Nineteenth session*
Nairobi, 5 - 9 May 2003
Item 8 of the provisional agenda**

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) FOR THE BIENNium 2004-2005

Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 2004-2005

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat is pleased to circulate in the annexes to the present note the draft work programmes on human settlements for the biennium 2004-2005 of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (annex I), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (annex II), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (annex III), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (annex IV), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (annex V). The work programmes of the respective regional commissions are reproduced as they were received for information and reference by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

* In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. This session has been designated as the nineteenth instead of the first session of the Governing Council to signify the continuity and relationship between the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements.

** HSP/GC/19/1.
Annex I

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Programme narrative at subprogramme level

Article 1. Section: Sustainable Development Division

Account grouping number:

Subprogramme title: Fostering Sustainable Development in Africa

Organization unit: Economic Commission for Africa

ECA is moving from the sectoral approach to a more integrated one taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environment protection.

Human settlements matters will be addressed in the ECA work programme for 2004-2005 in the following outputs:

(a) Report on Sustainable Development in Africa;

(b) Bulletin on Sustainable Development in Africa;

(c) Progress report on the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(d) Subregional strategies for preventing and managing disaster related food crises;

(e) Integrated Water Resources Management.
Annex II

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Committee on Human Settlements

Annex 1 to the report on the sixty-third session (16 to 18 September 2002): PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002-2005

Subprogramme 10 - Human settlements

10.1.1 Country profiles on the housing sector

Description: The housing sector has a critical role to play in ensuring the success of economic and social development in the ECE region and the reform process in countries in transition. At the same time, the process of transition to a market economy has had a profound impact on housing policy implementation and management. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. The country profile is a process-oriented exercise. At its core is an analytical study on the housing sector, drafted by independent international experts. It draws on the Committee's work on housing and building statistics. Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors.

Work accomplished: The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania and the Republic of Moldova have been published. The study for Albania is in preparation. A roster of international experts was established and updated. Recently the Committee streamlined the preparatory process and proposed procedures to monitor the implementation of recommendations. The country profile project is presented on the Committee's web site, http://www.unece.org/env/hs/cph.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will continue its activities for the preparation of country profiles on the housing sector. In the autumn of 2002, work will start on a study on Armenia and soon afterwards on a study on the Russian Federation. Further workshops or ad hoc meetings of experts will be held to discuss the results of policy implementation as a follow-up to the studies' recommendations and to provide additional expertise in specific areas where needed. The delegation of Romania will organize the first follow-up activity in October 2002. Cooperation with UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the World Bank will be maintained and strengthened. The Committee may also undertake (subject to the availability of additional financial resources) activities related to emergency housing needs in selected countries of the Stability Pact area in the context of the country profile programme.


10.1.2 Improvement of urban environmental performance

Description: Local systems and cities are efficient starting points for promoting sustainable consumption patterns. Numerous initiatives have already been launched in cities and towns to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of individual consumption behaviour, to promote environmentally sound goods, services and sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and land by individuals and communities. It is recognized that environmentally sound urban and regional transport coordinated with sustainable land use and planning at the central, regional and local levels may lead to a substantial reduction in the impact on human health, natural resources and the environment, while improving the quality of life and economic

1 As of January 2003 the study on Albania has been finalized and studies on Armenia as well as the Russian Federation are in progress.
performance. Integration of land use and local transport policies requires integrated thinking and action across all policy areas and at all levels of decision-making.

**Work accomplished:** As a follow-up to the workshop on encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns (Vienna, February 1998) a joint steering group on urban transport patterns and land-use planning was established. The steering group prepared a detailed work programme (HBP/2000/8) developed in view of a workshop scheduled initially for 2001 but postponed.

**Work to be undertaken:** The delegation of Cyprus will organize a workshop on land-use and urban transport in 2003. The workshop will address practical experience in the environmentally sound management of urban transport integrated with sustainable land-use planning. Based on the workshop's results, the preparation of guidelines will be considered.

**Duration:** 2002 - 2004.

10.1.3 **Land registration and land markets**

**Description:** Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of market-oriented reforms in economies in transition, as well as in the context of European integration. The activity is aimed at providing assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastral and land registration systems and sharing information and experience of modernizing land administration systems in the developed market economies through education and training; research and development; exchange of experience; transfer of technology; and standardization.

