

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

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**6 - 12 April 1988**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-THIRD SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/43/8)



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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.**

[12 January 1980]

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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 eleventh 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 four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Argentina**	Germany, Federal	Pakistan**
Bangladesh***	Republic of***	Panama*
Bolivia*	Greece***	Peru***
Botswana***	Hungary*	Philippines**
Brazil**	India***	Poland*
Bulgaria**	Indonesia*	Sierra Leone**
Burundi***	Iran (Islamic	Sri Lanka***
Byelorussian Soviet	Republic of)**	Swaziland*
Socialist Republic***	Iraq*	Sweden*
Cameroon**	Italy*	Togo**
Canada*	Jamaica***	Turkey**
Colombia*	Japan**	Uganda**
Congo*	Jordan***	Union of Soviet
Cyprus***	Kenya***	Socialist Republics**
Dominican Republic*	Madagascar**	United Kingdom of
Ecuador**	Malawi*	Great Britain and
Egypt***	Malaysia*	Northern Ireland**
Finland**	Mexico***	United Republic
France*	Morocco*	of Tanzania***
Gabon*	Netherlands*	United States of
German Democratic	Nigeria*	America**
Republic***	Norway***	

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- \* Term of office expires on 31 December 1988.
- \*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1990.
- \*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1991.

There is one vacancy among the Asian States and one vacancy among the Western European and other States.

4. The eleventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at New Delhi from 6 to 12 April 1988 at the invitation of the Government of India 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. S. P. Stainov, Chairman of the Commission at its tenth (commemorative) session. A summary of his statement is given in annex V, section A.

6. The inaugural address was given by Her Excellency Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Union Minister of Urban Development and Tourism of the Government of India. A summary of her address is reproduced in annex V, section 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. The Executive Director of the Centre made a statement. A summary of his statement appears in annex V, section C. The Government of India made a presentation of a sculpture carved by Professor Sankho Chaudhuri to the Executive Director for display at headquarters. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, delivered an address to the session at its first plenary meeting. A summary of his statement appears in annex V, section D.

### B. Attendance

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

Argentina	Germany, Federal	Norway
Bangladesh	Republic of	Pakistan
Bolivia	Greece	Panama
Botswana	Hungary	Peru
Brazil	India	Philippines
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Poland
Burundi	Iran (Islamic	Sri Lanka
Byelorussian Soviet	Republic of)	Sweden
Socialist Republic	Iraq	Turkey
Cameroon	Italy	Uganda
Canada	Jamaica	Union of Soviet
Colombia	Japan	Socialist Republics
Cyprus	Jordan	United Kingdom of
Egypt	Kenya	Great Britain and
Finland	Malaysia	Northern Ireland
France	Mexico	United Republic of
Gabon	Morocco	Tanzania
German Democratic	Netherlands	United States of
Republic	Nigeria	America

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

Algeria	Chile	Gambia
Australia	China	Guinea
Austria	Costa Rica	Israel
Belgium	Cuba	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Bhutan	Czechoslovakia	Mali
Burkina Faso	Denmark	Mauritania

Mauritius  
Nepal  
Republic of Korea  
Saudi Arabia  
Somalia  
Spain

Swaziland  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Thailand  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
United Arab Emirates

Venezuela  
Yemen  
Yugoslavia  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.
10. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:  
  
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Africa
11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:  
  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
12. The following specialized agencies were represented:  
  
International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
World Bank  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:  
  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Company for Habitat and Housing Africa (Shelter-Afrique)  
League of Arab States
14. The African National Congress of South Africa, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.
15. In addition, 37 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

### C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 6 April, the following officers of the Bureau were elected:

Chairman: Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai (India)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Michael R. Tshipinare (Botswana)  
Mr. Tiexeira Soares (Brazil)  
Mr. Derek Stroud (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Rapporteur: Mr. A. Lupina (Poland)

### D. Credentials

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

18. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 8th plenary meeting, on 12 April, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the eleventh 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

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the eleventh session, as contained in document HS/C/11/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: report of the Executive Director.
5. Global Shelter Strategy to the Year 2000.
6. Progress report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.
7. 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.
8. Outline of the theme for the twelfth session of the Commission.



9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twelfth session of the Commission.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Commission established a sessional committee of the whole and allocated to it agenda items 4 and 5.
21. The committee of the whole held seven meetings, from 6 to 11 April. The recommendations of the committee have been incorporated into the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

22. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 9th plenary meeting, on 12 April 1988.

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

23. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 12 April, the Commission decided that the twelfth session would be held from 24 April to 3 May 1989.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of Colombia extended, on behalf of her Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its twelfth session at Cartagena de Indias.

