

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

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**24 April-3 May 1989**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8 (A/44/8)**



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#### **NOTE**

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

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

2. The report of the Commission on the work of its twelfth 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	Paraguay***
Bangladesh**	Republic of**	Peru**
Bolivia***	Greece**	Philippines*
Botswana**	Guatemala***	Sierra Leone*
Brazil*	Hungary***	Somalia***
Bulgaria*	India**	Sri Lanka**
Burundi**	Indonesia***	Swaziland***
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic**	Iran (Islamic Republic of)*	Sweden***
Cameroon*	Iraq***	Syrian Arab Republic***
Canada***	Italy***	Togo*
China***	Jamaica**	Tunisia***
Colombia*	Japan*	Turkey*
Cyprus**	Jordan**	Uganda*
Denmark**	Kenya**	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*
Ecuador*	Lesotho***	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
Egypt**	Madagascar*	United Republic of Tanzania**
Finland*	Malawi***	United States of America*
France***	Mexico**	Yugoslavia***
Gabon*	Netherlands***	
German Democratic Republic**	Norway**	
	Pakistan*	

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\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1990.

\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1991.

\*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1992.

4. The twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 24 April to 3 May 1989 at the invitation of the Government of Colombia and in accordance with section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Union Minister of Urban Development of the Government of India, Chairman of the Commission at its eleventh session. A summary of her statement is given in annex V, section A.

6. 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 also made a statement on the state of human settlements; a summary appears in annex V, section B. The inaugural address was given by the President of the Republic of Colombia, His Excellency Dr. Virgilio Barco Vargas; a summary appears in annex V, section C. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) delivered an address on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP; a summary appears in annex V, section D.

### B. Attendance

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

Argentina	Germany, Federal	Pakistan
Bolivia	Republic of	Peru
Botswana	Greece	Philippines
Brazil	Guatemala	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Hungary	Swaziland
Burundi	India	Sweden
Byelorussian Soviet	Indonesia	Tunisia
Socialist Republic	Iran (Islamic	Turkey
Cameroon	Republic of)	Uganda
Canada	Iraq	Union of Soviet Socialist
China	Italy	Republics
Colombia	Jamaica	United Kingdom of Great
Denmark	Japan	Britain and Northern
Ecuador	Kenya	Ireland
Egypt	Lesotho	United Republic of
Finland	Madagascar	Tanzania
France	Malawi	United States of
Gabon	Mexico	America
German Democratic	Netherlands	Yugoslavia
Republic	Norway	

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

Algeria	Lao People's Democratic	Republic of Korea
Angola	Republic	Samoa
Bahamas	Lebanon	Spain
Burkina Faso	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Suriname
Costa Rica	Mali	Thailand
Cuba	Mauritania	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Morocco	Uruguay
Gambia	Nepal	Venezuela
Guinea	Panama	Yemen
Haiti	Papua New Guinea	Zambia
Israel	Poland	Zimbabwe

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.
10. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:
  - Economic Commission for Africa
  - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:
  - United Nations Children's Fund
  - United Nations Development Programme
  - United Nations Environment Programme
  - World Food Programme
12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/50 C of 12 December 1984, Namibia was represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.
13. The following specialized agencies were represented:
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - World Health Organization
14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:
  - Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique)
  - Inter-American Development Bank
  - League of Arab States
15. The representative of Palestine participated.

16. The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania was also represented.
17. In addition, 16 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

#### C. Election of officers

18. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 24 April, Mr. Carlos Arturo Marulanda Ramirez, Minister of Economic Development of Colombia, was elected Chairman. The following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Simon Essimengane (Gabon)  
Mr. Daniel Figgins (United States of America)  
Mr. Istvan Geczi (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Mr. W. D. Ailapperuma (Sri Lanka)

#### D. Credentials

19. 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.

20. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 7th plenary meeting, on 2 May 1989, that it has examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twelfth 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

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 24 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the twelfth session, as contained in document HS/C/12/1, 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): 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 1992-1997.
- 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.

#### F. Organization of work

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 24 April, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: agenda items 5 (b), 6 (a) and 6 (b);

Committee II: agenda items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

23. Committee I held eight meetings, from 24 April to 2 May, and Committee II held five meetings from 26 April to 2 May. The recommendations of both committees have been incorporated into the present report.

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

24. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 8th plenary meeting, on 3 May 1989.

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

25. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 3 May, the Commission decided that its thirteenth session would be held from 29 April to 8 May 1991.

26. At its 8th meeting, on 3 May, the representative of Zimbabwe extended, on behalf of his Government, an invitation to the Commission to hold its thirteenth session at Harare.

27. At the same meeting, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Zimbabwe for its generous invitation and decided to accept, in principle, the invitation to hold its thirteenth session at Harare, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

28. The Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its thirteenth 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: progress report on implementation.
6. (a) The significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the relationships between economic development, improving living conditions of the poor and the planning and management of settlements;
- (b) Use of energy by households and in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources which are new and renewable and which minimize pollution problems.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1992-1993.
8. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993.
9. 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, 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.
10. Themes for the fourteenth and future sessions of the Commission.
  11. Other matters.
  12. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Commission.
  13. Adoption of the report of the session.
  14. Closure of the session.

#### IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

29. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) noted that, the session was not only the last sitting of the Commission in the present decade, but also the opening call for meeting the challenges to be faced in the 1990s, when the problem of deteriorating human settlements and shelter conditions that had accumulated during the 1980s might reach a boiling point, fueled by years of neglect. He reminded the delegates that cities and towns stimulated political awareness and that that translated into greater impatience and expectations on the part of the urban poor majority. As more developing countries become urbanized over the next decade, the voice of the urban poor would become decisive. For that reason, it was indeed fortuitous that the Commission had anticipated those changes and offered a concrete response to meet the expectations of the peoples of the developing world for a better life by approving the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. It was now up to national Governments to marshal the political commitment to implement it and not to slip back into complacency. The Executive Director concluded his statement by expressing his appreciation of the work of the delegations and to the Government of Colombia. He also thanked the people of Cartagena de Indias for hosting the twelfth session of the Commission.

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

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

32. The Chairman then declared closed the twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

# ANNEX I

## Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its twelfth session

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>A. <u>Resolutions</u></b>			
<b>1. <u>Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly</u></b>			
12/1	Implementation and monitoring of the first phase, 1989-1991, of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	3 May 1989	12
<b>2. <u>Other resolutions</u></b>			
12/2	Assistance to the Namibian people	2 May 1989	15
12/3	Assistance to victims of <u>apartheid</u> in Africa	2 May 1989	16
12/4	Conditions of human settlements in Lebanon	2 May 1989	17
12/5	Meetings of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat	2 May 1989	18
12/6	Compendium on human settlements statistics	2 May 1989	20
12/7	Preparations for an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade	2 May 1989	20
12/8	Informal committee of permanent representatives	3 May 1989	21
12/9	Promotion of low-cost shelter construction	2 May 1989	23
12/10	Adoption of a strategy and mechanism for the early mobilization of human settlements project sites	2 May 1989	23
12/11	Housing conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories	2 May 1989	24
12/12	Economic growth in developing countries as an essential factor in attaining the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	2 May 1989	26
12/13	Establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for the Exchange and Promotion of Human Settlements Technologies, with headquarters at Bogotá, Colombia	2 May 1989	27