**Work accomplished:** The inventory of land administration systems in Europe and North America was published in 1999 and the study on key aspects of land registration and cadastral legislation was prepared and published with the assistance of HM Land Registry (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The study on land mass valuation systems for taxation purposes in Europe was prepared and published with the assistance of the federal Land Cadastral Service of the Russian Federation. Four workshops were held: on European Union accession from a land administration perspective (Gävle, Sweden, June 2001), on modern land cadastre (Armenia, October 2001), on mass valuation systems of land (Russian Federation, June 2002), and on cooperation in land administration, customers and services (Austria, September 2002). An international team of land administration experts undertook country reviews on Armenia and Georgia. The second session of the Working Party on Land Administration took place in November 2001.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Working Party on Land Administration will promote the practical application of the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96) in countries in transition, inter alia, through different types of operational activities in these countries. A land administration review will be carried out in the Russian Federation in November 2002. Three studies, namely a survey of the current structure of land ownership and existing legislation to restrict or limit the sale of property in ECE countries, guidelines on legal and cadastral objects and their identifiers, and guidelines on public access to data, are being prepared. In 2003 workshops are planned in the United Kingdom and Greece. The third session of the Working Party on Land Administration will take place in Geneva on 17 and 18 November 2003. Cooperation with key partners, such as the World Bank, will be further developed.

**Duration:** 2002 - 2005.

10.1.4 **Housing modernization and management**

**Description:** This activity provides an opportunity to look in detail at urban regeneration policies and at the existing and emerging housing problems, especially regarding housing financing, the existing housing stock and its management. As a result of the privatization process in countries in transition, the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in multi-family housing has increased considerably. It is therefore important to
establish property rights, define mixed ownership, analyse legal conditions of condominiums, their organizational and management frameworks.

**Work accomplished:** The *ECE Guidelines on Housing Condominiums* were prepared and will be published in 2003 (ECE/HBP/123). The colloquium on housing cooperatives was organized jointly by UNECE, UN-HABITAT and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in Ankara, Turkey, in June 2002.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Committee and its Bureau will study ways to promote the practical application of the *Guidelines on Housing Condominiums* and ensure their wide dissemination in countries in transition. The Committee will start a project based on a proposal prepared by the Advisory Network for guidelines on housing finance systems for countries in transition. The place and role of major housing finance systems will be identified and the focus will be on the requirements for the introduction of selected models. The Committee will also start a project on social housing guidelines taking into account the strong links between social housing and housing cooperatives. A workshop on social housing will be organized in the Czech Republic (spring of 2003) as a first step in the preparation of the guidelines on social housing. A second workshop will be organized in the Russian Federation on the same topic towards the end of 2003.

**Duration:** 2002 - 2005.

### 10.1.5 Development of human settlements statistics

**Description:** The Committee, together with the Conference of European Statisticians, develops and improves international human settlements statistics, and publishes the *Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America* every two years.


**Work to be undertaken:** The Committee will prepare the next issue of the *Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America* to be available on the Web in 2003. The Committee will also consult the ECE Conference of European Statisticians and Eurostat in an effort to review the data collected, to further consider which statistical data are needed for housing policy purposes and to better coordinate its work with that of the European Union.

**Duration:** 2002 - 2005.

### 10.1.6 Major trends characterizing human settlements development

**Description:** The development of human settlements encompasses a wide range of changes and trends which are not always compatible with the principles of sustainability. More knowledge of the forces influencing the configuration of urban development and the characteristics of the implementation of urban policies will be provided by studying major trends characterizing human settlements development and presenting national experiences in formulating and implementing policies for a more sustainable development of human settlements.

**Work accomplished:** The Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research took place in Leeds, United Kingdom, from 9 to 12 June 2002. The main topic was sustainable and liveable cities. Three themes were discussed: urban society and economy; towards social equity through effective planning policies and tools – a behavioural perspective; improving urban performance: urban structure and ecosystems; and governance and urban organization: integrated decision-making.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Committee will start consultations with the Slovak delegation and the Bureau to establish the topic, venue and date for the next conference on urban and regional research to be held in Slovakia. A new issue of the study on human settlements trends in the ECE countries will be prepared. The
Committee will continue the exchange of experience in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration, and will consider the priority areas of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the context of its programme activities.