25. At that meeting, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Colombia for its generous invitation and decided to accept, in principle, the invitation to hold its twelfth session at Cartagena de Indias, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

26. The Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its twelfth session:

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): progress report of the Executive Director.
5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000:
  - (a) Implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;
  - (b) Financing the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, including 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.
6.
  - (a) The roles, responsibilities and capabilities of different levels and organizations in the government and in non-governmental sectors, and opportunities for co-operation and partnership among them at both national and international levels in the field of human settlements;
  - (b) Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1990-1991.
8. Medium-term plan for the period 1992-19--.
9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1990-1991.

10. Co-ordination matters:

- (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, including the contribution of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the international efforts towards sustainable development;
- (b) Co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;
- (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 the thirteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the thirteenth session of the Commission.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

#### IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

27. In his closing remarks the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) noted that the adoption of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (see the addendum to the present report) made him more optimistic about the future and about the possibility of a better life for the millions who still lack basic shelter. He reminded delegates that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had been successful in raising world-wide awareness regarding the critical nature of the shelter problem and the productive nature of shelter investments. Now, with the approval of the Strategy, time had come for action. In his vision the world after the implementation of the Strategy would be one that would be more humane and in which the poor would be enjoying secure shelter, human settlements policies would be a national priority, and social peace would reign. He called on all inside and outside Governments to co-operate in the implementation of the Strategy.

28. In her 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 eleventh session of the Commission.

29. One delegation, on behalf of a group of countries, and supported by another delegation, regretted that the mandate of the Commission had again been exceeded by the introduction of issues of a political nature. He emphasized once more that those issues could be more appropriately discussed in other forums, and considered it essential that future sessions should concentrate solely on matters within that mandate.

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

31. The Chairman then declared the eleventh session of the Commission of Human Settlements closed.

# ANNEX I

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

Date of  
adoption Page

### A. Resolutions

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

11/1	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	11 April 1988	10
11/2	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	12 April 1988	11
11/3	Use of the term "settlements" in relation to Israeli colonies in occupied territories	12 April 1988	18

#### 2. Other resolutions

11/4	Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development	11 April 1988	19
11/5	Themes for the twelfth session of the Commission	11 April 1988	21
11/6	Medium-term plan for the period commencing 1992	11 April 1988	21
11/7	Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system	11 April 1988	22
11/8	Safeguarding and protecting human settlements against acts of war and chemical warfare	12 April 1988	24
11/9	The situation between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran	12 April 1988	24
11/10	Reconstruction of Palestinian homes	12 April 1988	25
11/11	Assistance to victims of <u>apartheid</u> and colonialism in southern Africa	12 April 1988	26
11/12	Financing of shelter	12 April 1988	27

### B. Decision

11/13	Operational activities for development	11 April 1988	28
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## A. Resolutions

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

#### 11/1. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 5/14 of 7 May 1982 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Also recalling the objectives of the Year as contained in General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: activities and achievements", a/

1. Welcomes the success achieved in attaining the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;
2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit his report, together with the comments of the Commission, to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
3. Recommends to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption at its forty-third 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,

"Also recalling, in particular, the objectives of the Year as contained in its resolution 37/221,

"Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled 'International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: activities and achievements', a/ and the comments of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Economic and Social Council on that report,

"1. Welcomes the success achieved in attaining the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the numerous and encouraging reports, which were received from a total of 130 countries as at 31 December 1987, on activities, policies, programmes and projects undertaken by those countries within the context of the Year and towards the successful attainment of its objectives;

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a/ HS/C/11/2.

"3. Commends Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the efforts and resources that were effectively mobilized for the programme of activities for the Year;

"4. Requests Governments to sustain the momentum generated during the programme for the Year and to continue implementing concrete and innovative programmes aimed at improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged;

"5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to assist Governments in their efforts towards that goal, within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; b/

"6. Recommends that Governments indicate, if possible on World Habitat Day, the concrete actions to be taken and the specific targets to be achieved during each successive year;

"7. Also recommends that Governments maintain, where appropriate, the national focal points and national committees for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless for the purpose of monitoring and assessing the progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly periodically informed, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged."

7th plenary meeting  
11 April 1988

11/2. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/1 of 16 April 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", c/

1. Welcomes with appreciation the proposal for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

b/ A/43/8/Add.1.

c/ HS/C/11/3.

2. Adopts the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", as amended by the Commission at its eleventh session;
3. Also adopts the recommendations for steps to be taken at the national and international levels in connection with the Global Shelter Strategy to the Year 2000, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;
4. Requests all States to report to the Commission at its twelfth session on steps taken to implement the Global Strategy;
5. Requests the Executive Director to prepare an executive summary of the Global Strategy;
6. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare a list of topics of special relevance to the Global Strategy and to present it to the Commission at its twelfth session for consideration with a view to selecting topics that would be amplified within the context of the Strategy;
7. Further requests the Executive Director to report on international action taken in connection with the Strategy, including, inter alia, co-ordination regarding implementation of the Strategy within the United Nations system;
8. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption at its forty-third session of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, d/ and the recommendations for national action e/ adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

"Recalling its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which, inter alia, the importance of the provision of basic shelter and infrastructure was stressed,

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

"Further recalling its resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987, in which it decided that there should be a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

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d/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

e/ Ibid., chap. II.



"Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, f/

"Recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 9/9 of 16 May 1986 and 10/17 of 16 April 1987 on the participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems,

"Also recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolution 10/16 of 16 April 1987 on the effect of the external debt of the developing countries and their ability to raise the funds needed to solve the housing problems of the homeless up to the year 2000,

"Noting Commission on Human Settlements resolution 11/7 of 11 April 1988 entitled 'Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system',

"Convinced that the continuous, co-ordinated and widely based efforts of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and individuals, when guided by an appropriate strategy, will reverse the alarming trends in the field of human settlements and produce clear and visible improvements in the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000, and that this should be a global responsibility,

"Encouraged by action already taken or being taken in many countries to prepare national shelter strategies and adopt other measures that will promote achievement of the goal of shelter for all,

"Recognizing that, despite such efforts, more than one billion people have shelter unfit for human habitation, that this number will increase dramatically, partly as a result of population and urbanization trends, and that determined measures must be taken aimed at profiting from these trends, rather than being penalized by them,

"Also recognizing that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless has confirmed the need to intensify national and international efforts to produce, deliver and improve shelter for all, with specific emphasis on the poor and disadvantaged,

"Convinced that shelter problems are universal, that no country has yet completely met its shelter needs, but that every country can profit from the experience of others,

"Also convinced that shelter problems are a global concern that requires solutions that should relate to other global problems and that also require the efforts of all countries to reach such solutions, that the demand for shelter in each country can be met by applying a set of common principles, but

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f/ 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.

that goals can only be met by the individual efforts of each Government acting in its own political, economic, social and cultural context,

"Recognizing that the core of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 g/ consists of integrated national shelter strategies that need to be based on a full understanding of the scale and nature of the problem and the national resource base available to address the problem,

"Recognizing further that national shelter strategies need to contain four complementary parts: clear and measurable objectives; national mobilization and distribution of financial resources; promotion of shelter production and improvement with special reference to the management of land, the supply of infrastructure and encouragement of the use of appropriate building materials and technology; and the gradual reorganization of the shelter sector,

"1. Adopts the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"2. Decides that the main objective of the Strategy is to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000, that the main focus should therefore be on improving the situation of the disadvantaged and the poor, and that the following fundamental objectives and principles should form the basis of the Strategy:

"(a) Enabling policies, whereby the full potential and resources of all governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of human settlements are utilized, must be at the heart of national and international efforts;

"(b) Women, as income-earners, home-makers and heads of households, and women's organizations fulfil a crucial role as contributors to the solution of human settlements problems, which should be fully recognized and reflected in equal participation of women in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects, and that the specific interests and capabilities of women should be adequately represented in human settlements policy formulation and in government mechanisms employed at all levels for the implementation of housing policies, programmes and projects;

"(c) Shelter and development are mutually supportive and interdependent, and policies must be developed in full recognition of the important links between shelter and economic development;

"(d) The concept of sustainable development implies that shelter provision and urban development must be reconcilable with a sustainable management of the environment;

"3. Designates the Commission on Human Settlements to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the secretariat for the Strategy and the lead agency for co-ordinating and monitoring the relevant programmes and activities of other United Nations organizations and agencies concerned;

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g/ A/43/8/Add.1.

"4. Urges Governments to develop appropriate national and sub-national strategies for shelter in the light of the guidelines provided in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled 'Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000' h/ and regularly to report to the Commission on Human Settlements, beginning at its twelfth session, on their relevant experience and progress in implementing those strategies;

"5. Requests the Executive Director to monitor and subsequently to report to the Commission, beginning at its thirteenth session, on the relevant global experience and progress of all countries in implementing the Strategy;

"6. Decides to review and clarify the Strategy on a biennial basis, within regular budgetary resources, with the assistance of experts selected on the basis of equitable geographic representation, and to revise it in the light of global and national experience from all regions and subregions;

"7. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements, as the body designated to co-ordinate implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the General Assembly on progress made in its implementation;

"8. Also requests the Commission to strengthen, within existing resources, its role in regard to the promotion of innovative measures by which bilateral and multilateral financial institutions may support the shelter strategies of developing countries, for example, by way of suitably devised loan agreements that would lead to the building up of national revolving funds for shelter;

"9. Requests financial institutions and creditor countries, as one of the conditions for the success of the Strategy, to consider immediate measures to reduce the external debts by their conversion into long-term loans;

"10. Adopts the guidelines for steps to be taken at the national and international levels, as set out in the annex to the present resolution, in support of the guidelines for national and international action contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, g/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/191;

"11. Calls upon all States and others in a position to do so to make generous contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.

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h/ HS/C/11/3. See also the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/43/8, Add.1).

