

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

---

**5-16 May 1986**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIRST SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/41/8)**



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**New York, 1986**

#### **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.**

[6 June 1986]

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.
2. The report of the Commission on the work of its ninth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6 of resolution 32/162.
3. The Commission consists of 58 members elected 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:

Bangladesh**	Guinea*	Norway**
Bolivia***	Haiti*	Pakistan*
Botswana**	Honduras*	Panama***
Bulgaria*	Hungary***	Philippines*
Burundi**	India**	Poland***
Canada***	Indonesia***	Rwanda*
Central African Republic*	Iraq*	Spain*
Chile**	Italy***	Sri Lanka**
Congo**	Jamaica**	Swaziland***
Cyprus**	Japan*	Sweden***
Denmark**	Jordan**	Tunisia**
Dominican Republic***	Kenya**	Turkey*
Finland*	Lesotho**	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic**
France***	Malawi***	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*
Gabon*	Malaysia***	United Republic of Tanzania*
German Democratic Republic **	Mexico**	United States of America*
Germany, Federal Republic of**	Morocco***	Venezuela*
Ghana*	Netherlands***	
Greece**	Nicaragua*	
	Nigeria***	

There are currently two vacancies.

- 
- \* Term of office expires on 31 December 1986.
  - \*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1987.
  - \*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1988.

4. The ninth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at Istanbul from 5 to 16 May 1986 at the invitation of the Government of Turkey, and in accordance with section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mr. Bruce Golding, Chairman of the Commission at its eighth session. A summary of his statement is given in annex V (A).

6. The inaugural address was given by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Turgut Özal. A summary of his address is reproduced in annex V (B). The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion; the text is reproduced in annex IV. Mr. I. Safa Giray, Minister of Public Works and Settlement, Turkey, delivered a welcoming address on behalf of the host country. A summary of his address is reproduced in annex V (C). The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, delivered an address to the session. A summary of his address appears in annex V (D). The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made a statement on an agenda for the next decade. A summary of his statement appears in annex V (E). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made a statement; a summary appears in annex V (F).

### B. Attendance

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

Bangladesh	Haiti	Nigeria
Botswana	Hungary	Norway
Bulgaria	India	Pakistan
Burundi	Indonesia	Poland
Canada	Iraq	Rwanda
Chile	Italy	Sri Lanka
Cyprus	Jamaica	Swaziland
Denmark	Japan	Sweden
Finland	Jordan	Turisia
France	Kenya	Turkey
Gabon	Lesotho	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
German Democratic	Malawi	Republic
Republic	Malaysia	Union of Soviet Socialist
Germany, Federal	Mexico	Republics
Republic of	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
Greece	Netherlands	United States of America
		Venezuela

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

Argentina	Iran (Islamic	Suriname
Australia	Republic of)	Switzerland
Austria	Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Belgium	Lebanon	Uganda
Brazil	Luxembourg	United Arab Emirates
Brunei Darussalam	Qatar	United Kingdom of
Cameroon	Republic of Korea	Great Britain and
China	Romania	Northern Ireland
Czechoslovakia	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Egypt	Sierra Leone	Zambia
	Sudan	Zimbabwe

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

10. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:

Department of Public Information  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Economic Commission for Africa  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

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

12. The United Nations Council for Namibia was represented.

13. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
World Health Organization  
World Bank

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank  
European Economic Community  
League of Arab States  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
Shelter-Afrique

15. The African National Congress, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.

16. In addition, 13 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.



### C. Election of officers

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May, Mr. I. Safa Giray, Minister of Public Works and Settlements of Turkey, was elected chairman. The following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. K. Matiba (Kenya)  
Mr. A. Lupina (Poland)  
Mr. A. M. Choudhury (Bangladesh)

Rapporteur: Mr. P. Oyarce (Chile)

### D. Credentials

18. Under rule 11, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

19. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 May, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the ninth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

### E. Adoption of the agenda

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the ninth session, as contained in document HS/C/9/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):
  - (a) Progress report of the Executive Director;
  - (b) Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. The role of community participation in human settlements work.
6. The small-scale production of building materials.
7. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.
8. (a) Report on financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations;

- (b) Progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.
9. Matters arising out of the decisions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.
  10. Other matters.
  11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the tenth session of the Commission.
  12. Adoption of the report.

#### F. Organization of work

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole, and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: agenda items 5 and 6;

Committee II: agenda items 7 and 8 and that business under agenda item 9 concerning cross-organizational programme analysis.

22. Committee I held 13 meetings, from 6 to 16 May, and Committee II held 8 meetings, from 8 to 16 May. The recommendations of both Committees have been incorporated into the present report.

#### G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

23. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 9th plenary meeting on 16 May 1986.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

24. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 May, the Commission decided that its tenth session would be held from 6 to 16 April 1987 at the United Nations Office at Gigiri, at Nairobi, Kenya.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its tenth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. A new agenda for human settlements: review of future perspectives, major human settlements trends up to the year 2000, national action and international co-operation in the field of human settlements.
5. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.
6. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1988-1989.
8. Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.
9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1988-1989.
10. Co-ordination matters:
  - (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
  - (b) Co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system;
  - (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.
11. Themes for future sessions of the Commission.
12. Other matters.
13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the eleventh session of the Commission.
14. Adoption of the report of the session.
15. Closure of the session.

#### IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

26. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) congratulated the delegates on their efficiency in dealing with the substantive issues of the session - the theme papers and the progress report on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless - and expressed confidence that such a business-like approach would ensure effective attention for the very heavy workload of the tenth session. One of the tasks of the tenth session would be to establish long-term human settlements perspectives to guide future programmes, and he urged delegations to submit ideas beforehand so that the secretariat could prepare a comprehensive framework for discussion. He drew attention to the budgetary constraints on the Centre and appealed for donor support to preserve the integrity of the Commission's own approved work programme. Finally, he expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for the excellent arrangements which they had made for the session.

27. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Turkey for the hospitality they had extended to all participants and the excellent support they had provided to the Commission at its ninth session.

28. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the chairmen of the regional groups and all delegates for their contribution to the successful completion of the work of the ninth session of the Commission.

29. The Chairman then declared closed the ninth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

# ANNEX I

## Resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission at its ninth session

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>A. <u>Resolutions</u></b>			
<b>1. <u>Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly</u></b>			
9/1	Tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements	16 May 1986	10
9/2	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	16 May 1986	11
<b>2. <u>Other resolutions</u></b>			
9/3	Regional co-operation in human settlements and housing in Latin America and the Caribbean	16 May 1986	13
9/4	Establishment of a regional training centre for human settlements activities	16 May 1986	15
9/5	The work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements	16 May 1986	15
9/6	Assistance to the Namibian people	16 May 1986	16
9/7	Assistance to victims of <u>apartheid</u> and colonialism in southern Africa	16 May 1986	17
9/8	The role of community participation in human settlements work	16 May 1986	19
9/9	Participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems	16 May 1986	20
9/10	The small-scale production of building materials and components	16 May 1986	21
9/11	Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories	16 May 1986	24
9/12	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: guidelines for a selective approach	16 May 1986	25
9/13	Relationship between the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Peace and those of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	16 May 1986	26

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
9/14	Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development	16 May 1986	27
9/15	Cross-organizational programme analysis	16 May 1986	29
9/16	Venue of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements	16 May 1986	30

**B. Decision**

9/17	Photographic and documentary exhibitions on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	16 May 1986	31
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## A. Resolutions

### 1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly

#### 9/1. Tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Considering that its session in 1987, coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, provides a unique occasion for the international community to renew its dedication to the objective of shelter for all,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

##### "The General Assembly,

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

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

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

"Taking note with appreciation of the fact that over one hundred and thirty countries have responded positively to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by establishing national focal points for the Year and that over three hundred and sixty projects for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged have been officially designated around the world in the context of the Year,

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a/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7), chaps. II and III.

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

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

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

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

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

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

## 9/2. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and designated the Commission on Human Settlements to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the Year,

Recalling its resolutions 6/1 of 5 May 1983, 7/1 of 10 May 1984 and 8/2 of 10 May 1985 and the resolution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of 2 May 1986 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, b/

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b/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 11 (E/1986/32).



Recognizing the need for maximum participation by all countries in the programme of activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless if the objectives of the Year are to be realized,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption at its forty-first session of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"Noting with satisfaction that more than one hundred and thirty countries and many key United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are taking part in the programme for the Year and have designated more than three hundred and sixty projects for it,

"Noting also that a large number of States have participated in the regional and subregional meetings for the Year, many at the ministerial level, which have resulted in constructive recommendations and commitments for renewed national action,

"Expressing its appreciation to those countries which have made or pledged voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

"Recognizing that the provision of adequate shelter is essential for the promotion and achievement of national economic and social development and human health,

"Recognizing also that in order for Governments to address realistically the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, it is necessary to frame shelter policies that can mobilize all possible resources and policy instruments to meet the objectives of the Year,

"Recognizing further that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless provides an excellent opportunity for the United Nations and other international agencies to review their contributions to solving the problem of shelter for the homeless and for bilateral aid agencies and multilateral financial institutions to evaluate their role in this sector,

"Recalling resolution 7/9 of 10 May 1984 of the Commission on Human Settlements and the information strategy for the Year which had been submitted to the Commission at its eighth session, c/

"1. Endorses the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the Plan of Action for 1986-1987; d/

c/ HS/C/8/4/Add.1.

d/ HS/C/9/6.

"2. Urges Governments to demonstrate renewed political commitment to the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged by taking significant measures before 1987, including providing access to land and ensuring security of tenure in squatter settlements, adapting codes and regulations to the needs of the people, facilitating community participation, improving access to credit and loans and promoting local and affordable building materials;

"3. Also urges Governments:

"(a) To prepare or review shelter strategies, taking into consideration the options set out in the documentation for the Year;

"(b) To prepare a programme to implement projects geared to their chosen shelter strategies;

"4. Requests Governments to submit detailed reports on their activities in the Year to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) before 31 October 1986, giving special attention to measures that will improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged during 1987 and to their strategies to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor by the year 2000;

"5. Requests all Governments, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and financial institutions to review their policies and raise the priority of shelter and settlements improvement programmes;

"6. Appeals to all Governments to make or increase voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and to all other international agencies and financial institutions to provide effective financial and other support to the programme of the Year;

"7. Decides to devote at least two plenary meetings at its forty-second session, in 1987, to issues related to shelter, in observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless."