**Duration:** 2002 - 2005.
Proposed activities in the area of human settlements under subprogramme 1: poverty and development

Objective for the biennium

To strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to identify and analyse opportunities and constraints for poverty reduction and to design and implement policies and programmes to reduce poverty in accordance with the relevant millennium development goals.

Strategy

The urban poverty reduction component of the subprogramme will be implemented through the following strategy:

(a) Subprogramme focus in relation to millennium development goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

In support of the achievements of the millennium development goals and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, activities will focus on identification, analysis, documentation and dissemination of good practices in urban poverty reduction through pilot projects, and on the provision of advice and assistance to build the capacity of countries in the region for the adaptation, replication and up-scaling of those practices. Particular attention will be given to achieving a significant improvement in the levels of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the “Cities without slums” initiative under Roadmap towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/56/326).

(b) Immediate beneficiaries of the outputs

The immediate beneficiaries of the outputs will be the Governments of member and associate member countries of UNESCAP and government officials, who are directly involved in poverty reduction. Low-income communities, particularly women, local governments and civil society organizations in urban areas will benefit from the outputs to be delivered by the subprogramme through adaptation of good practices in poverty reduction to local conditions and through strengthening their capacity to replicate the practices to implement pro-poor policies.

To promote effective poverty-related knowledge management, exchange and transfer, the subprogramme will strengthen regional networks of key institutions and organizations concerned with poverty reduction and organize regional poverty reduction forums where stakeholders discuss and review poverty reduction policies and practices and share information, and establish regional resource facilities on poverty related issues.

(c) Inter-agency cooperation

The Poverty and Development Division will carry out their activities in collaboration and cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UNDP, UN-HABITAT, other regional commissions and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as entities external to the United Nations. The cooperation will be maintained with intergovernmental, interregional, regional and national organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic communities in the UNESCAP region.
Article II.

Article III. 4. Outputs:

During the biennium 2004-2005, the following outputs will be delivered:

I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB/XB)
   1-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on review of decentralization policies and their impact on urban poverty (2005) (RB)

II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)
   1-2-301 Monograph series on poverty reduction: The role of secondary towns and their rural-urban linkages in poverty reduction (2005) (RB)
   1-2-302 Good and innovative practices for improving the living conditions of slum dwellers (2004) (RB)
   1-2-1002 Regional inter-agency consultative meeting on good urban governance (1 in 2004, 1 in 2005) (RB)

IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)
   1-4-103 Advisory services on strengthening of local governments to implement poverty reduction strategies in line with the millennium development goals and the Habitat Agenda (2 in 2004, 2 in 2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-206 Regional conference on poverty, urbanization and economic development – 3rd Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (2005) (RB/XB)(100 participants)
   1-4-207 Regional workshop on the role of secondary towns and their rural-urban linkages in poverty reduction (2005) (RB/XB) (45 participants)
   1-4-208 Regional workshop on good practices of urban poor participation in environmental management at the local level (2004) (RB/XB) (35 participants)
   1-4-401 Technical cooperation project on providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnership; ESCAP follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (capacity-building for public-private partnership facilities component) (2004-2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-402 Technical cooperation project on management of water resources for poverty reduction (2004-2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-404 Technical cooperation and substantive support in the area of poverty reduction to local governments and regional networks, including LOGOTRI, CITYNET, ACHR, Asia-Urbs and IULA (2 in 2004), 2 in 2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-405 Establishment and strengthening of regional resource centers to support urban poverty reduction programmes in areas such as slum improvement, women in local government, and human security (2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-406 Demonstration projects in least developed countries on rural-urban linkages for poverty alleviation (2 in 2004, 2 in 2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-407 Pilot projects on slum improvements (5 in 2004) (RB/XB)
   1-4-408 Pilot projects on participation of the urban poor in environmental management (1 in 2004, 2 in 2005) (RB/XB)
   1-4-409 Joint activities with UN-HABITAT on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the millennium development goals (1 in 2004, 1 in 2005) (RB/XB).
Annex IV

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Work programme for 2004-2005

The Commission went through a restructuring exercise after which its work programme was organized under focus areas grouped under subprogrammes. The newly named focus area of Urban Development and Housing Policies replaces the Human Settlements section, and its activities will be implemented by a team, reporting to the Chief of Social Development Division, who is responsible for the subprogramme.