"I. GUIDELINES FOR STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

"A. Considerations for Governments when formulating a national shelter strategy

"1. A national shelter strategy must spell out clear operational objectives for the development of shelter conditions both in terms of the construction of new housing and the upgrading and maintenance of existing housing stock and infrastructure and services.

"2. In the definition of those objectives, development of shelter should be seen as a process whereby conditions are gradually improved for both men and women. The objectives need to address the scale of the problem, while the 'adequate' standard aimed at should be identified on the basis of an analysis of the standards and options affordable to the target population and society at large. The objectives should be based on a comprehensive view of the magnitude and nature of the problem and of the available resource base, including the potential contribution of men and women. In addition to finance, land, manpower and institutions, building materials and technology also have to be considered irrespective of whether they are held by the public or private, formal or informal sector.

"3. The objectives of the shelter sector need to be linked to the goals of overall economic policy, social policy, settlement policy and environmental policy.

"4. The strategy needs to outline the action through which the objectives can be met. In an enabling strategy actions such as the provision of infrastructure may mean the direct involvement of the public sector in shelter construction. The objective of 'facilitating adequate shelter for all' also implies that direct government support should mainly be allocated to the most needy population groups.

"5. The public sector is responsible for developing and implementing measures for national shelter policies and for the adoption of measures to stimulate the desired action by other sectors. This can happen through measures in areas such as the locally based small-scale building-materials industry, appropriate financial schemes or training programmes.

"6. Another important component is the development of administrative, institutional and legislative tasks that are the direct responsibility of the government, e.g., land registration and regulation of construction.

"7. An analysis of affordability will provide the criteria for defining the right priorities and appropriate approaches and standards for public sector involvement. Likewise, such an analysis gives the criteria for planning the indirect involvement of the public sector, that is, the type of activities to be promoted and the appropriate way of going about it.

"8. The appropriate institutional framework for the implementation of a strategy must be identified, which may require much institutional reorganization. Each agency involved must have a clear understanding of its

role within the overall organizational framework and of the tasks expected of it. Mechanisms for the co-ordination of inter- and intra-agency activities need to be developed. Mechanisms such as shelter coalitions are recommended and may be developed in partnership with the private and non-governmental sectors. Finally, arrangements for the continuous monitoring, review and revision of the strategy must be developed.

"8. Steps to be taken by Governments when implementing a national strategy

"9. Organize work for the preparation of the strategy. For instance, a task force may be appointed for the actual work and a steering committee ensuring high-level political commitment set up to guide its work. Alternatively it may be possible to use existing mechanisms. Equal participation of women should be ensured at all levels.

"10. Assess needs and resources. Estimates are required of the needs in housing construction and in upgrading and maintenance (including housing-related infrastructure), as well as of the resources that can be mobilized over the period to the year 2000 to cover those needs.

"11. Analyse shelter options and standards that are affordable by the target groups and society at large, taking into account both the scale of need and all the resources available - finance, land, manpower and institutions, building materials and technology.

"12. Set objectives for the construction of new housing and for the upgrading and maintenance of the existing housing stock in terms both of the scale of the activities and of the housing standards to be met.

"13. Identify action through which those objectives can be realistically met. The estimated required resources for this action must not exceed those that can be made available by society. The action includes both direct government involvement and measures needed to encourage, facilitate and integrate active participation of other sectors in shelter delivery.

"14. Prepare a plan of action in consultation and partnership with non-governmental organizations, people and their representatives, which:

"(a) Lists the activities that are the direct responsibility of the public sector;

"(b) Lists the activities to be taken to facilitate and encourage the other actors to carry out their part of the task;

"(c) Outlines resource allocation to the aforementioned activities;

"(d) Outlines the institutional arrangements for the implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and review of the strategy;

"(e) Outlines a schedule for the activities of the various agencies.

## "II. GUIDELINES FOR STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

"15. International action will be necessary to support the activities of countries in their endeavour to improve the housing situation of their poor and disadvantaged inhabitants. Such assistance should support national programmes and use know-how available locally and within the international community.

"16. The goal of external assistance should be to enhance and support national capabilities to develop and implement national action components of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

"17. Mutual co-operation and exchange of information and expertise between developing countries in human settlement work stimulate and enrich national human settlement work.

"18. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will act as the co-ordinating agency in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, on the basis of biennial plans to be drawn up with the involvement of experts working with Governments and the Centre on a regional and subregional basis.

"19. As the co-ordinating agency for the Strategy, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will stimulate international and national action by incorporating the Strategy in its future medium-term plans and biennial work programmes.

"20. An inter-agency-level working arrangement will be made within the existing budget to provide continuous co-ordination of the Strategy.

"21. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will prepare a reporting format to facilitate monitoring by the Commission on Human Settlements of progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Strategy."

