saw the need for close co-operation and concerted action on human settlements projects between the Centre, the specialized agencies, UNDP, UNEP, the regional commissions and the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat.

102. The Commission felt the need to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other units within the United Nations system to enable the Commission to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the field of human settlements. In this connexion, the Executive Director was requested to review human settlements activities in the United Nations system so as to determine the modalities for co-ordination and collaboration.

103. In its resolution 32/162, the General Assembly had recommended the establishment of regional and intergovernmental committees on human settlements. It was noted that some of the regional commissions had not yet established such committees and secretariat units to service them.

104. It was noted with satisfaction that the Economic Commission for Africa had already established a special regional committee on human settlements and a unit to service the committee. It was also noted that the mandate of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had been revised with a view to its transformation in keeping with General Assembly resolution 32/162. It was pointed out that the long experience of ECE in fields like building construction and regulations could be adapted to the needs of other regions.

105. Some delegations noted that in the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), all activities concerning human settlements were funded from extrabudgetary resources of UNEP and CIDA. It was urged by several delegations that definitive action be taken at the forthcoming meeting of ECLA to set up a regional committee along the lines recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 32/162.

106. Institutional links between the regional commissions and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) secretariat at Nairobi were advocated by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a means of implementing human settlements programmes. Regular meetings were considered important for the exchange of views and experiences.

107. The Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions were urged to continue their efforts to establish at an early date, where they do not exist, separate intergovernmental committees on human settlements. Reservations were expressed by one delegation to this suggestion in view of the fact that ESCAP had already transformed its former Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology into the Committee on Industry, Human Settlements and Technology, which would now devote one session every two years exclusively to matters concerning human settlements. The Committee also noted the efforts of the Executive Director to establish institutional links between the regional commissions and the Centre.

108. The Commission discussed initiatives taken by the Executive Director for the development of collaboration with the specialized agencies in the field of human settlements. The representative of UNESCO outlined areas of collaboration, especially (a) training human settlements managers, (b) information networks and (c) historic preservation. For example, the Centre was invited to participate in a seminar on the conservation and restoration of Islamic architecture, to be held in November 1979, and in training courses on the preservation of ancient cities and historical monuments, especially on the East African coast.

109. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) similarly described ongoing programmes and activities of his organization relating to human settlements. These activities include land policies, land settlements (the planning and establishment of new rural settlements), the institutional aspects of existing rural settlements and the application of appropriate technologies. He pointed out the need for co-ordination and co-operation with the Centre in respect of these activities falling under its mandate. The representative of the World Bank Group expressed the willingness of the Bank to explore further ways of co-operating with the Centre.

110. One delegation urged close collaboration with the United Nations University in theoretical research.

111. Many delegations urged the Executive Director to develop various specific modalities for different forms of co-ordination and to report on progress to the Commission at its third session.

112. In the Executive Director's introduction to the agenda item, reference was made to the degree of implementation which has already taken place in response to General Assembly resolutions 31/114 and section VIII of 32/162. The review and comments of the Commission on this agenda item will be included in the report requested by the Assembly under resolution 31/114 for transmittal by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council.

113. Non-governmental organizations are divided into three groups:

- (a) Those concerned mainly with the formation of public opinion;
- (b) Research institutions and professional societies;
- (c) Action-oriented organizations geared to solving specific problems.

114. The Executive Director recognized the contribution of non-governmental organizations and their importance in communication and information in this field. Co-operation with the NGO Committee on Human Settlements, set up at the time of the first session of the Commission, will provide one important channel for future contacts with non-governmental organizations. Some recent impressive activities of non-governmental organizations include the seminar on the financing of rural housing proposed by the International Rural Housing Association at its third General Assembly, to be held in Spain in October 1979; the establishment of the Pan African Association for Human Settlements with subregional groups; the proposal of the International Council for Building Research and Documentation (CIB) to establish a research secretariat at Nairobi as a means of facilitating the interchange of information and expertise and of assisting the Centre's work programme; and the analysis of institutional investments in "Post-Habitat aid for human settlements in the third world", prepared by the International Institute for Environment and Development.

115. Further development of non-governmental organizations at the regional level is anticipated and annual consultations for the exchange of information and identification of issues for co-operation will take place between non-governmental organizations and the Executive Director.