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

## 2. Other resolutions

### 9/3. Regional co-operation in human settlements and housing in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/7, 8/10 and 8/16 of 8 May 1985,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/57 of 26 July 1984, in which the Council urged the Commission on Human Settlements to take into account technical co-operation among developing countries in the implementation of its programmes,

Also recalling that in the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council recognized that, in the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, complete use of all bilateral and multilateral co-operation between agencies and governmental and non-governmental international organizations should be made,

Renewing the commitment of the Latin American and Caribbean region to the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, as formulated at the Regional Conference on Housing and Development, held at Bogotá from 27 to 31 January 1986,

Recognizing the achievements secured in the past year with the aim of enhancing joint activities and projects with regional and subregional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and noting with satisfaction efforts designed to develop further the process of co-operation in that area,

1. Recommends to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) that, for the purpose of planning and implementing international and regional co-operation activities, he should study and consider the possibility of unifying the representation of the Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean in the search for greater administrative, technical and operational efficiency, involving no additional inputs but rather the more effective use of available resources;

2. Invites the Latin American Organization for Housing and Development of Human Settlements and the permanent Committee on Housing and Urban Development for Central America and Panama to participate in the implementation of the programmes for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and to co-operate with the Commission on Human Settlements for that purpose;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to seek the most appropriate manner of making use of national currencies and contributions in kind in its priority assistance programmes within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries;

4. Reiterates its appeal to Governments that they should, as far as possible and bearing in mind the constraints imposed by the critical economic situation arising from the external debt affecting the region, strengthen machinery set up to make use of national currencies and contributions in kind in regional, subregional and national priority programmes;

5. Further requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to consider as a matter of priority, when it is relevant, the incorporation of activities relating to the planning of human settlements in areas prone to natural disaster in programmes of assistance to the countries of the region.

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

9/4. Establishment of a regional training centre for human settlements activities

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with regard to comprehensive training in the field of human settlements,

Recalling its resolution 7/14 of 10 May 1984 on a systematic and comprehensive approach to training for human settlements,

Appreciating the steps taken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and its Executive Director in arranging the course entitled "Design and Execution of Urban Projects for Arab States", at Amman from 1 September to 6 October 1985,

Noting the recommendation of the Arab Housing Ministers Council at its fourth session, held in 1985 at Tunis, that a permanent training centre for human settlements should be established at Amman for the benefit of Arab States,

Noting also the donations offered by the Government of Jordan for hosting and financing such a centre,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to accelerate and finalize the steps needed for establishing a specialized regional training centre for human settlements activities at Amman;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive programme for training courses to be held at such a centre in the coming two years, in co-operation with the host Government;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a full report about the steps taken and the achievements concluded in that regard to the Commission at its session in 1989.

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

9/5. The work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/202 B of 17 December 1985, on changing the periodicity of the sessions of the Commission,

Recognizing that the biennial cycle of sessions should not adversely affect the quality of efforts to implement the decisions of the Commission,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to increase his efforts to provide member States of the Commission with information concerning implementation of its decisions and of the

programmes of the Centre, and for that purpose to develop a mechanism that will ensure the efficient implementation of plans adopted by the Commission for biennial and longer periods, and to submit proposals in that regard for approval by the participants at its next session;

2. Recommends to the regional economic commissions of the United Nations that they should intensify their activities regarding human settlements, particularly in order to provide assistance to States in their regions in implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements;

3. Recommends to the member States of the Commission that they should meet on an informal and temporary basis between sessions to analyse progress in the implementation of the decisions of the Commission and the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

#### 9/6. Assistance to the Namibian people

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/6 of 8 May 1985 on assistance to displaced Namibians in settlements in neighbouring countries,

Regretting that in the past year the human and political condition of the Namibian people has not undergone any change for the better,

Bearing in mind the various relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, particularly resolution 435 (1978),

Aware of General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981 and subsequent resolutions affirming the co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also its resolution 8/18 of 8 May 1985, in which it strongly condemned the Pretoria apartheid régime for its illegal occupation of Namibia and for its continued forced removal of the African population from their homes,

Noting with great concern the unilateral actions taken by the racist régime of South Africa purporting to create solutions to a problem that that régime refuses to recognize and which are wholly outside the spirit and the specific terms of the Security Council resolution 435 (1978),

Encouraged by the resolve of the brave Namibian people in their struggle, undaunted by the violent repression of the racist régime in South Africa,

1. Rejects as unacceptable and condemns strongly any unilateral action by the racist régime of South Africa with regard to Namibia outside the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978);

2. Expresses its concern that twenty years after the termination by the General Assembly of the mandate of South Africa over Namibia, the Commission should find itself unable to invite Namibian representatives from a democratic and free

Namibia to its sessions and to offer its assistance and co-operation in the development of human settlements in an independent Namibia;

3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made so far by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement resolution 8/6 of 8 May 1985 of the Commission for Human Settlements, and requests that those efforts be continued;

4. Reaffirms its requests to the Executive Director to ensure the strengthening and enhancement of all forms of assistance, particularly scientific, technical and financial, to Namibian refugee settlements, specifically in regard to ensuring an optimum level of shelter conditions in those settlements;

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the work done with regard to assistance to the Namibian people by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the International Conference on Namibia, to be held in July 1986 at Vienna, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the question of Namibia, to be held in September 1986;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in regard to assistance to the Namibian people to the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth session.

9th plenary meeting  
16 May 1986

9/7. Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa\*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983, 7/3 of 9 May 1984 and 8/18 of 8 May 1985,

Aware of the deplorable conditions to which the majority population is being subjected by the racist apartheid régime in South Africa and in the international territory of Namibia, which the racist régime in question continues to occupy by force, in flagrant violation of several United Nations resolutions,

Also aware of the continuous forced removal of the African population from their homes by the apartheid régime,

Further aware of the fact that 1987 is the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the tenth commemoration of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

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\* Adopted by 41 votes to 1.