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12 April 1988

### 11/3. Use of the term "settlements" in relation to Israeli colonies in occupied territories\*

#### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, i/ and the relevant recommendations for national action i/ adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

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\* Adopted by 23 votes to 8, with 9 abstentions.

i/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

i/ Ibid., chap. II.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Taking note of the various reports presented by the Executive Director,

Noting the conceptual conflict between human settlements terminology and that used for Israeli settlements,

Convinced of the colonial nature of the Israeli settlements,

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

"The General Assembly,

"Noting the definition of the concept 'human settlements' in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, i/

"Also noting the aggressive, inhuman and colonial nature of the Israeli settlements,

"Convinced of the conceptual differences between the two terms,

"1. Decides to use the term 'Israeli colonies in occupied territories' instead of 'Israeli settlements' in all United Nations documentation;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the present resolution throughout the United Nations system and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council."

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12 April 1988

## 2. Other resolutions

### 11/4. Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, k/

Recalling also Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, l/

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k/ A/42/427, annex.

l/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25 and Corr.1), annex II.

Recalling further Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000,

Deeply concerned about the deterioration of the human environment and the lack of progress in the improvement of the living conditions of the disadvantaged and the poor, particularly in developing countries,

Convinced that appropriate human settlement policies can be a decisive factor in promoting and securing development that is ecologically sound and thus sustainable,

Convinced also that human settlement activities based on an enabling strategy and predominantly on the use of local resources can be a strong factor in the promotion of economic and social development to the benefit of the disadvantaged and the poor,

Considering that the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) can make an important contribution to the promotion of sustainable development, which implies meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a report on the contribution of the Centre, based, inter alia, on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, m/ to the international efforts towards sustainable development within the field of human settlements for consideration by the Commission at its twelfth session and for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in accordance with Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187;

2. Invites Governments to provide the Executive Director with their views on how the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) might contribute to international efforts towards sustainable development and its national and regional scope;

3. Decides, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, to consider at its twelfth session the issue of sustainable development as a follow-up of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the basis of the report to be prepared by the Executive Director;

4. Decides also to consider on the same occasion the formulation of specific priority items to be added to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and to the medium-term plan for the period commencing 1992 resulting from the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to contribute towards sustainable ecological, economic and social development.

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m/ A/43/8/Add.1.



11/5. Themes for the twelfth session of the Commission

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 5/15 of 7 May 1982 and 8/24 of 10 May 1985 regarding the selection and preparation of special themes to be considered at the sessions of the Commission,

Also recalling its resolution 10/9 of 16 April 1987 in which it decided to include in the agenda of the twelfth session the theme: "The roles, responsibilities and capabilities of different levels and organizations in the government and non-governmental sectors, and opportunities for co-operation and partnership among them at both national and international levels in the field of human settlements",

Further calling that in its resolution 10/9 it decided to consider, beginning at the twelfth session, two special themes at each session, one of which should be of a general character related to the problems of human settlements, and the other, of a more specific character,

Having considered the note by the secretariat entitled "Consideration of special themes at future sessions of the Commission", n/

1. Decides to include in the agenda of the twelfth session the theme: "Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost-recovery";

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a report on the above-mentioned theme for consideration by the Commission at its twelfth session;

3. Urges the consideration at its twelfth session of the following themes for its thirteenth session in accordance with its resolution 10/9:

(a) Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development within the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; m/

(b) The use of new and renewable sources of energy in human settlements and for the construction and production of building materials.

7th plenary meeting

11 April 1988

11/6. Medium-term plan for the period commencing 1992

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/12 and decision 10/24 of 16 April 1987 on preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995,

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n/ HS/C/11/6.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/215 of 21 December 1987 on programme planning, in which the Assembly decided to continue through 1991 the priorities and activities of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987, in which the Assembly decided that there should be a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Having considered the note by the secretariat entitled "Preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995", q/

1. Takes note of the changes proposed for inclusion in the medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1984-1989, which has been extended to cover the period through 1991; p/

2. Also takes note of the revised proposals as contained in the note by the secretariat entitled "Preparation for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995", q/ which will form the basis for the chapter on human settlements in the draft of the medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period commencing 1992;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure that the programme of activities contained in the plan of action for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is fully reflected in the draft of the medium-term plan for the period commencing 1992;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to take into account the proposals referred to above in the preparation of the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 1990-1991, which will be presented to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session for its consideration.

7th plenary meeting

11 April 1988

11/7. Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/13 and 8/17 of 8 May 1985, 9/15 of 16 May 1986 and 10/7 of 16 April 1987 on co-ordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system,

Conscious of the need for increased co-ordination of the human settlements activities of the United Nations system and for improving the effectiveness of those activities,

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q/ HS/C/11/4/Add.1, annex I.

p/ Ibid., annex II.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the implementation of Commission resolution 10/7, g/

Mindful of the priorities for assistance to Governments and voluntary agencies established in its resolution 10/12 of 16 April 1987 on the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995,

Mindful also of the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, m/

Recalling its resolution 10/17 of 16 April 1987 on the participation of women in the solution of human settlements issues,

1. Requests all United Nations bodies and agencies, including the regional commissions, to accord priority to co-ordination in assessing, monitoring and evaluating trends and conditions in the field of human settlements;

2. Decides that co-ordination in support of national action should focus on activities in the following areas:

- (a) Policies and strategies;
- (b) Finance;
- (c) Land;
- (d) Institutions and management;

3. Reiterates that adequate arrangements are needed for inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation in human settlements activities, such as a task force of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on human settlements within approved regular budgetary resources;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) further to review and refine the priorities for co-ordination within the context of such inter-agency arrangements and in support of the objectives of the current medium-term plan and the one commencing 1992 and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-eighth session.