		<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>Page</u>
12/14	Roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements	2 May 1989	29
12/15	Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery	2 May 1989	31
12/16	Programme for the eradication of poor housing conditions and for the urban rehabilitation of historic centres	2 May 1989	33
12/17	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	2 May 1989	33
12/18	The theme "Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development" and the contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the preparations for a United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992	2 May 1989	34
12/19	Co-ordination matters	2 May 1989	36
12/20	Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme	2 May 1989	38
12/21	Themes for the thirteenth and future sessions	2 May 1989	38
12/22	The draft programme for human settlements of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997	3 May 1989	39

#### B. Decisions

12/23	Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1990-1991	3 May 1989	41
12/24	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1990-1991	3 May 1989	42

## A. Resolutions

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

#### 12/1. Implementation and monitoring of the first phase, 1989-1991, of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and requested the Commission to report biennially on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy,

Recalling also Commission resolution 11/6 of 11 April 1988 and section IV.D of the Strategy, a/ which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure that the objectives and action plan of the Global Strategy are incorporated in the medium-term plan commencing 1992 and to incorporate the Strategy in the future medium-term plans and biennial work programmes of the Centre,

Recalling further that the Commission should, in accordance with the Strategy, consider at its twelfth session the reporting format which defines the action areas and indicators for monitoring, b/

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled "Implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", c/

Having received reports from member Governments on national activities related to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Noting that information activities must be a central component of all efforts to implement the Global Strategy,

Noting with satisfaction the quality of the information outputs prepared in support of the implementation of the first phases of the Global Strategy,

1. Adopts the report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, annexed to the note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "First report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly"; d/

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a/ A/43/8/Add.1, paras. 126-132.

b/ Ibid., para. 130.

c/ HS/C/12/3.

d/ HS/C/12/3/Add.1. For the text of the report, see the addendum to the present report (A/44/8/Add.1).



2. Takes note of the monitoring indicators proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and requests the Executive Director, taking into account the comments presented by the Commission and in co operation with Governments, to prepare on that basis guidelines for cost-effective national monitoring, paying special attention to the need to maintain a simple format for national reporting, but providing an opportunity to describe innovative and interesting developments;
3. Recommends that all Governments set the proposed monitoring system gradually in place following the guidelines to be prepared by the Executive Director;
4. Urges Governments to prepare annual progress reports on national shelter strategies for presentation on World Habitat Day and to submit the first biennial reports to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) before 31 October 1990 in order to enable the Executive Director to prepare his report to the Commission at its thirteenth session, using the guidelines;
5. Requests the Executive Director to use the Global Strategy as an overall guide for all the Centre's activities, integrating it as the first priority in the work programme for 1990-1991, as well as in the future medium-term plans and biennial work programmes up to the year 2000, taking into account the results of national monitoring;
6. Also requests the Executive Director to formulate and implement a series of proposals for systematic information-communication activities in support of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;
7. Further requests the Executive Director, in the further work on the Global Strategy, to give due consideration to the following issues so far given limited weight: roles of governmental and non-governmental sectors; the specific requirements, contributions and untapped capabilities of women and their organizations; municipal management; finance, training, land policies, urban and regional planning; the need to frame shelter action within comprehensive urban development programmes; and the link between shelter and related environmental issues;
8. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the first phase of the Global Strategy;
9. Decides that the Commission, at its thirteenth session, will review the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, on the basis of the results of monitoring and of the report of the Executive Director called for in paragraph 8, and will be a forum for the exchange of information on innovative national developments and on encouraging them;
10. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption at its forty-fourth session of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body

responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the core of which consists of integrated national shelter strategies,

"Also recalling its request, contained in paragraph 7 of the above-mentioned resolution, to the Commission on Human Settlements as the body designated to co-ordinate the implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the General Assembly on progress made in its implementation,

"Recognizing that the Global Strategy is the most ambitious programme that the international community has so far adopted in the human settlements sector and, as such, requires the concerted efforts of all member Governments, United Nations bodies and donor agencies, as well as the entire attention of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

"Convinced that, while integrating the most effective and efficient policy tools in all action areas, national shelter strategies can be a crucial instrument of enablement leading to the full mobilization of all types of resources on a sustainable basis and thereby facilitating adequate shelter for all by the year 2000,

"Paying special attention to the need to ensure equal access to available resources by all population groups, while recognizing the critical role that women should play in the implementation of the Global Strategy, and to remove obstacles that some population groups, such as households headed by women, may face in this respect,

"Concerned about the economic constraints many countries face in their development efforts, but at the same time encouraged by the positive impact which enabling shelter strategies have on economic development,

"Emphasizing that the objective of facilitating shelter for all can be promoted by a national strategy which is recognized and supported at the highest possible political level, adjusted to the macroeconomic need of consolidating the national resource base and minimizing the import content, based on nationally and individually affordable standards, flexible in terms of the diversity of shelter priorities and specific in terms of institutional arrangements for partnership between various sectors of implementation,

"Having considered the first report of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

"Noting with satisfaction the support to the Strategy's Plan of Action by donor Governments and international bodies and agencies in assisting national Governments in the formulation of their national shelter strategies,

"Cognizant of the importance of sustaining and expanding national and international support to this crucial phase of the Plan of Action,

"Noting that, when considering future voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, donors will be influenced by the degree of emphasis of the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the Global Strategy for Shelter and by the priorities within the Global Strategy reflected in that programme,

"1. Commends Governments which are reviewing, revising and consolidating their national shelter strategies, as well as implementing them with great determination, and urges all Governments to do so;

"2. Recommends that all Governments set the monitoring system to be proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) gradually in place following the guidelines to be prepared by the Executive Director;

"3. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions whenever possible to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in cash or in kind, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"4. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, and particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide financial and other support to the implementation of the Strategy's Plan of Action."

8th plenary meeting  
3 May 1989

## 2. Other resolutions

### 12/2. Assistance to the Namibian people

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/6 of 16 April 1987 on assistance to the Namibian people,

Further recalling Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978 on Namibia,

Welcoming Security Council resolution 632 (1989) of 16 February 1989 on the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia,

Conscious of the urgent need for the planning and implementation of settlements projects for the refugees who will be returning to Namibia in the near future,

Conscious also of the urgent need for a comprehensive shelter strategy in the national development plan of independent Namibia,

Recalling the report entitled "Development strategies for the housing and construction sectors of independent Namibia", prepared in 1985 by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the context of the Namibian Nationhood Programme,

Having heard statements on this matter by representatives of several States and the United Nations Council for Namibia,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made so far in implementing Commission resolution 10/6;

2. Reiterates the international appeal to all the parties to the December 1988 New York accord accepting the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) to co-operate fully with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in monitoring elections in November 1989 in Namibia to ensure that they are free and fair;

3. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a short-term shelter strategy for the resettlement of returning refugees in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, as well as a proposal for a long-term comprehensive national shelter strategy with a particular focus on shelter policy issues, construction and infrastructure technology and manpower training;

4. Further requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to identify and implement specific projects which would facilitate an orderly and effective resettlement of the returning refugees;

5. Urges the Executive Director to continue the implementation of an intensive training programme which would ensure that, at the time of independence, Namibia will possess a core of skilled labour, particularly at the low and medium levels in the construction field;