116. The Chairman of the NGO Committee on Human Settlements made a statement at the 5th plenary meeting, on 28 March, in which he expressed appreciation of the Centre's work programme and the proposed steps for its implementation. He welcomed opportunities for the involvement of non-governmental organizations and other groups in the formative stage of settlements planning and expressed the NGO Committee's willingness to co-operate in the proposals set out in the report of the Secretary-General (HS/C/2/10) relating to annual consultations and joint discussions on specific issues. The collective fund of experience which non-governmental organizations could bring to the problems of human settlements was substantial, but needed to be mobilized and focused more effectively. Regional branches had to be strengthened and there was a need to foster new non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements at the local level. One of the main functions of the NGO Committee was to keep member organizations informed of the Centre's programmes and projects so as to determine where joint activities should be organized; conversely, the Centre would be kept informed of available assistance from the community of non-governmental organizations. The Commission noted the willingness of the NGO Committee to provide a focal point for contacts and advice, especially on such matters as building materials and techniques and the management and financing of housing.

117. The Chairman of the NGO Committee on Human Settlements expressed disappointment that the majority of industrialized countries had been unwilling to provide adequate financial support to the Centre and that, in the three years since the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat, the overwhelming majority of countries had progressed little in implementing the recommendations for national action. The NGO Committee urged that the "generous spirit of commitment" of that Conference be honoured by Member States by ensuring sufficient funds to the Centre to carry out its mandate.

118. Most delegates agreed that co-operation among the Centre, non-governmental organizations and the scientific community was necessary for the realization of objectives and the implementation of the Centre's work programme. Several delegations emphasized the usefulness of collaboration of non-governmental organizations in the areas of research, training and documentation. Many delegates expressed the need for strengthening regional participation of non-governmental organizations and suggested the establishment of non-governmental organizations at the regional and national levels. One delegation said that a complete list of relevant non-governmental organizations should be prepared and that the Centre's newsletter, entitled Habitat News, could include a column on the activities of participating non-governmental organizations. Some delegations expressed the wish that consultations with non-governmental organizations which do not enjoy consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be subject to the prior verification of their Government of the country in which they were located. A number of delegations, however, expressed the view that the procedures governing relationships between the Centre and non-governmental organizations should be left to the discretion of the Executive Director. Several delegations recognized the fact that some non-governmental organizations are lobbying organizations.

3. Action by the Commission

119. The Commission agreed that it was premature to set up a sub-committee to discuss criteria for the selection of participating non-governmental organizations, as set forth in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the report of the Secretary-General (HS/C/2/10) and decided to defer this matter until the third session of the Commission (see annex I, decision 2/7).

C. Regional commissions (agenda item 6 (c))

1. Discussion

120. In considering this item, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Activities of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements" (HS/C/2/11).

121. The Commission expressed general satisfaction at the report of the ongoing activities being carried out of the regional commissions and at their proposals for the 1980-1981 work programmes in human settlements. Nevertheless, most of the representatives pointed out that the available resources were inadequate for the proposed programmes and urged the strengthening of the regional human settlements units. However, some representatives expressed the view that the programmes gave too much emphasis to limited studies of housing and did not reflect

the broader recognition of human settlements contained in the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat). Another representative felt that there had been inadequate communication with member Governments on programme criteria and co-ordination, and that this had diminished the impact of the Conference findings at the national level.

122. The Commission expressed support for the strengthening of human settlements programmes and more viable mechanisms in the regional commissions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/162. Many representatives expressed the view that it was important to identify regional and subregional similarities, and to concentrate regional activities on studies and research which would generate indigenous solutions. Technical co-operation and training were emphasized as important regional activities by most representatives, and there was general agreement that regional training centres were needed to strengthen national capabilities in the human settlements field.

123. There was wide agreement on the desirability of collaboration among the regional commissions in the full range of their activities, and between the commissions and the Centre. There was also a need to exchange information on regional research between countries within regions, between regional commissions and between the commissions and the Centre. Several representatives spoke of the value at the global level of a knowledge of regional experiences. There was also general appreciation of the usefulness of audio-visual presentations in disseminating information to the public and generating community participation. It was suggested that the Centre should prepare sets of films on regional topics and display them at regional meetings. Several representatives drew a distinction between the dissemination of general information and the distribution of technical and professional data. It was suggested that the regional commissions might publish a regular journal with abstracts of recent scientific documents related to human settlements.

124. Other items suggested for attention by the regional commissions were the adoption of standard terminology for the human settlements sector and the development of linkages between national Governments and regional financing institutions. On this latter point, one representative stressed the urgent need was for seed-capital to meet the housing requirements of low-income families, and he suggested that the regional commissions should concentrate on this area, including training personnel to operate organizations which finance low-income housing.

125. It was suggested that the priorities expressed by the various representatives should be recorded, so that they could be taken into account by the executive secretaries of the various regional commissions when resources were being allocated to current programme components or when future programmes were being prepared.