Subprogramme title: Integrated social policies

Six focus areas will be managed under this subprogramme:
1. Social policies, including poverty and unemployment reduction policies.
2. Population policies, including education and health.
3. Social integration and partnership.
5. Urban development and housing policies.

Focus area
Urban development and housing policies.

Expected accomplishments
Enhanced urban planning and management practices that take into consideration the human, social and physical dimensions, especially in conflict-stricken cities and villages.

Indicators of achievement
(a) The number of new urban development initiatives in member States that are developed with assistance of ESCWA, taking into consideration the human, social and physical dimensions;

(b) Increased number of participatory urban development initiatives between Governments and civil society institutions, including the private sector.

Section 3.01: Activities

A. Servicing of intergovernmental expert bodies
(a) Substantive servicing of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development to be held in 2004;

(b) Parliamentary documentation: Two reports to be presented to the Economic and Social Council on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, 2004-2005;
(c) Expert group meeting on sustainable Arab cities, security of tenure and good urban governance.

Other substantive activities

Non-recurrent publications: Urbanization and the changing character of the Arab city.

Technical cooperation: field projects

Capacity-building and networking.

Post-conflict reconstruction in South Lebanon and Palestine: this is a multi-track multi-disciplinary effort that includes a number of studies and operational projects in various aspects of development in areas that suffered from conflict. Implementation will be through cooperation with local, national and international partners using a community based approach.

Regional campaign on security of tenure and urban governance: this will be implemented in cooperation with UN-HABITAT and other partners, and will include a number of national and regional meetings and studies.
Annex V

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Subprogramme 8: Environment and Human Settlements

In response to the challenge posed by the high rates of urbanization affecting most of these countries and all the attendant environmental problems, the subprogramme will seek to strengthen the capacity for urban management in the countries of the region by incorporating the concept of sustainability in urban and land-management policies. Thus, another area of work will be to carry out a comparative analysis of current land-use and land-management policies, to continue to mainstream environmental issues into regional and municipal agendas in keeping with the decentralization dynamic, and to support ECLAC member countries in their efforts to put into practice international agreements on these issues, especially those adopted under the Habitat Agenda (Habitat II).

Thus, the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005, which will be executed by the Environment and Human Settlements Division, has been organized around the following subject areas: a status report on sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean; monitoring public policy and international and regional agreements for sustainable development; an analysis of the relationship between economics, and the environment and land development and human settlements.

1. Activities

Subject area 8.4: Land-use development and human settlements

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts:

A meeting of experts to consider issues relating to the planning and management of human settlements.

(b) Non-recurrent publication:

(i) A study on the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Habitat Agenda (special session of the United Nations General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda) and of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Human Settlements;

(ii) A study on the advances and new directions of policies for the sustainable development of human settlements in the region;

(iii) A comparative study on local management of the urban environment in various countries of the region.

(c) Operational activities:

(i) Advisory services:

Provision of technical cooperation services to countries that request them in areas relating to public efficiency in the management of human settlements, urban environmental management and analysis of the impact of natural disasters on urban and natural environments.

(ii) Group training:
Cooperation with government bodies, universities, non-governmental organizations and regional and subregional organizations that request it in support of training activities for urban environment and land management and planning.

(d) Intermediate activities:

Preparation of technical documents for the biennial Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI).

The execution of operational activities and of the activity referred to in subparagraph (a) is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities of this subprogramme will be conducted in close collaboration with organizations, programmes and specialized agencies in the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-HABITAT and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

In addition, relations will be maintained with the Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and with the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI).

Cooperation ties will also be strengthened with the environmental organizations established under integration agreements existing in the region; with the secretariats of the main environmental conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification and with financial institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Andean Development Corporation (ADF).

Depending on the subject area, links will be maintained with relevant bilateral cooperation systems, non-governmental organizations, the business sector, universities and research centres.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be national authorities and officials in the region who are responsible for formulating environmental policy and for carrying out activities relating to environmental management, as well as authorities responsible for human settlements and local government.

The relevant outputs will also be used by regional and subregional bodies, universities, academic research centres, the business sector and non-governmental organizations concerned with these issues. Information will be conveyed to users through documents and reports, technical cooperation activities and courses, workshops and meetings.