6. Calls upon the international community to lend its full support, both financial and technical, to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the development of a comprehensive shelter strategy for an independent Namibia;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session on the implementation of this resolution.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

### 12/3. Assistance to victims of apartheid in Africa

#### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 November 1981 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and Assembly resolution 42/23 of 20 November 1987 on the 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, 10/5 of 16 April 1987 and 11/11 of 12 April 1988,

Aware of the deplorable conditions to which the majority population is being subjected by the apartheid régime in South Africa,

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 several organizations,

Further concerned about the apartheid régime's intensified aggression against the front-line States,

1. Strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid régime 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 resolutions 10/5 and 11/11;
4. Commends States members of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving efforts in the support of the struggle against apartheid;
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, pursuant to Commission resolutions 10/5 and 11/11;
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.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

#### 12/4. Conditions of human settlements in Lebanon

Aware of the devastation to which the human settlements in Lebanon are being subjected with countless human losses and suffering and tremendous property damage notably in the housing sector,

Recalling the numerous international agencies efforts, especially the various United Nations agencies, in seeking to curtail the human sufferings of the Lebanese people,

Convinced that the Lebanese people are capable of solving their domestic problems without foreign intervention,

1. Calls for an end to the continuous destruction of human settlements in Lebanon;

2. Appeals to the world community to assist in the reunification and rebuilding of Lebanon within the framework of its independence and integrity and in accordance with the sovereign free will of its own people.

7th plenary meeting

2 May 1989

12/5. Meetings of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the first informal meeting of Parliamentarians around the globe, which was held at Yokohama, Japan, in October 1987, at the initiative of the Japanese Parliamentarians League on Habitat, on the occasion of the International Symposium on Housing,

Recalling also the second meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, held at New Delhi, India, in April 1988 on the occasion of the eleventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting the third meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 25 to 28 April 1989, on the occasion of the twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Recognizing that such a meeting of Parliamentarians helps to mobilize political support and will for a higher priority for the settlements sector,

Takes note of the decisions and recommendations made at the third meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat as annexed, with the understanding that any secretariat support by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the 1990 Conference of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat will only be provided to the extent that voluntary contributions are made available for this purpose.

7th plenary meeting

2 May 1989

ANNEX

Decisions and recommendations of the third meeting of the  
Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

The Committee of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, at its meeting held at Cartagena de Indias in conjunction with the twelfth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, decides:

1. That the biennial meeting of Parliamentarians should continue to take place in conjunction with the sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

2. That a conference of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat will be held in Japan in 1990 on an ad hoc basis and:

(a) That this conference will be open to Parliamentarians from all countries;

(b) That focal point(s) should be established in each region or subregion in order to ensure the widest possible participation of Parliamentarians in the conference;

(c) That the agenda of the conference will be broadly as contained in the attachment;

(d) To call upon the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to provide secretarial support for the conference;

(e) That a preparatory committee for the conference with the regional and subregional representation indicated above, will meet before the conference if necessary.

Recommends:

1. That a national group of Parliamentarians on Habitat be established in each country, as appropriate, to promote and/or examine ways of assisting the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. That all national groups of Parliamentarians on Habitat are encouraged to promote regional and subregional meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and experience and that the outcome of such meetings should be presented at the conference to be held in Japan in 1990;

3. That developed countries are invited to co-operate in providing financial support for Parliamentarians from developing countries where economic difficulties prevail, in order to facilitate their participation in the conference in Japan.

Agenda of the Conference of Global Parliamentarians  
on Habitat, Japan, 1990

1. Opening ceremony.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Overview of human settlements issues and development.
5. The role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. Adoption of the Declaration and Action Plan.
7. Closing ceremony.

12/6. Compendium on human settlements statistics

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979, which requires the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), inter alia, to provide a complete review of human settlements conditions,

Noting that the monitoring of shelter conditions and trends is an essential component of the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Noting with appreciation the existing co-operation between its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which has included the publication of the Compendium on Human Settlements Statistics and the holding in 1987 of an expert group meeting to prepare the next issue of the Compendium,

Deeply concerned with the fact that the Compendium does not appear in the 1990-1991 work programme of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs,

Invites the Statistical Commission to include the item "Human settlements statistics" in the agenda of its next session with a view to examining ways and means of resuming the work on the Compendium on Human Settlements Statistics within the 1990-1991 work programme.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/7. Preparations for an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/182 of 20 December 1988 on the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, which invites all organizations within the United Nations system to include in their agenda during 1989 items regarding their contribution to the preparation of the international development strategy,

Also recalling General Assembly decision 43/443 of 20 December 1988 entitled "Special session of the General Assembly in 1990 devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries",



Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/180 of 20 December 1988 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and 43/181 of 20 December 1980 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recognizing the importance of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181, to the process of development during the fourth United Nations development decade,

1. Emphasizes the role of human settlements development as a means of revitalizing the economies of developing countries;
2. Points out the integral links between human settlements development and equitable social advancement;
3. Draws attention to the employment generating potential of human settlements investment, particularly in the construction sector, which can be promoted in a non-inflationary way;
4. Recommends that Governments give priority to the promotion of indigenous building materials and construction techniques, as a significant measure for conserving foreign-exchange reserves;
5. Also recommends that Governments give high priority to meeting shelter needs as a measure that contributes both to social improvement and supports economic growth;
6. Notes that the opportunities for community participation in human settlements programmes open the way for a broad-based development process;
7. Recommends, in light of the above factors, that human settlements development be accorded priority consideration in the formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;
8. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to bring this resolution to the attention of the ad hoc committee of the whole for the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/8. Informal committee of permanent representatives

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985, in which it decided that, on an experimental basis, sessions of the Commission would be held only during odd-numbered years as of 1987, and General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 which welcomed that decision,

Conscious of the responsibilities incumbent upon it under the terms of General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 to promote the general policy goals and objectives of the United Nations in the field of human settlements,

Bearing in mind that General Assembly resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987 recalled the principle of the equality of the six official languages,

Convinced of the necessity to have available, particularly in the period between sessions of the Commission, a mechanism for informal consultations, between Governments on one side and the Executive Director on the other, on matters concerning human settlements,

Aware of the positive results of the informal consultations between the permanent representatives of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Executive Director which have regularly taken place since the creation of the Centre,

1. Notes the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on low-cost solutions, in which he proposes intersessional consultations with Governments after 1989; g/

2. Decides that, for the next two years, the existing informal Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and/or Government-designated officials should continue to ensure liaison between Governments and the Executive Director in the interval between sessions of the Commission, its proceedings being informal;

3. Recommends that the dates and contents of such liaison meetings should be determined in consultation between the Executive Director and permanent representatives;

4. Confirms the decisions contained in its resolution 10/10 of 16 April 1987, and:

(a) Reiterates the obligation of the Executive Director to provide information in advance to Governments, whether represented permanently in Nairobi or not, on such meetings, and to inform them on their results,

(b) Requests the Executive Director to inform the Commission on the results of the liaison meetings and, in particular, on preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission;

5. Invites Governments that are not represented permanently in Nairobi to designate an official to whom information on such meetings will be addressed;

6. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to implement the present resolution within available resources.

8th plenary meeting

3 May 1989

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g/ HS/C/12/2/Add.1.