2. Action by the Commission

126. At its 11th meeting, on 4 April, on the recommendation of Committee I, the Commission adopted draft resolution HS/C/2/L.4 on support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action on United Nations institutional questions relating to human settlements (see annex I, resolution 2/5).

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (item 7 (g))

A. Introduction and discussion

127. The Executive Director introduced a note by the Executive Director (HS/C/2/13) by highlighting four fields in which the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) was developing modalities for co-operation:

- (a) Information and documentation exchanges;
- (b) Intersecretariat consultations;
- (c) Co-ordination of activities;
- (d) Joint implementation of projects.

128. Regarding intersecretariat consultations, the Executive Director proposed at least one such consultation among all relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system during the period 1979-1980. He noted that collaboration could provide additional resources, especially for the Centre's extrabudgetary-funded projects. Efforts had been initiated to establish collaboration with the World Bank and already collaboration was taking place with regional development banks, mainly in the framework of the regional meetings on housing finance and management.

129. While all delegations supported collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, it was stressed that this co-operation should be practical, pragmatic and should focus on project implementation. Some delegations emphasized that the Executive Director should be selective and start by establishing collaboration with those organizations with greater potential for results. One delegation emphasized that collaboration should be in action, innovation and demonstrable results and should avoid duplication.

130. Some delegations suggested that the progress of the Centre towards becoming an action-oriented organization would be impaired if too much effort were devoted to discussions with other organizations. In the early stages of its existence, therefore, these delegations suggested that the order of priority of the Centre's collaboration with other organizations should be, first, with United Nations agencies, second with the intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and third, with non-governmental organizations.

131. Regarding proposed recommendations, it was pointed out that, since the Commission had not established its own rules of procedure, the question of inviting intergovernmental organizations to attend the Commission sessions could not be

finalized at this session. The Commission generally agreed with the suggested actions set forth by the Executive Director in his note on the subject (HS/C/2/13).

B. Action by the Commission

132. The Commission decided to request the Executive Director to make arrangements during the period from 1979 to 1981 for exchanges of information and co-operation on human settlements issues and projects (see annex I, decision 2/8).

VII. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

133. The Commission noted that the joint meeting of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of UNEP and the Bureau of its Governing Council had agreed to propose the tentative dates of 14 to 24 April 1980 for the eighth session of the Governing Council of UNEP.

134. At the 11th meeting, on 4 April, the representative of Mexico extended, on the part of his Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its third session at Mexico City.

135. Following its acceptance of the invitation from the Government of Mexico, the Commission agreed that, in as much as many of the delegates would also be attending the eighth session of the Governing Council of UNEP, it would be advisable to hold the Commission's session from 5 to 14 May 1980.

136. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the following draft provisional agenda for its third session:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Rules of procedure for the Commission
4. Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
5. General debate, including a review of human settlements policies and programmes in relation to the new international economic order and the new international development strategy
6. Review of selected human settlements themes
 - (a) Human settlements finance and management
 - (b) Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements
 - (c) Development of rural settlements and growth centres
 - (d) Upgrading of slums and squatter settlements
7. Report on United Nations activities in the field of human settlements
 - (a) 1982-1985 medium-term plan of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
 - (b) 1980-1981 work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

- (c) 1980-1981 work programmes and the 1982-1985 medium-term plans of the regional commissions
 - (d) Co-ordination of activities of other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements
8. Co-operation and co-ordination with organizations outside the United Nations system
- (a) Intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system
 - (b) Non-governmental organizations concerned with human settlements
9. Administrative, management and budgetary matters: report of the Executive Director
10. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourth session of the Commission
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission

VIII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

137. In a final address to the Commission at its second session, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) expressed warm appreciation to all the delegates for their very valuable contribution to the successful conclusion of the work of the session, and particularly for the guidance they had provided him in response to a number of policy issues he had earlier raised regarding the future direction of work in human settlements. As a result of such guidance, he now felt more sure of the direction in which the activities of the Centre should be pointed and of the priority to be given to various elements of the work programme. It was now, he urged, up to representatives to report back to their Governments on the deliberations in which they had participated and the conclusions reached, and he was hopeful that they would be able to persuade Governments to accord to human settlements issues the kind of priority which the Commission had been unanimous in expressing during the current session.

138. In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the second session of the Commission expressed his gratification at the constructive and vigorous debate which had taken place during the course of the session: this, he felt, was indicative of the great interest shown by delegates and Governments in the subject of human settlements.