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g/ HS/C/11/4/Add.2/Rev.1.

11/8. Safeguarding and protecting human settlements against acts of war and chemical warfare

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind the humanitarian rules laid down in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 r/ and Additional Protocols I and II thereto, of 1977, s/

Bearing in mind also its resolutions 10/13 and 10/14 of 16 April 1987,

1. Urges the States Members of the United Nations to respect the international obligations regarding the protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, including human settlements, in armed conflicts;

2. Condemns the use of the chemical weapons;

3. Urges that the use of chemical weapons be stopped.

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11/9. The situation between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran\*

The Commission for Human Settlements,

Noting the current situation between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Concerned that the continuation of fighting will lead to further destruction and misery for innocent civilians and lead to their immigration and the abandonment of their habitat, thus leaving them without shelter,

1. Condemns aggression and the use of force as a means of settlement of disputes;

2. Calls upon Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the call of the international community and to Security Council resolution 598 (1987);

3. Confirms that humanitarian co-operation between the peoples of the world requires an atmosphere of peace;

4. Calls upon both parties to the conflict to bring this war to a favourable and just end in accordance with the principles of international law.

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\* Adopted by 21 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions.

r/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

s/ A/32/144, annexes I and II.

11/10. Reconstruction of Palestinian homes\*

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Recalling the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the question of Palestine and, in particular, resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Deeply concerned about the continuous blowing up and destruction of the houses of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, as part of collective punishment and indiscriminate revengeful practices, by the Israeli occupation,

Aware that such activities will inevitably lead to a further exodus of the Palestinian people from their homeland,

Convinced that such practices are obvious violations of international law and specifically the fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, t/

Considering also that the rebuilding of those houses of Palestinians which have been devastated by the Israeli occupation is a necessity and should be supported by the international community,

1. Calls upon the Israeli occupying authorities to cease their malpractices against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the blowing up and destruction of Palestinians' houses, which conflict with the aims and principles of the Commission on Human Settlements and its endeavours to fulfil the goal of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. Reiterates the right of the Palestinian people whose houses have been blown up and destroyed by the Israeli occupation to rebuild their houses and to reside in them again;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to follow up this matter, in co-ordination with various United Nations bodies concerned, the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned parties, in order to assist in the rebuilding of the aforementioned houses and to reinstate the original legal Palestinian inhabitants;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to inform the Commission at its twelfth session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution and to provide a fuller report to it at its thirteenth session.

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\* Adopted by 35 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions.

t/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

11/11. Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism  
in southern Africa

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/80 of 9 December 1981 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and 42/23 of 20 November 1987 on policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa,

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983, 7/3 of 9 May 1984, 8/18 of 8 May 1985, 9/7 of 16 May 1986 and 10/5 of 16 April 1987,

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

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

Concerned about the increased repression by the Pretoria apartheid régime of the African people of South Africa, in particular, the recent banning and restriction of seventeen organizations,

Further concerned about the apartheid régime's continued occupation of southern Angola and its intensified aggression 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. Also 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 thus far in implementing Commission resolution 10/5;
4. Commends States members 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. Calls upon the international community to extend political and material support to the front-line States to enable them to combat the Pretoria régime's acts of aggression and destabilization;
6. Also calls upon the international community to provide material assistance to the displaced and homeless victims in this region;

7. Requests the Executive Director 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 10/5:

8. Also requests the Executive Director to continue assisting the national liberation movements in obtaining approval of their human settlements project proposals in a reasonable time.

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#### 11/12. Financing of shelter

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Considering that the facilitation of access for all to adequate housing is the objective of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as stated in its resolution 10/1 of 16 April 1987 and in General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987,

Aware that the world housing shortage is worsening and is affecting hundreds of millions of people,

Recognizing that the external debt burden is hindering the harmonious economic and social development of developing countries and is reducing the financial resources available for dealing with the problem of shelter,

Recognizing also that shelter is a human right, essential for a decent life,

Recognizing further that it is a collective ethical principle that all countries should make every effort to ensure that the target of shelter for all by the year 2000 is achieved,

1. Urges Governments to give favourable consideration to internal measures, including innovative financial mechanisms, to promote the construction of housing and the development of human settlements;

2. Recommends the mobilization of new and greater international financial resources for shelter through:

(a) Increased access to the credit and development aid resources of global and regional financing bodies;

(b) The agreement of developed countries to make significant voluntary contributions;

(c) The reallocation of resources currently used for the arms race to dealing with the housing problem, thereby helping to establish greater social justice and world peace;

3. Requests financial institutions and creditor countries to consider immediate measures to reduce the external debt burden by its conversion into

long-term loans and the granting of new long-term loans for shelter repayable at soft rates of interest with a generous grace period;

4. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to promote interaction among the parties involved in the above-mentioned areas.