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, decided that the main objective of the Strategy is to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000 and that the main focus should therefore be the improvement of the situation of the disadvantaged and poor,

Noting with interest that several meetings, seminars and workshops are being held around the world concerning the problem of low-income housing,

Noting in particular a meeting held at Santiago, Chile, in August 1988 under the auspices of the International Union of Architects to discuss an international low-cost social construction plan for the developing countries,

Noting also that government policies on tariffs, taxes and incentives to local production of building materials could facilitate easier access to shelter by the disadvantaged sections of the population,

Convinced of the need for collaborative action between national and international credit institutions, professional organizations, research agencies and private institutions to develop and promote strategies for low-cost shelter construction,

1. Appeals to all Governments, national and international financial institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, and research and business associations to ensure that, in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, appropriate consideration be given to the needs and requirements of low-income groups;

2. Invites all Governments and the above-mentioned institutions and organizations to inform the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the implementation of this resolution, in the context of their progress report on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/10. Adoption of a strategy and mechanism for the early mobilization of human settlements project sites

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recognizing that this ambitious programme is facing difficulty in implementation in certain areas, as many proposed sites for human settlements projects are privately owned properties, the owners of which are sometimes

reluctant to release them through negotiated sale or other voluntary arrangement or willing to give them up only at high prices,

Noting that it is necessary to formulate an effective strategy and mechanism to ensure early acquisition of human settlements project sites,

1. Recommends that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) prepare a study on the possibilities of formulating a strategy and mechanism to ensure early mobilization of human settlements project sites for implementation within the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Requests the Executive Director to incorporate the results of this study in the report to the Commission on land policy at its fourteenth session.

7th plenary meeting

2 May 1989

12/11. Housing conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories\*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

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

Recalling also the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, f/ which focused on continued land expropriation and demolition of houses,

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\* Adopted by 30 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions:

In favour: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Swaziland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Absent: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cyprus, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo.

f/ A/43/694.

Remaining seized with the issue of Israel's continuous blowing up and bulldozing of Palestinian houses and other civilian structures in the occupied Palestinian territories as part of collective punishment policies and indiscriminate vengeful practices,

Aware that such activities will inevitably lead to a further exodus of the Palestinian people from their homeland, and exacerbate the wider political, social and military conflict in the region,

Convinced that such practices are obvious violations of international laws and specifically, of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, g/ as reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the reconstruction needed in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, h/

Considering that the rebuilding of those Palestinian houses and other structures which have been destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities is a necessity and should be supported by the international community,

1. Reaffirms the international legal principle of the non-acceptability of a State's acquisition of territories by force;

2. Affirms the right of the Palestinian people to secure adequate shelter in which to live in peace and dignity;

3. Calls upon the Israeli occupation authorities to cease their malpractices against Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the blowing up and destruction of Palestinian homes and their civilian structures, such atrocities conflicting with the aims and principles of the Commission on Human Settlements and its endeavours to fulfil the goals of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

4. Recognizes the need for an enabling approach to the reconstruction of destroyed houses and for planning for the future housing needs of the Palestinian people such that they will have the opportunity to improve their housing conditions according to the needs and priorities that they themselves will define;

5. Reiterates the right of the Palestinian people whose houses and other civilian structures have been blown up and destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities to rebuild their homes and reside peacefully;

6. Calls upon the Israeli occupation authorities to make open the houses sealed by military order in the occupied Palestinian territories;

7. Requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to establish

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

h/ HS/C/12/2/Add.3.

an international fund for the purpose of rebuilding the home and other structures, which were demolished by the Israeli occupation authorities, as the demolition process has rendered numerous Palestinian families homeless;

8. Condemns Israel's alteration of the demographic character of the Palestinian occupied territories by establishing exclusive Jewish colonies on the Palestinian homeland as a violation of international law and as a threat to the security of Palestinian people;

9. Calls upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the occupied Palestinian territories to investigate the whole question of the denial of housing rights to and the destruction of housing of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation authorities and to submit the mission report to the Commission at its thirteenth session;

10. Also calls upon the Executive Director to devise a national housing development strategy for the year 2000 for the Palestinian people based on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, including the housing requirements of a future independent Palestinian State and to submit this report to the Commission at or before its thirteenth session.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/12. Economic growth in developing countries as an essential factor in attaining the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Having considered the message from the Secretary-General to the Commission at its twelfth session,

Recognizing that shelter is an urgent necessity which cannot await the solution of broader problems,

Gratified that the Secretary-General has acknowledged that:

(a) The question of housing and human settlements in general cannot be isolated from the context of the economic and social situation in particular the resource situation;

(b) One of the most serious problems in the crisis affecting the developing countries is a consequence of debt, economic stagnation and the persistence of an unjust international economic order;

(c) In the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, and in some Asian countries, economic progress has stalled and even declined;

(d) This situation seriously affects the human settlements sector in terms of cuts in investments in the public, private and community sectors,

Aware that, in the developing countries, the gap between the required volume of investments and the available pool of resources is one of the difficulties to be overcome,

Also aware that the quality of the urban environment that the developing countries create and the standard of the housing that they construct will determine the quality of life to which their future generations are entitled, so that political, social, economic and cultural disparities between the peoples of the world will not persist,

Convinced that, for the developing countries, the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 can be attained only within the framework of economic growth,

1. Acknowledges the efforts of the Secretary-General in the international community to find a lasting and equitable solution, in a context of growth and development, to the problems of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and some countries in Asia;

2. Urges the international community, particularly Governments, financial institutions and organizations for multilateral and bilateral assistance, to:

(a) Establish conditions that favour the generation of investments essential to the economic growth of the developing countries, which would include an essential factor in attaining the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(b) Assume their responsibilities in the allocation of resources required for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 in those countries;

(c) Consider shelter as an investment in a social asset, which is uniquely vital to production and an incentive to development, and provides a home for the human being, the most important factor of social, cultural and economic production.

7th plenary meeting

2 May 1989

12/13. Establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for the Exchange and Promotion of Human Settlements Technologies, with headquarters at Bogotá, Colombia

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Mindful that the Global Strategy for Shelter adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 considers technological development as one of the basic instruments for providing shelter for all by the year 2000,

Bearing in mind the importance for the Latin American and Caribbean countries of their regional experiences in regard to the research, development and application of appropriate technologies for human settlements,

Recognizing the achievement of the technical co-operation programmes implemented by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which the region could exploit more intensely,

Bearing in mind the need to standardize measurement approaches, codes and parameters, such as those developed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in order to facilitate the transfer of the various national and regional experiences,

Recognizing the importance of developing a cumulative memory of regional experiences in regard to human settlements technologies for use by the training network proposed in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, i/

Considering that technological progress could be accelerated by the exchange of regional experiences, through a centre collecting and disseminating information about the achievements of the countries of the region, and the interchange of such experiences among those countries and countries in other regions,

Considering also that the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have been promoting since 1984 a successful programme of co-operation in planning and realizing investments in low-cost housing, the infrastructure of which could be the basis for the proposed regional centre with operational costs being assumed within that existing infrastructure,

1. Decides to establish a Latin American and Caribbean Centre for the Exchange and Promotion of Human Settlements Technologies, as a contribution to the fulfilment of the objectives set forth by the United Nations in its Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, by supporting the Latin American and Caribbean countries in implementing their national strategies in regard to such technologies and as a complement to the training networks proposed in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); i/

2. Requests the Executive Director gradually to develop this initiative on the basis of the generous offer by the Government of Colombia to provide the headquarters and to co-operate in establishing the regional Latin American and Caribbean Centre for the Exchange and Promotion of Human Settlements Technologies in response to the initiatives and requests of the countries of the region and in close co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, without this entailing any increase in the funds which are currently allotted to the Colombian programme.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

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i/ HS/C/12/3.