139. It was necessary, however, the Chairman pointed out, to reinforce the Executive Director's preceding comment on the need to translate the views of the delegations into concrete action on the part of their Governments so as to make human settlements concern a key factor in national development plans. In this connexion, the Chairman noted, two specific ideas for action appeared to recommend themselves. Firstly, with regard to the developing countries, there was an obvious need for greater and more urgent recognition by their Governments of the human settlements aspects of development. As a concrete step towards such recognition, it would appear desirable to increase the percentage of UNDP expenditures allocated to the human settlements sector, which, he noted, stood at present at only 1.7 per cent. This figure, the Chairman suggested, could easily be doubled as a general target. A significant proportion of the increased funds thus available might then, in keeping with the priorities proposed by a majority of the delegations, be directed towards the shelter, infrastructure and services subprogrammes, with emphasis on the needs of rural settlements.

140. A second specific idea for action put forward by the Chairman was for the developed countries, in addition to any contributions they might make to the Centre's work programme not covered by UNDP technical co-operation funding, to make trust-fund contributions to the Centre to finance specified programme activities. The Centre could thus, as envisaged by the Chairman, become not only an intermediary in the process of generating resource-transfers from the developed to the developing countries in the field of human settlements, but also a negotiator of human-settlements support agreements and the channel and implementing agency for technical co-operation projects financed by trust funds.

141. In order, therefore, to highlight the importance of the human settlements sector in development strategies and to emphasize the need for an appropriate allocation of resources to settlement needs, the Chairman proposed the adoption by the Commission of a resolution in which it recommended the adoption by the General Assembly of a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of human settlements activities" (see annex I, resolution 2/6).

142. The Chairman concluded his remarks by once more thanking all the participants at the second session for the work accomplished and, looking forward to the third session, expressed on behalf of the Commission appreciation to the Government of Mexico for its generous offer to serve as host to the next session of the Commission in 1980.

143. The Chairman then declared closed the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session

<u>Number</u>		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>A. Resolutions</u>			
2/1.	1980-1981 work programme	4 April 1979	35
2/2.	Utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.	4 April 1979	37
2/3.	Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements*	4 April 1979	38
2/4.	United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat)*	4 April 1979	39
2/5.	Support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action on United Nations institutional questions relating to human settlements	4 April 1979	41
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<u>B. Decisions</u>			
2/7.	Participation of non-governmental organizations		43
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* Requires action by the General Assembly.

A. Resolutions

2/1. 1980-1981 work programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction that the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for 1980-1981 a/ is a well-conceived integrated and unified programme reflecting the urgent needs of the developing countries as called for by the Commission at its first session,

Noting further that the programme activities are directed to support the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) for national action, and to focus on the improvement of the living and working conditions of low-income and disadvantaged groups in both the rural and urban areas,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, which states that the current level of resources available for development purposes, particularly for human settlements, is clearly inadequate,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 33/111 of 18 December 1977 in which it urged the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to contact the various financial institutions and countries with a view to increasing voluntary contributions to the Centre through the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Noting with concern the gap between the programme requirements and available resources for the 1980-1981 biennium,

Concerned that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its nineteenth session, b/ provisionally recommended an average rate of growth for the activities of the United Nations programme on human settlements in its considerations of the medium-term plan for human settlements for the period 1980-1983,

1. Endorses the work programme for the 1980-1981 biennium and takes note of the cost estimates made by the Executive Director for its implementation;
2. Requests the Executive Director to take full account of the views on relative priorities of the work programme and the criteria for project selection expressed by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session and contained in the annex to the present resolution;
3. Takes note of the recommendation made by several delegations that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in the light of the work programme for

a/ HS/C/2/6.

b/ For the report of the Committee on the work of its nineteenth session, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/34/38).

human settlements for the biennium 1980-1981, should consider giving a higher than average rate of growth for human settlements programmes for the period from 1980 to 1983;

4. Requests the Executive Director to contact member Governments and various financial institutions and organizations with a view to obtaining voluntary contributions in order to implement the work programme for 1980-1981;

5. Appeals to member States which have already made voluntary contributions to increase their contribution, and to the remaining member States to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to utilize the resources as they become available in implementing the work programme for 1980-1981, in accordance with the views and priorities expressed by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session.