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#### B. Decision

##### 11/13. Operational activities for development

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 11 April 1988, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report on the case studies on the functioning of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as called for in section 1, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 42/196 of 11 December 1987, and agreeing with the general thrust of the conclusions and recommendations, many of which concurred with the views expressed by the Commission at its tenth (commemorative) session on the issues pertaining to operational activities for development and which reconfirmed that in the field of technical co-operation the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) followed the procedures established by the United Nations Development Programme and operated through the Programme's resident representatives, reconfirmed the role of the Programme's country programming as an important framework for operational activities for development, underlined the importance of joint programming and other methods to achieve maximum impact with limited resources, and supported the suggestions regarding the need for clearer focus in programming with sufficient emphasis on sectoral, subsectoral and thematic programming.



## ANNEX II

List of documents

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
	Letter of convocation	
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HS/C/11/4/Add.2/Rev.1	Implementation of Commission resolution 10/7 on co-ordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system: report of the Executive Director	6
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## ANNEX III

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Canada	Mobility	English	37
France	Economie de la Construction urbaine	English and French	15
Gabon	Stratégies et politiques d'amélioration de l'habitat au Gabon	French	15
German Democratic Republic	Ein Haus aus Lehm	English	20
Guinea	Les premiers pas dans le processus d'urbanisation	French	13
India	Shelter on water	English	25
India	Shelter - a place to live	English	8
Indonesia	Improvement through partnership	English	20
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Kenya	Pumwani redevelopment	English	11
Netherlands	Our will, our hands	English	45
Sri Lanka	Sheltering the nation	English	15
Sri Lanka	Wanathamulla	English	15
Turkey	Cukurova metropolitan region urban development project	English	20
Turkey	Our habitat - rural housing	English	20
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#### ANNEX IV

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

It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings to all the participants at the eleventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the session. India has given steadfast support to the efforts of our Organization over the years. Such support, rendered from deep conviction, is a source of inestimable strength to the United Nations.

This session of the Commission carries a special significance as a follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless which was one of the most important initiatives in recent years to promote the goal of adequate shelter for all. It is apparent from the report of the Executive Director which is before the Commission and from the accounts given by Governments at the special meetings of the General Assembly devoted to this subject last October that the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless has been a notable success. It has heightened awareness of the escalating problem of homelessness and inadequate shelter throughout the world, strengthened the resolve of all concerned to take appropriate remedial action and led to the initiative of many specific policies, programmes and projects at the national and international levels directed at meeting the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

It must, at the same time, be recognized that part of the success achieved by the International Year has been to reveal with even more depressing clarity the extent and complexity of the shelter problem as well as the scale of human suffering it entails. Efforts of a massive, sustained and concerted nature must continue to be mounted at all levels - local, national and international - in order to overcome the shelter crisis. Not only must we work to alleviate the plight of hundreds of millions of people who lack adequate shelter or have no shelter at all, we must also prepare for the millions of individuals who, given present trends, will be added to this number in the very near future. The danger posed by this impending development to both the quality of life of individual citizens and the well-being of society as a whole is obvious. It is danger of a kind that cannot be allowed to persist.

With this in mind, the Commission will be taking action at this session on a major new initiative to continue the work begun with the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. As requested by the General Assembly, the Commission will be engaged in the formulation of a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000, the objective being to promote measures that will contribute to the provision of adequate shelter for all by the end of the century. As the target date is only a little more than a decade away, it is a task whose urgency matches its critical importance. It demands from all of us the utmost in caring, commitment and imaginative deployment of resources. Governments, organizations and agencies assembled here today need to provide the leadership for this global undertaking. The record of achievements established by the Commission on Human Settlements during the 10 years of its existence provides an assurance that it will not fail to play its part fully in this great endeavour.

I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations and wish you every success.

Summaries of statements

A. Statement by Mr. S. P. Stainov, Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth (commemorative) session

1. The Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth (commemorative) session said that 105 countries had participated in that session, which confirmed the increasing preoccupation of Governments with shelter problems and their determination to solve them. He thanked the Prime Minister and people of India for their hospitality and for allowing the Commission to meet again under such excellent working conditions.
2. Since 1983, more and more countries had developed programmes and strategies to tackle their human settlements problems. However, there was still a long way to go. That was why the General Assembly had approved the proposal of the Commission to maintain the momentum and extend the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to the end of the century. It was of the utmost importance that the Global Strategy for Shelter, developed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), should become an effective instrument and key to the solution of housing problems all over the world.
3. Future development of human settlements could not be considered or achieved outside the context of the actual state of international economic and political relations. A main factor in those relations was the need to put an end to the arms race, since peace was the prime condition for human settlements development and the preservation of a harmonious life for all. The signing in 1987 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of the agreement regarding intermediate missiles had reinforced and strengthened the belief in a twenty-first century without nuclear arms.