12/14. Roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Recalling its resolution 10/9 of 16 April 1987, in which it decided to include in the agenda of its twelfth session the theme: "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".

Also recalling its resolution 10/15 of 16 April 1987 which, inter alia, calls for the creation of national shelter coalitions through which Governments may help to mobilize all non-governmental resources in a partnership devoted to the provision, expansion and improvement of shelter for all, with special attention to the problems confronting low-income families,

Also recalling the New Agenda for Human Settlements j/ and the enabling strategy, as contained in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, k/

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements, l/

Recognizing that the Commission's deliberations on the above-mentioned reports clearly identified the roles and potential of the public, private and community sectors in human settlements and demonstrated the importance of partnership between them in mobilizing the expertise, commitment and resources needed to address human settlements problems, particularly in the developing countries,

Also recognizing the importance of collaboration between the Centre and other international agencies in this field, including the ongoing work with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank on urban management and the extension of Urban Basic Services Strategy of the United Nations Children's Fund,

1. Reaffirms that partnership between Governments, both national and local, and both the private and community sectors will be a central element in the successful implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the reports on roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements; l/

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j/ HS/C/10/2.

k/ HS/C/12/3.

l/ HS/C/12/5 and Add.1.

3. Requests the Executive Director in the development of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, in the 1990-1991 work programme and the medium-term plan for 1992 to 1997, to emphasize the need to:

(a) Strengthen the management and implementation capacities of local government through support for such measures as national programmes of devolution and decentralization, appropriate financial capability and training, taking into consideration different levels of decentralization;

(b) Identify and develop, where appropriate, the relations between government and the private and the community sectors in such areas as the supply of urban services, housing and land, in order to facilitate an appropriate and cost-effective division of responsibilities, bearing in mind the need to maintain adequate safeguards for the local population;

(c) Encourage effective community participation at all levels, in human settlements programmes, especially those designed to combat urban poverty through such measures as appropriate training, and continuing emphasis on self-reliance and self-help;

4. Urges Governments to institute effective co-ordination between public agencies and to engage in dialogue with the private and community sectors in order to determine instruments, mechanisms and incentives which will encourage active co-operation and involvement in the planning, management and implementation of human settlements programmes within the context of the Global Strategy;

5. Also urges national shelter coalitions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and community-based groups, including co-operatives, to increase their efforts to work together with their respective partners abroad for mutual benefit;

6. Requests Governments to take the necessary steps, whenever possible, to facilitate the intensification of co-operation between shelter organizations and their respective partners abroad with due regard to relevant national policies;

7. Also requests Governments to accord local government authorities a substantial role and corresponding responsibilities for the management and development of human settlements;

8. Further requests Governments, the Executive Director and donor agencies to report to the Commission at its thirteenth session on the progress made on these vital aspects of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

9. Invites Governments to consider, where appropriate, nominating representatives to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and subsequent sessions to include in their delegations representatives of the private sector and the non-governmental sector, including co-operatives and community-based organizations, who are experts on the themes under discussion on the principles of building "national coalitions for human settlements development" to achieve the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/15. Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and that the Strategy emphasizes that it is focused on the entire stock of shelter, m/

Recalling also its resolution 11/5 of 11 April 1988, in which it decided to include in the agenda of its twelfth session the theme, "Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery",

Bearing in mind the significance of building and infrastructure maintenance to national development and the improvement of human settlements,

Aware that existing buildings and infrastructure represent considerable material and cultural value and their timely and proper maintenance is a prerequisite of economic development,

Aware of the inadequate maintenance of buildings and infrastructure, especially in developing countries,

Also aware of the inadequate consideration given to maintenance requirements in the design and construction of buildings and infrastructure,

Noting that proper maintenance of existing buildings and infrastructure, besides its economic importance, has positive social and educational effects,

Conscious that there are innovative strategies, particularly in the area of financing and cost recovery, which can be applied to overcome the numerous problems leading to the inadequate maintenance of buildings and infrastructure,

Observing that the great increase in the large-scale built environment gives management and techniques of maintenance a growing importance,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery n/ and of the report of the Executive Director entitled "A focus on financing of building and infrastructure maintenance"; o/

2. Emphasizes that the goal of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 can only be realized through a balance between new construction and the continuous maintenance, reconstruction and modernization of existing buildings and infrastructure;

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m/ A/43/8/Add.1, para. 28.

n/ HS/C/12/6.

o/ HS/C/12/6/Add.1.

3. Urges Governments to reflect the significance of the maintenance of buildings and infrastructure in their national development programmes and budgets as a contribution towards the implementation of the Global Strategy;

4. Encourages the involvement of local communities in programmes of maintenance and conservation;

5. Recommends that Governments should consider implementing the measures described in the reports of the Executive Director and incorporate methods of financing and cost recovery of building and infrastructure maintenance in their relevant construction budgets;

6. Recommends also that Governments encourage the full consideration of sustainable maintenance requirements in the design, construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure, while balancing capital and maintenance expenditures within overall investment considerations;

7. Further recommends that Governments and bilateral and multilateral funding organizations in the course of their negotiations should give priority attention to the maintenance of existing and proposed capital assets;

8. Further urges Governments to initiate the development of public, private and community-based partnerships in conservation maintenance programmes and expenditures;

9. Calls upon the international community to support both financial and technical programmes of maintenance of buildings and infrastructure in developing countries;

10. Urges multilateral and especially bilateral donor agencies and equally the recipients of international assistance to use locally produced materials and skills which would reduce dependency and facilitate local maintenance and to avoid the importation of those materials and equipment which create undue variations of standards and technologies for which proper maintenance cannot be ensured without dependence on the donor;

11. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to incorporate in the work programme of the Centre the issues of maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and actively encourage international co-operation, as well as the exchange of information and relevant technologies, and to inform the Commission on Human Settlements accordingly;

12. Appeals to Governments and educational institutions to include education and training in maintenance in curricula, and as in-service training of maintenance personnel, and, in this connection, to promote maintenance awareness at all levels;

13. Calls upon Governments and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give fuller consideration to the following factors in their activities concerning buildings and infrastructure: greater responsiveness to the importance of maintenance; improved dialogue between decision makers, technicians and beneficiaries prior to project design and execution; development of simple but evolutionary management assistance systems; and strengthening of the financial and organizational capacities of local communities for maintenance;

14. Suggests that, as part of the planning process, the Governments and international agencies involved should develop jointly a maintenance plan with project managers at the design stage and that such maintenance plans should indicate the financial, technological and human requirements for the operation of the project.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/16. Programme for the eradication of poor housing conditions  
and for the urban rehabilitation of historic centres

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Considering that the objective of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is to facilitate adequate shelter for all,

Recognizing that in many countries the inner cities, which represent a valuable historical and cultural heritage, have become slum areas that constitute a serious social problem demanding solutions,