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Proposed criteria for the selection and scheduling of projects for the implementation of the 1980-1981 work programme on human settlements

1. The following criteria are proposed for projects on human settlements:

(a) Projects which are ongoing;

(b) Projects which are essential to strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the functioning of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including those required to fulfil the legislative mandate;

(c) Projects directed to support national action and to strengthen regional activities, especially in developing regions and countries;

(d) Projects which supplement rather than duplicate the work of other organizations particularly those required to fill important gaps;

(e) Projects which contribute to the development of innovative policies, methodologies and technologies, particularly indigenous technologies that can be replicable under similar conditions, and accelerate their transfer and exchange through training programmes and the dissemination of information;

(f) Projects which promote a comprehensive and integrative approach to human settlements, particularly those designed to meet the needs of low-income and disadvantaged groups in developing countries;

(g) Projects which either receive financial commitments from countries where the projects are carried out or stimulate financial support from international organizations;

(h) Projects which can have a high impact at a low cost;

(i) Projects which will have a significant impact and will lead to greater self-reliance in terms of generating national capabilities for the development and management of human settlements programmes.

2. In the foregoing, special attention should be paid to the projects listed under technical co-operation scheduled for implementation by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) from voluntary contributions.

* 2/2. Utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Having considered the proposals for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation contained in the reports of the Executive Director and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Noting the remark of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in his statement introducing the two reports, that the responsibilities assigned to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation by the General Assembly are sufficiently flexible to allow it to be integrated with the other units of the Centre, and his acceptance of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. Endorses the functional integration of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation into the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the use of its resources for the activities of the Centre as a whole, with special attention to the purposes set forth in General Assembly resolutions 3227 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, and 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

2. Approves the proposed allocation of funds for programme support and reserve purposes through June 1980 and the allocation of the balance for resources for programme purposes in accordance with financial rule 303.1, as modified in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; d/

3. Requests that the programme support costs for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation be placed on a biennial basis as soon as possible.

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c/ See HS/C/2/7.

d/ See HS/C/2/7/Add.1.

2/3. Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements e/

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing the necessity of providing the Commission with the information necessary for the performance of the functions assigned to it, especially those in section II, paragraph 4, of resolution 32/162,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the feasibility of undertaking the special studies requested by the Commission at its first session, f/

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it directed the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive housing survey every five years,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 976 G (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963, in which the Council, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, regional commissions, international finance agencies and governmental institutions, a biennial report on the level and kind of official assistance and international aid given to developing countries in the field of housing, building and planning,

"1. Decides that the quinquennial housing survey called for by General Assembly resolution 2598 (XXIV) should become the "Global report on human settlements" and should be issued every five years, according to the objectives, format and contents set out in paragraph 10 of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); g/

"2. Requests the Executive Director to undertake the preparation of a biennial report in 1982, beginning with an interim report in 1981, on the following subjects:

(a) Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements, and on the human settlements activities of

e/ See sect. V, para. 97.

f/ HS/C/2/8.

g/ HS/C/2/8.

the United Nations system, according to the objectives, format and content set out in sections II and III of the report of the Executive Director, g/ as modified by the Commission on Human Settlements;

(b) Activities and collaboration between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Information on the human settlements activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and co-operation between them and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements;

"3. Urges all member States to provide the necessary information for the preparation of the above reports;

"4. Calls upon the Secretariat, particularly the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and all other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to provide the necessary information for the preparation of the above reports and to collaborate with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in their preparation;

"5. Invites intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations working in the field of human settlements to collaborate with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the preparation of these reports;

"6. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to explore the establishment of efficient mechanisms for regular and systematic reporting and consultations for the above reports."

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2/4. United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre
on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat) h/

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recognizing that the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat), has ensured the effective and world-wide distribution and use of the audio-visual material prepared for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), with the generous support of the Government of Canada, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976,

Convinced that the effective dissemination of information, including the use of audio-visual techniques and materials, will help to accelerate the process of development through the effective and rapid dissemination among policy-makers, experts and the public in all countries of information on the need for new awareness and on new approaches, methods and techniques for improving human

settlements, especially their social, economic and environmental aspects, as well as through their increasing use for project-monitoring, education, training and public information,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976 by which it established the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements,

"Recalling further its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, entrusted it with responsibility for promoting the further and continued use of audio-visual material relating to human settlements and decided that the Director of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat) should report to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

"Recognizing that the effective dissemination of information, including the use of audio-visual techniques and materials, will help accelerate the process of development through the effective and rapid dissemination among policy-makers, experts and the public in all countries of information on the need for new awareness and on new approaches, methods and techniques for improving human settlements, especially their social, economic and environmental aspects, as well as through their increasing use for project-monitoring, education, training and public information,

"Noting that the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the United Nations on the operations of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements expires on 31 March 1980,

"Convinced that the programme developed by the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat) should be continued,

"Noting that the audio-visual activities have been fully integrated into the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements,

"1. Recommends that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should take the necessary steps to establish a unified information service within the Centre to comprise a suitable range of information and communications skills and capabilities, including an audio-visual component at an appropriate level;

"2. Decides that, upon the termination or expiration of the Agreement referred to above, the functions and transferable assets of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (Vision Habitat) should be transferred to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to consult with the Government of Canada on the appropriate formal arrangements regarding the termination or expiration of the Agreement;

"4. Encourages all member States to make available to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) audio-visual material prepared for their programmes of national action;

"5. Appeals to all States and interested organizations to make available to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) the necessary resources for continuing its audio-visual and information activities;

"6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its third session on progress achieved towards the establishment of a unified information service."