B. Inaugural address by Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Union Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, Government of India

1. Welcoming delegates to New Delhi, the Union Minister said that the session was one in which the Commission would need to pause and ponder over new initiatives and devise new strategies to meet the unprecedented challenges stemming from the rapid pace and scale of urbanization and population growth. In doing so delegates should realize that taking care of physical requirements on the ground was not enough. Equally important for instance were the quality of the water and of the air.
2. Despite tremendous advances in scientific knowledge and technology, the basic needs of the less fortunate had not been met and life in the cities, towns and villages had become increasingly hard. Paradoxically, it was in those cities that colossal investments had been made which had nurtured so much progress and had provided opportunities and scope for the creativity of those who had flocked to them.

3. The Government and public sector in India had undoubtedly been a pace-setter and had played a major role in meeting the shelter needs of the economically weak. A comprehensive national housing policy would be placed before Parliament soon and many other measures, such as the establishment of a national housing bank, had been taken. Embodied in such approaches were, inter alia, the notion of the importance of the informal and co-operative sectors and the need for the Government and its agencies to focus on their enabling role by creating a legal and institutional framework that was conducive to the efforts of individuals and groups in the housing field.

C. Address by the Executive Director of the United Nations  
Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements stressed that the session of the Commission was taking place at a crucial point in time when the international community as a whole was striving to define new directives and strategies for development in the years ahead. He suggested that development be measured not solely in terms of increases in gross domestic product, external trade or industrial production but, more correctly, in terms of the living standards of the great majority of the population.

2. He urged that in the search for a development strategy preference be given to an approach that balanced the call for adjustment and new sacrifices with the possibility of tangible and immediate benefits for the majority of the poor. He stressed that amid the concerns for structural adjustments, balance of trade and balance-of-payment deficits, economic stabilization etc., it was important not to forget that the satisfaction of basic human needs was an end-goal of all endeavours. It was true of national Governments, which in their setting of development priorities relegated shelter as "non-productive". It was also true of donor Governments and multilateral assistance agencies, which overlooked the enormous catalytic effect of shelter-directed investments.

3. There were two basic requirements for life: food and shelter. The plight of the hungry of the world had been dramatically illustrated by the global communications media. The international community had responded in several ways. The shelter conditions of the poor majority in the developing countries, however, were in fact deteriorating, even as the demand expanded. By the year 2000, the overall global population would reach the 6 billion mark with urban population approaching 3 billion, a majority of them crowded into already bursting agglomerations in the developing countries. In that light it was doubtful that the world community could feel confident about being on a course that would lead to a solution of the shelter problem.

4. The argument for investment in shelter was not based on social and political advantages only. There were economic advantages also, since investments in shelter, infrastructure and services provided substantial opportunities for the absorption of the semi-skilled and unskilled sectors, encouraged the development of indigenous materials and equipment to meet the demand created by the informal sector and thus contributed to the emergence of a technical base for industrial expansion and diversification. In addition there was a direct link between adequate housing and good community health standards.

5. The challenge before the world community was to identify the strategy that was both supportive of economic growth and responsive to the rising aspirations of the populations of the developing countries. Emphasis on shelter, its construction and improvement and the provision of related infrastructure services provided such a strategy. Therefore, following the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless all concerned should demonstrate the will and the commitment to rise to the challenge for a massive, imaginative and concerted action at all levels.

D. Address by the Honourable R. Premadasa, M.P.,  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

1. The Prime Minister recalled that eight years ago his country had proposed to the General Assembly the designation of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Noting the enthusiasm and involvement that the International Year ultimately had generated, he said that, despite its evident success, much remained to be done. He recommended the establishment of a global housing and shelter bank, an international pledging system to accelerate the building of settlements, a network of research-oriented technology sharing and educational groups, and a specialized agency in the United Nations system focused on shelter and allied activities.

2. Referring to the Million Houses Programme begun in Sri Lanka in 1983, he stated that the target of one million houses constructed would be achieved by 1989. Five lessons had been learned from the experience. First, the prospect of personal home ownership was a powerful incentive for individual effort. Secondly, the policy of maximum participation by the people and minimum intervention by the State had been fully validated. Thirdly, it had been proved that internally generated resources could finance massive housing programmes. Fourthly, self-help approaches had tremendous psychological and economic advantages. Fifthly, the pace of development quickened as central Government direction is replaced by decentralized local government administration.

3. The shelter problem could not be totally isolated from the larger issues such as arms reduction and the debt problem.