Mindful that it is imperative to satisfy urgently the needs of families living in subhuman conditions in these inner cities, through programmes for the eradication of poor housing conditions, and also to rehabilitate zones of historical interest through urban rehabilitation programmes for those centres,

Recognizing that, in order to implement these programmes, there is a need for substantial resources which the developing countries are unable to provide,

1. Urges international organizations and interested countries to bear in mind this particular situation and to mobilize the assistance resources needed to address both the social problem and the preservation and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to promote and co-ordinate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other international organizations and interested Governments, the technical and financial assistance required for the implementation of such rehabilitation and conservation programmes.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/17. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which designated the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United

Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/202 of 20 December 1988, which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to ensure better preparation of the Decade,

Noting with concern that many natural disasters have recently occurred causing tremendous loss of life and considerable damage to infrastructure and property, particularly in developing countries,

Concerned that the primary and most devastating impact of natural disasters is on human settlements, especially those of the poor and disadvantaged, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that the use and application of safe building materials and technologies may mitigate the effects of natural disasters on human settlements,

Considering that the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) can make an important contribution to reducing the damage caused to shelter structures by natural disasters,

1. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure that the Commission and the Centre participate fully in the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction through, inter alia, providing information and innovative technologies to developing countries in accordance with their needs;

2. Invites Governments to provide the Executive Director with their views on how the Centre might contribute to the activities of the Decade;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on the contributions made to the observance of the Decade.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/18. The theme "Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development" and the contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the preparations for a United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 35/77 B of 5 December 1980 and 40/199 of 17 December 1985 regarding the mandates of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme and co-operation between them,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and resolution 42/187 of

11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 entitled "A United Nations conference on environment and development", in which, inter alia, the Assembly decided to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of the convening of such a United Nations conference,

Recalling further its resolution 11/4 of 11 April 1988 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Aware of its resolution 11/5 of 11 April 1988, in which it urged the consideration at its twelfth session of the themes: "Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development within the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000" and "The use of new and renewable sources of energy in human settlements and for the construction and production of building materials" for its thirteenth session,

Recognizing the importance of human settlements, including shelter provision and production, regional and urban planning and management and the use of energy in human settlements for a sustainable and environmentally sound development process,

Convinced that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 represents an important part of the human settlements dimension of sustainable development,

Also convinced that the Commission on Human Settlements can make a significant contribution to a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director on human settlements and sustainable development, p/

Noting the report on implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, prepared by the Executive Director, q/

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in continuing the work in the field of human settlements and sustainable development, to give due consideration to the issues raised in his report on human settlements and sustainable development, p/ as well as to issues not developed in the report such as the production and use of energy with regard to human settlements and shelter, recycling of building materials, sanitation and sewage facilities, and avoidance of the production and use of hazardous and unhealthy building materials;

2. Concludes that the objectives, strategies and policies of the Environment Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the report of the World Commission on

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p/ HS/C/12/10/Add.1.

q/ HS/C/12/3.

Environment and Development and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, while serving distinct purposes, are in most parts mutually supportive;

3. Urges the Executive Director to link the policy directions of the Global Strategy with the concept of sustainable development in the theme papers to be presented to the Commission at its thirteenth session;

4. Decides that the report of the Executive Director on human settlements and sustainable development and the comments by delegations, together with this resolution, constitute the report of the Commission to the General Assembly on progress made towards sustainable development, as called for in paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187;

5. Underlines the importance of the concept of sustainable development as a guideline for future policy initiatives by the Commission and the Centre;

6. Stresses that integrated planning and management of human settlements can be a most powerful instrument to achieving sustainable development through improving the quality of life, preventing environmental degradation, and relieving pressure on threatened environmental resources;

7. Declares its readiness to take an active part in the preparations for a forthcoming United Nations conference on environment and development, particularly regarding the human settlements implications, including shelter provision and production, regional planning and the production and use of energy;

8. Recommends to the General Assembly that the critical role and contribution of human settlements and urbanization to environmentally sound and sustainable development and the impact of human settlements and urbanization upon the environment should be among the issues to be considered and addressed within the context of a United Nations conference on environment and development;

9. Authorizes the Executive Director, with a view to assisting in the preparation of the necessary relevant analysis and documentation for a United Nations conference on environment and development, and to the extent additional voluntary contributions become available, to expand the preparatory process for the theme paper to include a broad-based (high-level) intergovernmental discussion and review of the crucial issues involved in the course of 1990;

10. Invites Governments to contribute their views on the concept of human settlements and sustainable development prior to the intergovernmental discussion and review.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

#### 12/19. Co-ordination matters

##### The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/17 of 8 May 1985, 9/15 of 16 May 1986 and 10/7 of 16 May 1987 on cross-organizational programme analysis, as well as its resolution



11/7 of 11 April 1988 entitled "Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system",

Noting the request by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its twenty-eighth session, for a more comprehensive synoptic table of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of human settlements,

Having reviewed the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), entitled "Co-ordination and co-operation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system", r/

Recognizing the difficulties in providing an exact definition of human settlements and that such an exact definition is not essential for the purpose of effective co-ordination in the area of human settlements,

1. Welcomes and endorses the lay-out and methodology used in the preparation of the synoptic table of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of human settlements as included in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); r/

2. Agrees with the analysis and endorses the conclusions of the report of the Executive Director as a guideline for future co-ordination;

3. Decides that co-ordination in the area of human settlements should focus on the following priority areas:

(a) National policies and strategies, including land policies, it being understood that this does not imply that global issues and strategies can be seen in isolation from subprogramme 2 of the medium-term plan for human settlements;

(b) Settlements management, with particular emphasis on urban management;

(c) Infrastructure;

4. Recommends that co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system should begin from the planning and programming stage to ensure complementarity of programmes and effective co-ordination;

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit the text of the present resolution and the relevant parts of his report to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its twenty-ninth session.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

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r/ HS/C/12/11.

12/20. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/3 of 16 April 1987 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the second joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, s/

Recognizing the need for continued and increased co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to promoting and achieving environmentally sound human settlements development,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue and increase co-operation between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly with respect to the application of Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management in selected metropolitan areas and, inter alia, the special needs of the coastal human settlements likely to be affected by global climate change.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/21. Themes for the thirteenth and future sessions

The Commission on Human Settlements,

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

Recalling also its resolution 10/9 of 16 May 1987 regarding the selection of two themes for each session,

Recalling further its resolution 11/5 of 11 April 1988, in which it urged the Commission at its twelfth session to consider two themes for its thirteenth session, as follows:

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s/ HS/C/12/10.

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

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

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), entitled "Themes for consideration by the Commission at its thirteenth session, t/

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare the following two theme papers for the thirteenth session:

(a) The significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 for the concept of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the relationships between economic development, improving the living conditions of the poor and the planning and management of settlements;

(b) Use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources that are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems;

2. Decides to consider at its thirteenth session the inclusion in the agenda of its fourteenth session of two of the following themes:

(a) Improvement of metropolitan and municipal management;

(b) Land policies with emphasis on access and affordability to low-income groups;

(c) Natural disaster reduction and its effect on the construction and maintenance of buildings;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare outlines for the themes mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to submit them to the Commission for consideration at its thirteenth session.