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2/5. Support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action on United Nations institutional questions relating to human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162, of 19 December 1977, relating to the institutional provisions for regional action on human settlements,

Recognizing that the Latin American and Caribbean region lacks an intergovernmental committee on human settlements and the support unit envisaged in the above resolution,

Bearing in mind that the programme on human settlements of the Economic Commission for Latin America, adopted in its resolution 378 (XVII) of 5 May 1977, lacks the financial and institutional resources to enable it to be implemented,

Considering the importance of the exchange of information on experiences among the countries of the region in human settlements questions,

Noting that the establishment of the intergovernmental committee and support unit will help the countries of the region to give more attention and greater support to the issue of human settlements,

Taking note of the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America on the support which is planned for regional action in this field, i/

i/ HS/C/2/11.

Decides to request the Executive Director to consult with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America before its eighteenth session with a view to:

- (a) The setting up of an intergovernmental committee on human settlements;
- (b) The establishment of the appropriate support unit;
- (c) Making the appropriate arrangements to secure the resources necessary for carrying out the regional and subregional programmes on human settlements.

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2/6. Strengthening of human settlements activities j/

The Commission on Human Settlements

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and 32/162 of 19 December 1977,

"Noting that the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its second session k/ calls for member States to deal with human settlements programmes as an integral and important element of national development plans,

"Recognizing that the goals of the new international economic order encompass both general economic improvements in developing countries and the achievement of social equity in the distribution of benefits from economic growth,

"Convinced that human settlements activities can make an important contribution to achieving both these goals of the new international economic order,

"Recognizing that one of the most urgent needs in developing countries is to upgrade the living and working conditions of low-income and disadvantaged groups in both rural and urban areas,

j/ See sect. IV, para. 62.

k/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/34/8).

"Convinced that human settlements programmes provide a direct mechanism for redressing imbalances in access to shelter, utility services, health care, education and community amenities, and hence can have a significant impact on the immediate, day-to-day needs of low-income and disadvantaged groups,

"Recognizing that the new constraints on energy supplies and natural resources will force most countries to encourage more economical urban and rural living patterns,

"Convinced that human settlements programmes offer an effective tool for generating the energy-conserving and resource-conserving community patterns which will be called for,

"1. Urges member States to devote a larger share of national resources to the strengthening of human settlements activities as vehicles of economic and social change;

"2. Suggests that member States should examine multilateral and bilateral co-operation programmes, particularly those financed by the United Nations Development Programme, to determine whether an increased allocation can be made to the human settlements sector;

"3. Requests member States to report every two years to the Commission on Human Settlements on the progress made in implementing the recommendations for national action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), and, where possible, the level and sources of international and national funding being devoted to human settlements activities."

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B. Decisions

2/7. Participation of non-governmental organizations

At its 11th plenary meeting on 4 April 1979, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to defer until its third session the establishment of a sub-committee to discuss criteria for the selection of participating non-governmental organizations.

2/8. Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

At its 11th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1979, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to request the Executive Director, during the period from 1979 to 1981 inclusive:

(a) To meet with the executive heads of relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and to convene, in co-operation

with the regional commissions, an intersecretariat consultation to explore effective ways and means of strengthening existing channels and mechanisms for regular exchanges of information and for close co-operation among the respective secretariats on human settlements issues and projects and, where there are no existing arrangements, to explore the feasibility of establishing them;

(b) To establish as a matter of priority close working relationships with the principal financial institutions at the global level and with the secretariats of the regional commissions at the regional level as well as other regional financial institutions;

(c) To make reciprocal arrangements with relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system for participation at major conferences, seminars or meetings on human settlements convened by the respective organizations, and for the regular exchange of relevant documentation;

(d) To prepare and circulate semi-annually a consolidated calendar of global and regional intergovernmental conferences on human settlements;

(e) To prepare for consideration by the Commission at its third session:

(i) A report on existing and proposed arrangements for exchanges of information and co-operation on human settlements issues and projects with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system;

(ii) An inventory and analysis of the major programmes and projects of the principal organizations.