Concerned about the delays in the approval of project proposals submitted to the United Nations Development Programme by the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations relating to human settlements,

Further concerned about the increased repression by the Pretoria apartheid régime of the African people of South Africa and the people of the occupied international territory of Namibia and about the intensified aggression of the apartheid régime against the front-line States,

1. Strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid régime for its inhuman repression in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia as well as for its acts of aggression and destabilization against the front-line and other neighbouring States;

2. Further strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid régime for its continuous forced removal of the African population from their homes;

3. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made so far in implementing resolution 7/3 of 9 May 1984 of the Commission on Human Settlements, as described in his report to the Commission; e/

4. Further commends member States of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving efforts in support of the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and intensify his efforts for the provision of increased technical and other forms of assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism, pursuant to Commission resolution 7/3;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to facilitate, within existing resources, participation by more than one observer of each national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations at the tenth session of the Commission;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to assist the national liberation movements in the approval of their human settlements project proposals in a reasonable time.

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e/ HS/C/9/2/Add.3.

9/8. The role of community participation in human settlements work

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the recommendations for national action in public participation adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, f/

Further recalling its resolutions 7/7 of 10 May 1984 and 8/20 of 8 May 1985 on the theme for the Commission at its ninth session,

Bearing in mind the importance of community participation in the planning, implementation and management of human settlements,

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "The role of community participation in human settlements work"; g/

2. Takes note of the experiences of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the implementation of a community participation training programme in support of urban low-income shelter development;

3. Requests the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to promote the application of appropriate forms of community participation in human settlements development projects;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to take the following specific measures with a view to enhancing the role of community participation in human settlements work and management:

(a) Develop further the expertise of the Centre and increase its technical capacity in dealing with the large variety of human settlements development situations that require effective community participation methods and techniques;

(b) Establish non-formal training guidelines in support of community-level action which address the specific training requirements of community development staff, community leaders and residents to co-operate effectively in human settlements improvement programmes;

5. Urges Governments to focus increased attention on the self-help capacities of urban and rural communities to deal adequately and on an incremental basis with their human settlements problems, with a view to establishing appropriate mechanisms of support to those communities and improving their access to resources, such as land, finance, local building materials and information;

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f/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7), chap. II, sect. E.

g/ HS/C/9/4 and Corr.1 and Add.1.



6. Also urges Governments to develop administrative structures, with special emphasis on steps to strengthen local and sub-local governments through the devolution of administrative powers, and to review the human settlements legislative framework and planning and implementation procedures so as to make them conducive to and promote community participation and non-governmental action;

7. Calls upon donor countries and international agencies dealing with human settlements assistance programmes in developing countries actively to link their support for projects and programmes to a system of community participation and action in the non-governmental sector as an integral part of planning, implementation and management;

8. Calls upon Governments to encourage actively the establishment of community organizations and support partnerships with non-governmental organizations, voluntary agencies and community organizations working constructively in the field of human settlements development, particularly low-income shelter infrastructure, and services delivery;

9. Also calls upon Governments to establish appropriate training programmes for community participation in support of and in correspondence with community-level action and needs;

10. Further calls upon Governments as well as donor countries, agencies and non-governmental organizations to apply professional information and communication as an integral instrument for community participation;

11. Recommends that Governments co-operate with and make use of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in implementing programmes for community participation, and further recommends that the Centre devise forms of co-operation with the donor agencies to elaborate upon and improve training programmes for community participation.

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9/9. Participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/19 of 8 May 1985 on women and human settlements,

Cognizant of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, h/

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h/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Convinced that women and the organizations that represent them should play an important role in the long process of development,

Recommends:

(a) The maintenance of a continuous evaluation of programmes that permit the collection, analysis and use of specific statistics concerning the role of women and their participation in the conception, execution and maintenance of human settlements;

(b) The adoption of all possible measures to avoid the marginalization of women with respect to the production and decision-making processes in society as the rate of urbanization accelerates;

(c) That the necessary arrangements be made to enable women to combine successfully tasks of income-generating work and family care and that that be given high priority in projects of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

(d) That regional or subregional seminars be organized, within the framework of the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, in order to exchange experiences on pilot projects and to define and evaluate the role of women and the organizations that represent them, in the conception, financing and execution of such projects, such seminars to be funded from specific resources made available by Governments and organizations in a position to do so;

(e) The integration of relevant sections of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women into the policy and work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

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9/10. The small-scale production of building materials and components

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 4/13 of 6 May 1981 on the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social development,

Further recalling its decision 8/26 of 10 May 1985 on themes for future sessions,

Bearing in mind the significant contribution the construction industry can make to the overall development of the economies of the developing countries,

Further bearing in mind the crucial role of an improved supply of building materials in many developing countries for the improvement of the housing situation of the disadvantaged and the poor,

Conscious that small-scale production of building materials and components based on local demand and resources has considerable advantages as it can bring

about substantial economic multiplier effects through its employment generation and low import content and minimizes the need for transport,

Also conscious of the importance of combining increased production of building materials with protection of natural resources - in particular, wood, which can be used both as a building material and as fuel for the production of other building materials,

1. Endorses the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the small-scale production of building materials; 1/

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue and develop his efforts in research - especially the application, promotion and demonstration of research findings in the field of small-scale production of building materials and components - in co-operation with other relevant organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, national Governments, non-governmental organizations and the non-governmental sector, and to play a co-ordinating role in international work in that field;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to assist national Governments to increase the production of indigenous low-cost building materials by the small-scale sector, and in particular:

(a) To improve the capabilities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to provide information exchange on production technologies for small-scale building materials through a network of governmental agencies and research organizations;

(b) To enhance the promotion of specific production technologies through workshops and similar informal training mechanisms;

(c) To assist in adapting national and local building codes and regulations to the specific needs of each country, including the need for greater use of appropriate indigenous building materials;

4. Urges Governments to formulate standards, specifications and appropriate testing methods for materials predominantly produced in the small-scale sector, seeking in that endeavour support from the international community and organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization, and also to consider other measures for promoting small-scale building materials units, such as facilitating access to raw materials, providing mechanisms for the flow of credit and capital, and enhancing information dissemination on suitable production technologies;

5. Also urges Governments to review their industrial policies and programmes for the production of building materials and components to favour small-scale production and, when so doing, to take into account local conditions, such as the scale and nature of demand, deposits of raw materials and infrastructure available for transport;

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1/ HS/C/9/5 and Add.1.

6. Further urges Governments to support research on and development of the adaptation of existing materials based on indigenous raw materials suitable for small-scale and local production and use, as well as the search for new materials;

7. Calls upon Governments to review their taxation policy, particularly for small-scale production units, and to change provisions which may be particularly burdensome for producers of small-scale building materials;

8. Urges Governments to take such measures as may be necessary to secure an appropriate distribution and transport network from the producers of small-scale building materials to the users;

9. Further urges Governments to promote the expansion of the small-scale building materials sector through wide-scale adoption of indigenous building materials in government-sponsored projects, bearing in mind the role of government as the single largest client of the building industry and the need to conserve foreign exchange reserves by pursuing policies of import substitution of building materials;

10. Invites international and regional agencies dealing with construction in developing countries to pay attention to the special needs for strengthening the small-scale building materials sector by transfer of technical and management skills and experience;

11. Calls on donor agencies and countries as well as international financing institutions to support the efforts of developing countries in promoting small-scale production units with assistance in information flow and technologies, training of requisite manpower, and demonstration projects, as well as by supporting use of indigenous materials in projects that they support or finance;

12. Calls on relevant Governments and international organizations to promote the necessary increase of wood production, taking into account the different environmental contexts, to improve the supply of wood for energy production and of timber for construction, in accordance with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, carried out under the co-ordination of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; j/

13. Calls on Governments to ensure the rational utilization of natural resources for the production of building materials in an economically sound and efficient manner;

14. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the activities in compliance with the present resolution to the Commission at its session in 1989.

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j/ See Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, Tropical Forestry Action Plan (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1985).

9/11. Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories\*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/170 of 17 December 1985 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recalling also its resolutions 7/8 of 10 May 1984 and 8/9 of 8 May 1985 on activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories, k/

Recalling Security Council resolution 465 (1980) in which the Israeli settlement policies were considered illegal and a serious obstacle to peace,

Noting with grave concern the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. Strongly deplores the settlement policies of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories;

2. Calls for an immediate halt to the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and for the dismantling of existing ones;

3. Strongly opposes the demolition and sealing off of Palestinian houses by the Israeli occupation authorities;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take the necessary actions for implementing the proposals contained in his report; k/

5. Invites the Executive Director to seek the assistance of the international community and relevant United Nations bodies and organizations in the implementation of the proposals contained in his report; k/

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts for the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive study on the institutions and instruments needed for financing and implementing a housing programme in the occupied Palestinian territories and to submit it to the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth session;

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\* Adopted by 38 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

k/ HS/C/9/6/Add.4.

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth session on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

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9/12. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: guidelines for a selective approach

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Taking note with satisfaction of the impetus shown by the number of official national focal points and demonstration projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recalling its resolutions 6/1 of 5 May 1983, 7/1 of 10 May 1984, and 8/2 of 10 May 1985 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recognizing the unique opportunity that the Year offers for new strategies and policies to provide and improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged,

Taking into account the importance of producing "policy option" papers, as mentioned in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 1/

Recalling also its resolution 7/9 of 10 May 1984 on a systematic and comprehensive approach to information for human settlements,

1. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to select a limited number of projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless that are characterized by their outstanding innovative aspects;

2. Also urges the Executive Director to evaluate that limited number of projects and their outputs;

3. Invites the Executive Director to disseminate internationally the evaluation of those selected, innovative projects on the basis of a sound information strategy/plan;

4. Also invites the Executive Director to take into consideration the importance of training, information and communication policies as integral components of project planning and implementation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its tenth session on a selected number of demonstration projects with an outstanding innovative character as guidance for the future work programme, medium-term plan and activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

6. Calls upon the Executive Director to update some of the documents on the special themes adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements since 1979, on the basis of the experience gained during the Year, and to present those updated documents to the Commission at its eleventh session;

7. Invites the Executive Director to consider, within existing resources, organizational measures to safeguard the achievements reached during the Year and to ensure the integration of those achievements into the existing training and information, research and development, and technical co-operation sections of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

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9/13. Relationship between the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Peace and those of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/16 of 16 November 1982 and 40/3 of 24 October 1985, in which the year 1986 was officially proclaimed the International Year of Peace,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which the year 1987 was proclaimed International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Bearing in mind its resolution 8/11 of 8 May 1985, entitled "Contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the International Year of Peace",

Emphasizing that alleviation of the urgent economic problems of the developing countries and elimination of the gap in the levels of economic development are major factors of international economic stability and a better political climate,

Convinced that peace and development will promote effective economic and social development of all States, including the solution of housing problems, particularly those of developing countries, and that there is a relationship between the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and those of the International Year of Peace,