7th plenary meeting  
2 May 1989

12/22. The draft programme for human settlements of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988 on programme planning,

t/ HS/C/12/13.

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

Also recalling the note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the next medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995, u/

Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General on the next medium-term plan, v/

Having studied the structure of major programmes and subprogrammes proposed for the medium-term plan, as contained in the report of the Executive Director on the draft programme for human settlements of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, w/

Recognizing that the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 will be applied as an integrating and enabling activity, thereby balancing the impact of the priorities assigned to the subprogrammes,

Bearing in mind the sovereign right of national Governments to set priorities in the field of human settlements according to their particular circumstances,

Also bearing in mind the work already undertaken by the Commission on Human Settlements,

1. Endorses the draft medium-term plan for human settlements proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) contained in the note on preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 u/ and translated in the report of the Executive Director on the draft programme for human settlements of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, w/ according to the format prescribed by the Secretary-General, with the understanding that the item on land policy under subprogramme 5 of the draft medium-plan for human settlements for the period 1992-1997 x/ be transferred to subprogramme 2 as subitem (f) y/ and with the further understanding that a similar amendment be made to the note by the Executive Director;

2. Confirms that the number of subprogrammes in the draft medium-term plan cannot be reduced;

3. Reaffirms the importance of the human settlements component in the medium-term plan of the United Nations;

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u/ HS/C/11/4/Add.1.

v/ A/43/329.

w/ HS/C/12/8.

x/ HS/C/12/8, annex, para. 23 (a).

y/ Ibid., para. 14.

4. Recalls that the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session intensively discussed the issue of determining priorities, as reflected in the report of the twelfth session of the Commission, between the subprogrammes of the draft medium-term plan, and concluded that the subprogrammes of the medium-term plan of the Commission are interlinked and mutually supportive;

5. Also reaffirms that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and its enabling approach should guide the implementation of the subprogrammes and the emphasis within these subprogrammes;

6. Designates subprogramme 2 (National policies and instruments), as amended in paragraph 1 above, as high priority, it being understood that this does not imply that "Global issues and strategies" can be seen in isolation from subprogramme 2;

7. Also designates subprogramme 5 (Land management), as amended in paragraph 1 above, as low priority;

8. Decides that the priority indications set for the human settlements programme will be subject to review in connection with the biennial work programmes of the medium-term cycle;

9. Stresses the need for adequate treatment of human settlements in the introduction of the draft text for the medium-term plan and requests the Executive Director to forward to the Secretary-General the following paragraph to be incorporated in paragraph 78 of the note of the Secretary-General on the next medium-term plan:

"All the development efforts outlined in the plan rest, in the final analysis, on efficient settlement systems capable of supporting expansion of production and employment and of bringing about improved living conditions. Settlements development should be based on an 'enabling' concept which fosters the full participation of all actors in the process, the public sector, the formal and informal sector, non-governmental, co-operative and community organizations and individual households. One important element is the production and distribution of sufficient, affordable shelter, as envisaged in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, to house the world's population, especially those without shelter or living in houses unfit for human habitation."

8th plenary meeting  
3 May 1989

12/23. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1990-1991

At its eighth plenary meeting, on 3 May 1989, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1990-1991, z/ noting that

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z/ HS/C/12/7.

it reflected the principles and orientations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and noting with concern the constraints on the draft work programme caused by the inadequate level of regular budget resources available for the human settlements programme of the United Nations, adopted the draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1990-1991, including its current distribution of resources over the eight subprogrammes; and decided that programme elements 6.2 (Land policies and procedures) and 3.2 (Shelter co-operatives) should receive a higher priority designation; and determined that, in order to maintain the required balance of high-priority and low-priority work elements within the work programme, programme element 1.3 (Global conditions and trends) should receive a lowest-priority designation; and requested the Executive Director to keep a high level of research and information activities on low-cost water supply and sanitation under programme element 5.4 (Water supply, sanitation, drainage and waste disposal, standards and technologies), and, in the implementation of the work programme, to take account of other comments of delegations during its twelfth session.

12/24. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1990-1991

At its eighth plenary meeting, on 3 May 1989, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to approve the revised estimates for the biennium 1988-1989 and the budget proposals for the biennium 1990-1991, subject to the comments made by the various delegations.

## ANNEX II

List of documents

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
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HS/C/12/3	Implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	5
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HS/C/12/5	Roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements	6
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## ANNEX III

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Burundi	Urbanisme et habitat	French	10
China	Housing China	Chinese	26
China	If there were a thousand houses for the poor learned	English	30
Colombia	El derecho a la ciudad	Spanish/English	20
Colombia	Desmarginalizar a Manizales	Spanish/English	21
Costa Rica	Proyecto nacional de bambú (Vivienda de bambú)	Spanish	10
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Costa Rica	Documental Congreso Habitat	Spanish	5
Ecuador	Un habitat digno para el campo	Spanish	16
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Gabon	Une possibilité de coopération face à une calamité naturelle au Gabon	French	2
Guinea	Amenagement parcelles assainiées de Conakry	French	12
Hungary	Budapest's renewal Habitat seminar '88	English	13
		English	33
India	Nirmithi Kendra	English	10
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Indonesia	Improvement through partnership	English	
Israel	Project renewal	English	22

<u>Country</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Duration</u> (minutes)
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#### ANNEX IV

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

1. It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings to the participants at the twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements assembled here in the picturesque and historic city of Cartagena de Indias.
2. First, let me convey my appreciation to the Government for inviting the Commission to meet in Colombia. This kind invitation reflects the generosity of the Government and people of the Republic of Colombia and their deep and lasting commitment to human settlements development. I am pleased that His Excellency Dr. Virgilio Barco Vargas, who led the Colombian delegation to the landmark Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver over a decade ago, has agreed to inaugurate this session. His long-standing dedication to this field of development activity is underscored by the impressive progress that his own country has made in housing its people.
3. Let me also say how pleased I am that Ambassador Enrique Peñalosa, who served as Secretary-General of the Vancouver Conference, is here today.
4. The question of housing and settlements in general cannot be isolated from the overall context of the economic and social situation, in particular the resource situation. Certainly in Latin America and Africa and some parts of Asia, economic progress has stalled, even declined. One of the most serious problems facing these regions is the debt crisis and the related economic stagnation. This has seriously affected the human settlements sector, both in terms of cuts in public investment and lack of private capital. Let me assure you that I am pursuing every effort to bring about a lasting equitable solution to this problem in the context of growth and development.
5. But housing is an urgent necessity. It cannot await the solution of broader economic problems. More must be done, on a priority basis, to provide adequate shelter for the billion or more people who are now without it. I am confident that the Global Strategy Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted recently by the General Assembly, will be an effective means to achieve this. It should also serve to stimulate economic recovery. But it will only be successful if Governments and concerned communities fully support it. I strongly urge them to do so. I also urge the international community, particularly donor Governments and multilateral and bilateral assistance agencies, generously to support such national efforts.
6. While responsibility for the implementation of the Global Strategy essentially lies with Governments at the national and local levels, the Commission, assisted by its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), has been entrusted by the General Assembly with the task of co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy. I am confident that under the leadership of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the Centre will effectively carry out this important task.
7. I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations and wish you every success at this session.