ANNEX II

Address by the Honourable Daniel T. arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya

I am very happy to be here today. I understand that my duty this morning is twofold: first, to inaugurate this meeting of the Commission on Human Settlements and second, to open officially the offices of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. Starting with the latter, let me say at once that Kenya feels proud that we played a part in the establishment of this new United Nations body. The idea of having a new international organization to deal with human settlements was not, of course, ours alone. Indeed, at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, most Governments recognized that a new international organization to concentrate on human settlements problems was urgently needed. We are, therefore, very glad to see that this new organization is now fully operational. I take this opportunity to thank all the Governments which supported our suggestion that the new United Nations body should have its headquarters at Nairobi. I assure all those Governments, and the international community in general, that Kenya will do all it can to give the secretariat of the Centre for Human Settlements any support which is within our abilities to extend.

We in Kenya, and I am sure those in other countries, look at this international organization with great expectations. This is for a number of reasons, of which I can only deal with one on this occasion, namely, the extremely serious human settlements situation in most countries, especially developing ones. I know that this is not the place to describe that situation: that was adequately done in the papers produced during the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. Since that Conference, I have no doubt that, in most cases, the situation has, if anything, deteriorated - indeed the documents prepared for your meeting appear to confirm this. This new United Nations body, which you who are assembled here today have the privilege of directing as members of its governing body, has an historic role to play in providing leadership and co-ordination in the design and implementation of the necessary human settlements programmes at various levels. I am sure that, under your guidance and dedicated efforts by the secretariat, the world can now begin making real progress in this field. I am sure you all agree with me that this is no time for long debates and theoretical discussions as far as the human settlements situation is concerned: this is the time for determined and comprehensive action. At times one gets the impression that there is so much talking in international organizations that little time is left for the required action. I hope that the Commission and the Centre will concentrate on action.

Another point I should like to make on this occasion, when I have the privilege of addressing such eminent people, is that I regard the increased international concern with human settlements conditions as an opportunity for the international community, and each individual country, to embark upon development programmes which are more appropriate than has been the case hitherto. As you know, in the past a lot of attention has been put on broad targets, such as the rate of growth of the gross domestic product, in development planning exercises.

It is now clear that there is a need to give more emphasis on concrete and real targets, such as the elimination of poverty and visible improvement of the welfare of the people in general. Once this is recognized, human settlements programmes become central components in any comprehensive development plans.

It is because of considerations of this nature that we must not see human settlements programmes in isolation. As I have already said, increased international concern with human settlements should encourage countries to design more appropriate development programmes not only for housing, but also in many other areas, such as the location of industries, promotion of appropriate technologies, establishment of basic infrastructure and provision of services.

Reference to appropriate technologies reminds me that housing, and indeed the building industry in general, has not yet gone through what might be called a complete industrial revolution which facilitates mass production. In the developing countries in particular, technologies which would permit mass production and full use of locally available materials do not exist. Moreover, it is important to realize that for poor families it is impossible to move from a mud-and-wattle house to stone houses, or from grass to corrugated iron roofs. In addition, and because of rapidly increasing pressure of population and food production programmes, building materials such as timber and grass for roofing are becoming more and more scarce in many countries. For these and other reasons, the whole question of appropriate technologies for human settlements in the developing countries is a particularly urgent matter. This is an area in which this new organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme, which also has its headquarters at Nairobi, should establish active co-operation. When one projects the increase in population in many developing countries and therefore the need for more effective technologies, the importance and urgency of the matter cannot be exaggerated.

Another specific subject which I can only discuss briefly on this occasion is the flow of international financial resources into the human settlements sector. In the past, and again because of concern with rates of growth and therefore the so-called productive investment, the human settlements sector, especially housing, was neglected both in international aid programmes and in the national budgets of the developing countries. As you meet here today, housing is one of the areas receiving very little attention in international programmes for assistance and co-operation. I know that a number of documents and proposals have been produced in the United Nations on how more external financial resources could be mobilized for housing programmes in the developing countries. Unhappily, very little has been achieved as far as that objective is concerned in spite of so much talking. It is, therefore the hope of all of us that the Commission on Human Settlements and the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will give this matter the urgent attention it demands. In this connexion, let me say that now that the United Nations Human Settlements and Habitat Foundation is part of the Centre, a ready mechanism exists for mobilizing and channelling external resources into human settlements activities. I take this opportunity to urge the developing countries to give full support to the Foundation.