Also convinced that improvement of the international political climate and the strengthening of peace is important to the solution of the most acute current economic problems, including the housing problem,

1. Stresses that a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the programmes of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless is the maintenance and strengthening of peace, including effective measures to curb the arms race, which will make it possible to assign greater resources to improving human lives and solving global problems that affect the fate of civilization as a whole;

2. Notes with satisfaction the contribution made by the Commission to the achievement of the goals of the International Year of Peace, as well as the work of the Executive Director of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat) in preparing the report entitled "Human settlements: peace, economic and

social stability and development" m/ for submission to the Secretary-General for his report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

3. Recognizes the importance of continuing the work of the Commission and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in strengthening that contribution to peace and development, as an essential pre-condition for achieving the goals of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

4. Considers it essential that, at the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, in 1987, due attention should be given to reviewing progress in implementing the programmes of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless as they interrelate with the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Peace;

5. Requests the Executive Director to highlight the report on human settlements, peace, economic and social stability and development m/ in his statement to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

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9/14. Comprehensive policy review of operational activities  
for development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 38/171 of 19 December 1983 on operational activities for development, and, in particular, General Assembly resolution 40/211 of 17 December 1985, in which the Assembly requested intergovernmental bodies to provide the Economic and Social Council with their views on system-wide policy issues affecting operational activities for development,

Bearing in mind the Commission's mandate under General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 as the intergovernmental body with specific responsibility for providing policy guidance and co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that operational activities for development provide invaluable support to developing countries in the formulation and implementation of human settlements programmes as an integral part of overall economic and social development,

Having reviewed the system-wide policy issues affecting operational activities for development, as identified in General Assembly resolutions 38/171 and 40/211,

1. Adopts the statement on policy issues affecting operational activities for development annexed to the present resolution;

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m/ HS/C/9/9/Add.2, annex.



2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit the present resolution, together with the annex, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986, as the contribution of the Commission to the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development to be carried out by the Council at that session.

#### ANNEX

##### Statement on policy issues affecting operational activities for development

1. The Commission recognizes the importance of making greater use of the capacities of developing countries in the implementation of human settlement programmes and projects through the engagement of national experts, the utilization of local sources for procurement of material, equipment and services, and support for technical co-operation among developing countries. The main vehicles for the successful use and application of these concepts are the political will and structures established by and among the developing countries themselves. The United Nations system should continue to play and endeavour to strengthen its role as promoter and facilitator, in particular through the structure of the United Nations Development Programme and its catalytic efforts.

2. The country level is the most appropriate level on which to solve co-ordination problems and guarantee an integrated approach to development. United Nations resident co-ordinators, backed by appropriate co-ordinating machinery, especially at the planning stage, and having the requisite authority - that is, equally representing and communicating with all concerned United Nations organizations and sectoral agencies - can go a long way towards harmonizing the system's operational activities for development and further enhancing its responsiveness to changing requirements for technical co-operation. The Commission recognizes the need for a better match and co-ordination between the assistance rendered by the system and the significantly greater flow of bilateral aid resources. Bilateral donors should make full use of the co-ordination mechanisms established by the United Nations at the country level and increase the effectiveness of their aid through involving and using the expertise of United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in the application of their development assistance resources.

3. One future challenge to which the operational action of the United Nations system will have to respond is the rapid urbanization process and the emerging problems of managing large urban concentrations in many developing countries, and the underlying migratory and demographic pressures.

4. Human settlements issues are cross-sectoral in nature, involving physical, economic and social infrastructure. Urban and regional development planning management projects have multisectoral implications which help to create effective co-ordination and interaction among the concerned sectoral agencies of Governments, and thus help to strengthen a Government's co-ordination capacity. Assistance in the field of training and institution-building is also an essential means to help improve and enhance a country's co-ordination capacity.

5. More emphasis should also be placed on the role of women, especially in the human settlements sector, since it is mainly women who are responsible for managing

the household and who bear the brunt of the effect of the lack of basic amenities. Operational activities, by recognizing the special needs of women, can be used to train them and to improve opportunities for them to participate in human settlements development.

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9/15. Cross-Organizational programme analysis

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/17 of 8 May 1985, on cross-organizational programme analysis, and 8/13 of 8 May 1985, on co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system,

Noting the concern of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the need for improved co-ordination and priority-setting in the policies and programmes of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements,

Recalling that, at its annual sessions, it reviews the status of co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other United Nations agencies and organizations, as outlined in the reports of the Executive Director of the Centre on those items, as a basis for its guidance of the future work and activities of the Centre and the setting of relative priorities to be attached to them.

Welcoming the progress made in co-ordination and co-operation between the Centre and other United Nations agencies and organizations - in particular, within the context of the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting with satisfaction the valuable information contained in the report of the Executive Director on financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations system, n/ as a basis for further co-ordination and optimalization of the use of resources,

Recalling its specific request, in its resolution 8/17, to the Executive Director to provide the Commission at its tenth session with a comprehensive study of the activities in the field of human settlements and the relative priorities attached to them by the United Nations system, indicating possible areas for co-ordination,

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned study will be carried out as part of, and fully utilizing the existing mechanisms of prior consultation for, the preparation for the 1990-1995 medium-term plan,

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n/ HS/C/9/7.