Summaries of statementsA. Statement by Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements, at its eleventh session

1. In opening the session, Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Minister of Urban Development, India and Chairman of the eleventh session, said that the orderly movement from the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987 to the resolution on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 at New Delhi in 1988 and the further transition to Cartagena depicted the positive progress towards the new world order on the shelter front.

2. The Minister stated that the historic resolution on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eleventh session was unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Those were indeed landmarks in the history of human settlements.

3. The Minister concluded that there was a need for a new understanding of the problem of human settlements, a major shift in attitudes towards people, a new definition of the house and the housing task, a new role for traditional housing agencies, a new relationship between public agencies and their clients and, above all, a new vision of housing for the poor.

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

1. In his statement to the Commission, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), noted the special bond existing between Colombia and the Centre going back to the Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in 1976, and now expressed in extensive collaboration in the field of technical co-operation. He noted that both the first and last sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements of the current decade had taken place in Latin America, the world's most urbanized region, reflecting the centrality of urbanization in the work of the Centre and the Commission. In that regard, he also noted that the urbanization experience of Latin America held lessons for other less urbanized developing countries, among which were that urbanization was irreversible, part of an evolutionary process of human society, and therefore a necessary priority of national policy in the developing countries.

2. The Executive Director reflected that close to 2 billion people would populate the urban areas of developing countries by the year 2000. In Latin America, the urban population would have reached 420 million out of a total of 546 million by the end of the century. That meant that more than three fourths of the region's total population would be living in cities just 11 years from now. Awareness of the potential scale of the phenomenon of urbanization was therefore a prerequisite to sound policy-making. It was just as important to realize that urbanization was essentially irreversible.

3. He did not subscribe to the notion that rural-urban migration was a bad thing. He insisted that people would in any case move from the rural areas into

the cities. The crux of the development dilemma was to ensure that they were productive when they got there. He underscored that by pointing out the growing contribution and necessity of cities to economic growth, particularly in the light of the clear limits of rural economies to absorb more and more people.

4. Among other persuasive factors for making human settlements policies a priority of national Governments and the international community, he listed the centrality of cities and towns in the development process, as well as the fact that arable land was a finite resource. Those together were some of the salient arguments in favour of the urbanization process that was taking place in the developing countries. Other advantages included the fact that urbanization encouraged a decline in birth rates and that cities and towns had provided the best environment for women to assume new responsibilities and dignified forms of employment.

5. The Executive Director then voiced his concern that continuing rapid urbanization would strain the urban fabric and infrastructure unless met by supportive urban policies and more attention in general in the allocation of resources to the urban sector. Otherwise, cities would neither be productive nor provide a healthy human environment, as could already be witnessed by growing slums, squatter settlements and general poverty in some parts of the world.

6. He then set out some of the costs of urbanization and urged the establishment of forward-looking policies on the part of Governments and the international community. Otherwise, the urban sector would be totally unable in the decades to come to fulfil its dynamic role as an engine of growth.

7. To meet the challenge of urbanization, the Executive Director suggested two necessary and parallel steps.

8. First, a human settlements urbanization strategy would have to be included in the overall strategy for the fourth United Nations international development decade in order to translate it into an effective programme of action on the part of the agencies and organizations that made up the United Nations system. Secondly, a way must be found to ease the stranglehold which the external debt problem exerted over the economies of many developing countries. That burden had to be lifted if the development process was to flow again.

9. In conclusion, the Executive Director pointed out that, given growing global interdependence, ignoring the issues posed by urbanization would threaten human progress in all corners of the world.

#### C. Inaugural address by the President of Colombia

1. In his inaugural address to the session, the President of Colombia, His Excellency Dr. Virgilio Barco Vargas, said that population growth had brought about an increased need on the part of the Government to participate in the improvement of the living conditions of low-income people.

2. Resource limitations to provide adequate housing in the form of planned and well-serviced settlements had not been overcome. That had not occurred even in developed countries, but in developing countries the difference between the magnitude of needed investments and the resources available was one of the crucial problems that had to be resolved.

3. He stated that successful results attained in the study of deficient housing entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000" <sup>a/</sup> represented a new approach. Having been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December 1988 (resolution 43/181), that document encompassed all that had been achieved in the design of policies relevant to the housing problem, with a view to providing all, before the end of the twentieth century, with secure and adequate housing.
4. For that reason, it was conceivable that national solutions could be found through international co-operation. The recognition made by the General Assembly of achievements during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless pointed to the capacity of Governments to deal effectively with that problem.
5. A few months ago, high-level government officials from Latin America and the Caribbean had met at Cartagena to study the problem of poverty, which affected a high proportion of the population. The meeting had been organized by the United Nations on the basis of a special request of his Government. The conclusions arrived at had shown in terms of raw data the current characteristics of poverty in the hemisphere.
6. A number of Heads of State had come to realize that new development avenues must be found to stop poverty growth. A courageous political effort was required to reassess traditional approaches which were incapable of eradicating poverty. Although important economic surpluses might have been achieved, they were concentrated in a few privileged sectors of the population or in certain regions of the world.
7. A concerted effort among countries which were affected by similar problems was the most efficient way to overcome those aspects of poverty which originated in the lack of equity in the international distribution of wealth.
8. Sociologists, architects and town planners had been presenting numerous proposals to improve the quality of human settlements. However, political will had not always been there to promote them with the necessary resolve and strength.
9. In the poorest communities, the majority of households were headed by women who had a double responsibility as mothers and workers. Women had to participate in decision-making concerning the construction and improvement of settlements.
10. He said that it was especially satisfying that his Government had approved legislation designed to promote rural and urban land reform and to give broad autonomy to local government. He concluded that conditions had been established to offer land and finance at lower costs than in the open market, as the only way by which to provide a roof to the lowest-income groups. Progress achieved in that context made the current year a year of great achievements for the development of human settlements in Colombia. However, he explained, the struggle did not end there: it began with those achievements, the results of which would be recognized as being indeed important to progress in future years.

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<sup>a/</sup> A/43/8/Add.1.

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

1. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) delivered the address of Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba. In his address, the Executive Director suggested that it was more essential than ever to place settlements, particularly cities and their phenomenal growth, in an environment context, and to discuss what could be called the "ecology of urbanism".
2. The creation of slums and shanty towns was as destructive to the environment and for human beings as were desertification, deforestation or ozone depletion. The creation of environmentally-sound human settlements was as beneficial, both for people and for resource conservation, as the protection of soil, water, vegetation and air.
3. Many cities, particularly the larger ones, were generating problems and pollution. They were, directly and indirectly, environmental crises zones, the vast amounts of waste and pollutants of which damaged land, water, air and human health. That would be further aggravated by the greenhouse effect of global warming, the consequences of which were expected to become tangible by the end of the century. Oceans would expand, lifting sea levels by as much as 1 metre within a lifetime, and would inundate ports, farmlands and major coastal cities. In view of the likelihood of such events, urban problems had to be a central concern of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in assessing potential effects and designing alternative strategies to address climate change.
4. Turning to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, he said that UNEP welcomed the Strategy and would do whatever was possible to participate and assist in its implementation, which should ensure that environmental concerns were fully taken into account. He furthermore proposed that UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should make full use of the Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and jointly undertake to apply them at selected national or regional levels. UNEP would continue to collaborate with the Centre in helping to provide better human settlements and a wholesome environment for the current and future generations.