Concern with investment in human settlement programmes has also been inadequate at national levels in most developing countries. It is true that the developing countries have limited resources and that many of them face even more

demanding and desperate problems, such as inadequate supplies of food to feed themselves. However, they too could do more to promote programmes of human settlements provided that the limited resources they have are used imaginatively, for example, to support self-help and community programmes for more and better houses. The Commission should therefore urge the developing countries to do more in this field. In doing so, the Commission should also point out to the world that the efforts of the developing countries will be much more effective if they were supplemented by some support from the rich nations.

Before I end this speech, let me again emphasize the importance of active co-operation between the Commission on Human Settlements and United Nations Environment Programme. In many ways these are the two organizations directly responsible for promoting human settlements in the comprehensive sense of that word. Kenya stands ready to play its full part in the programmes of these two organizations. I call upon all other countries to do the same. The programmes of the two organizations are not only global, but also of a nature which could unite us all in working out plans for a better world in which the benefits of all the inhabitants of this one earth and the needs of future generations are fully recognized.

I now have much pleasure in declaring the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements formally opened.

ANNEX III

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to
the second session of the Commission

It is with a sense of profound satisfaction that I send you my greetings on the inauguration of the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at Nairobi, which coincides with the opening of the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements. The Government and people of Kenya have always supported the ideals of the United Nations. This support has been particularly noteworthy in the case of human settlements and it was sustained throughout the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently. The General Assembly, therefore, appropriately decided to locate the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at Nairobi, in close proximity to that of the United Nations Environment Programme. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the commitment to the world organization which this location symbolizes.

The development of human settlements is an integral part of over-all national development. The subject was brought to the forefront of world consciousness at Vancouver. Now that the General Assembly has agreed on the institutional arrangements for international co-operation in this field, it falls upon the Commission on Human Settlements to help solve the complex and serious issues involved on a unified and systematic basis.

The deliberation of your session, which is the first substantive one, will set the stage for the activities of the United Nations system in this field for many years to come. I am certain that these will contribute to the solution of a number of major economic and social issues before the world community, including the framework of the new international economic order and the new international development strategy.

I wish you all success in your efforts.

ANNEX IV

List of documents before the Commission at its second session

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Document number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
2	HS/C/2/1	Provisional agenda for the second session	E F S R
3	HS/C/2/2	Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	E F S R
5	HS/C/2/3	Review of human settlements conditions, for national and international (regional and global) action: report of the Executive Director	E F S R
5	HS/C/2/3/Add.1	Review of policies and priorities for national, international (regional and global) action	E F S R
6 (a)	HS/C/2/4	Activities and current work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director	E F S R
6 (a)	HS/C/2/5	Human and financial resources and technical co-operation capability of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director	E F S R
6 (a)	HS/C/2/6	Proposals for the 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director	E F S R
5	HS/C/2/CRP.1	Government views and suggestions on the programme of work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (background paper)	E
6 (a)	HS/C/2/7	Proposals for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: report of the Executive Director	E F S R
	HS/C/2/7/Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	E F S R

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Document number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
6 (a)	HS/C/2/8	The feasibility of undertaking the special studies requested by the Commission at its first session: report of the Executive Director	E F S R
6 (b)	HS/C/2/9	Co-operation and co-ordination in programmes on human settlements within the United Nations system: report of the Executive Director	E F S R
	HS/C/2/INF.3	Collaboration and co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme: note by the Executive Director	E
6 (b)	HS/C/2/CRP.2	Activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements (background paper)	E
6 (b)	HS/C/2/10	Collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the field of human settlements: report of the Secretary-General	E F S R
6 (c)	HS/C/2/11	Activities of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements: report of the Secretary-General	E F S R
7 (a)	HS/C/2/12	Cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements in relation to the schedule of work of the relevant United Nations policy-making organs: note by the Secretariat	E F S R
7 (b)	HS/C/2/13	Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system: note by the Executive Director	E F S R

ANNEX V

List of special presentations

Argentina	<u>Cinturon Ecologico</u>	16mm film	10 minutes
Australia	<u>And After the Fury</u>	16mm film	25 minutes
Jamaica	<u>A Place to Begin</u>	16mm film	25 minutes
Kenya	<u>Dandora Site and Service Scheme</u> (photographs)		
Mexico	<u>Desarrollo Urbano</u>	16mm film	18 minutes
Netherlands	<u>Growth Centres, Growth Cities</u>	35mm slides	16 minutes
Papua New Guinea	<u>First and Last</u>	16mm film	18 minutes
	Slide presentation	35mm slides	5 minutes
Poland	<u>The Reconstruction of Warsaw</u>	Video	25 minutes
Sri Lanka	<u>Rebirth of a City</u>	35mm film	12 minutes