1. Decides that the comprehensive study requested in its resolution 8/17 should include an analysis of the problems encountered and solutions reached or proposed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in discharging its mandate to assist the Commission in co-ordinating human settlements activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and assess their effectiveness;

2. Urges all relevant United Nations agencies and organizations to co-operate fully with and provide the Centre with the necessary information pertaining to the study;

3. Reconfirms its conviction that only a full and equal membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination will enable the Centre to discharge fully its co-ordinating mandate on issues concerning human settlements, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

4. Requests the Chairman of the Commission to transmit the text of the present resolution to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session, and decides to revert to the issue regarding the follow-up of the cross-organizational programme analysis of activities concerning human settlements at its tenth session.

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#### 9/16. Venue of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/140, section I, of 17 December 1976 and 40/243, section I, of 18 December 1985,

Aware that rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements provides that sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at Nairobi unless otherwise decided by the Commission at a previous session,

Noting with satisfaction that the Commission sessions have now been held in practically all regions, thus providing adequate opportunity for member States of the Commission to familiarize themselves with the state of human settlements in those regions,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the aforesaid beneficial effects of that rotation, the majority of permanent representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), who are their Governments' focal points for human settlements and have close consultations with the Centre, have found it difficult to attend these sessions outside their duty station at Nairobi,

Taking into account that holding sessions outside of the headquarters of the Centre places an extra burden on the secretariat, as staff and equipment have to be moved to the host country during such sessions,

Recalling that the United Nations has made a substantial investment in erecting the permanent headquarters of the Centre and the United Nations

Environment Programme, which are fully equipped with all the necessary facilities to service their sessions,

Expresses the opinion that regular sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements should preferably be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at Nairobi.

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#### B. Decision

##### 9/17. Photographic and documentary exhibitions on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

At its 9th plenary meeting on 16 May, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the following decision:

The Commission on Human Settlements, being of the opinion, as the intergovernmental body designated by the General Assembly to organize the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, that photographic and documentary exhibits relevant to activities for the Year would facilitate its consideration of the item, decided that such photographic and documentary exhibits relevant to the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless might be mounted at its session in 1987, in addition to those mounted by State delegations and by delegations representing organizations and national liberation movements participating in the session under rules 59 and 60 respectively of the Commission's rules of procedure.

## ANNEX II

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## ANNEX III

List of audio-visual presentations

<u>Country</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Duration (minutes)</u>
<u>Theme I - Community participation</u>			
Cameroon	Le nouvel habitat	French	17
France	Enquête sur le logement	French	18
France	Pour un syndicalisme de l'Habitat	French	27
Gabon	Etablisements humains et participation communautaire	French	20
Hungary	Community participation	English	18
Malaysia	Together we serve	English	12
Republic of Korea	Saemaul Undong	English	20
Sri Lanka	Unity for shelter	English	10
Turkey	Towards urban co-operatives	English	16
UNCHS/Sri Lanka	Participation, not paternalism	English	14
UNCHS/World Bank	People and problems	English	28
Zimbabwe	Community participation in housing	English	20
<u>Theme II - Building materials</u>			
France	Ciudadela Tumaco	French	18
Hungary	Small-scale building materials	English	16
Jordan	Building system No. 5	Arabic	18
United States	Casas de lo nuestro	Spanish	16
<u>Theme III - International Year of Shelter for the Homeless</u>			
Finland	Formulation of IYSH shelter strategy	English	22
India	Wall 4 + 1	English	20
Indonesia	Papan Harapan - Shelter of hopes and dreams	English	20



<u>Country</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Duration</u> (minutes)
<u>Theme IV - Others</u>			
Bulgaria	Old houses coming back to life	English	26
China	For making people live more happily	Chinese	17
Morocco	Habitat au Maroc	French	26
Turkey	The sixties years	English	20
Zambia	Shelter in Zambia	English	20

Message from the Secretary-General to the Commission on  
Human Settlements at its ninth session

1. It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to the participants at the ninth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.
2. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for the generous gesture they have made in hosting this gathering in the ancient and magnificent city of Istanbul. Over many centuries, Istanbul has been uniquely renowned as a meeting place of peoples and civilizations. Its selection as the venue for a meeting on international co-operation in the field of human settlements is, therefore, most apposite.
3. This session of the Commission will be the last before the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. You will, therefore, bring to completion the very intensive and thorough preparation for the Year made by the Commission over the past three and a half years. Besides setting the stage for the formal launching of the Year in 1987, your deliberations and conclusions will form the basis of the overall programme of action to secure concrete and measurable improvements in the shelter and neighbourhoods of all of the poor and the disadvantaged by the year 2000. This is the primary objective of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The target, of course, is not easy to attain, but there is no reason for pessimism or faltering effort. With the necessary will and determination, we must press on with the search for innovative and cost-effective techniques that will permit even the poorest of communities to cater to the shelter needs of their people.
4. I am gratified to note the positive response of Governments and organizations throughout the world to the challenge. Over 127 Governments have designated national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and well over 363 projects have been identified in response to the objectives of the Year.
5. I welcome the two key themes selected for in-depth review at this session of the Commission - namely, the role of community participation in human settlements work and the small-scale production of building materials. Both themes are directly relevant to the task of translating the goal of shelter for all from a mere ideal into a practical and realistic programme of action.
6. Through community participation Governments can help a far greater number of the needy than can be reached by conventional housing programmes. There are also other inherent advantages in a policy which involves local communities in the design, execution and management of programmes meant to benefit them. Moreover, at a time when most developing countries are hard-pressed to meet the financial cost of their development programmes, emphasis on small-scale production of building materials, using indigenous technology and resources to the maximum extent possible, will advance the prospects of making shelter both available and affordable in these countries.

7. Millions of the homeless poor and disadvantaged continue to wait anxiously for a chance to obtain decent living conditions for themselves and their families. This is a basic fact of the current social situation in large parts of the world and I have no doubt that a keen awareness of it will inspire your deliberations and invest them with a guiding significance for Governments and others involved in the provision of shelter for the poor.

8. I wish you a fruitful and rewarding session.

Summaries of statementsA. Statement by Mr. Bruce Golding, Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session

The Chairman of the eighth session spoke of the historical significance of the ninth session, 10 years after Habitat: United Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver. Much had been achieved. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had been in the forefront of numerous initiatives geared towards human settlements development world-wide, devising, testing and evaluating human settlements strategies, providing technical assistance, assisting in the mobilization of external financing, and providing networks for the exchange of ideas and transfer of technology. Yet much needed to be done. The continuing expansion of population, the continuing deterioration in the economies of many countries and the consequential pressures on available resources had seen the issue of human settlements development placed further on the back burner of national priorities. Governments should work even harder to secure a higher priority for human settlements on the agenda of national and international concerns. They should seek to develop the mechanisms for financing shelter solutions in order to narrow the gap between what was necessary and what was affordable. In the final analysis, the solution to the shelter problems in each country depended on the country itself.

B. Inaugural address by Mr. Turgut Özal, Prime Minister of Turkey

1. The Prime Minister welcomed the participants at the ninth session of the Commission to Turkey, stating that the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) and the ideals and objectives upheld and pursued by it had a special significance and were shared by the Turkish people. Shelter was a necessary minimum condition of civilization, provision of which depended on economic and social development.

2. In Turkey, the urban housing problem had emerged as a result of rapid urbanization, a high rate of population increase and the drift of the jobless to the big cities. Since 1983, the Government had taken measures to match those challenges, including the setting-up of a housing fund, which had already accorded credits to individuals and housing co-operatives for roughly 250,000 new flats. A new law had been enacted to consolidate property rights to so-called "illegal dwellers" living in irregular settlements around cities, and the responsibility for urban planning and management had been decentralized to local authorities.

C. Address of welcome by Mr. I. Safa Giray, Minister of Public Works and Settlements, Turkey

In welcoming the Commission, the Minister said that the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) were directly relevant to the people of the developing and urbanizing world. In many developing countries the process of urbanization, fueled by the rural push, had forced Governments urgently to provide many services to the ever-increasing urban population against a situation of severe economic constraints. In Turkey, that had resulted in serious

settlements problems, including illegal shelter construction, which had created belts of squatter housing around the cities. The Government had adopted a policy of decentralization of power, which had made local authorities directly responsible for town planning and management. A special housing fund had been established, and possibilities for assisting municipalities in housing and research activities were being explored. It was hoped that the Centre would assist and advise the Government on the establishment of a research and training institute in Turkey.

D. Address by Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

1. The Prime Minister stated that the preliminary work for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had already benefited many people. The conventional philosophy of development needed to be enhanced so as to incorporate the concept of shelter within its fundamental priorities. The Year was part of a longer crusade. The preparation for it should now be matched with a co-ordinated long-term approach and a vigorous implementation effort.

2. In Sri Lanka, the Million Houses Programme had given a new meaning and dimension to the provision of shelter. It had not only harnessed hidden innovative resources among the people but proved again that shelter development was central to overall development.

E. Address by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on an agenda for the next decade

1. The Executive Director noted that Habitat: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which had met at Vancouver, Canada, had addressed "the extremely serious conditions of human settlements, particularly those which prevail in developing countries". The time had come to initiate a discussion on the human settlements agenda for the next decade. Several new issues had emerged, foremost among which were the scale and rate of settlements growth. By the year 2000, the number of people living in developing country cities would be nearly two and a half times what it had been in 1976. Cities in developing countries had continued to grow at the rate of over 3.5 per cent per year, and the urban population of developing countries had grown by more than 40 per cent. Those were the conditions which determined what was referred to as "the urbanization challenge".

2. Urban population growth had resulted in an "unassisted settlement process", a process that had cut across traditional urban/rural barriers, different situations and locations. The economic and social costs of the long-term consequences for the manageability of human settlements had received little attention. So there was a need to search for principles on which to base new policies and new approaches to a workable strategy, including change in the perception of the role of government from "provider" of shelter, infrastructure and services to a "facilitator", responsible for guiding and supporting settlement development. The first challenge involved settlement-wide action capable of overcoming the limitation of single-project approaches, and based on the relationships between shelter, jobs, services and transport. The second challenge was to promote institutional, administrative and organizational restructuring, to ensure the establishment and promotion of community-based groups to serve as planning and implementing agencies for their own settlement programmes and to encourage local authorities to reassess their responsibilities and take up new ones suited to their proper role in the

settlement development process. Resources would still remain inadequate for the task, and Governments must recognize the need for additional investments in human settlements as a fundamental contribution to economic and social development.

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

1. The Executive Director said that traditional policies had been swept aside and traditional technologies had been destroyed, particularly in the area of human settlements. Uniform standards in building materials had effectively excluded traditional materials. Since the poor held the key to the solution of their own housing problems, regulations should encourage use of readily available local materials instead of regulating against their wide usage. Priority should be given to the interest of that two thirds of the population who, by virtue of poverty, were effectively excluded from the development process.

2. Several critical areas needed to be addressed if the aims of the action plan of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless were to be realized, including making land available to the poor, promoting locally available building materials, provision of credit and other basic sources, encouragement of local participation, and better co-ordination of institutions dealing with urban planning and management.

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