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

27 April–6 May 1981

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT NO. 8 (A/36/8)

UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1981
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 on the fourth session of the Commission is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.

3. The Commission consists of 58 members elected for a three-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

- Argentina***
- Australia*
- Bangladesh*
- Barbados***
- Belgium***
- Bulgaria***
- Burundi***
- Canada**
- Chile*
- Colombia**
- Cuba**
- Czechoslovakia*
- Denmark***
- Egypt**
- Finland***
- France**
- German Democratic Republic**
- Germany, Federal Republic of*
- Greece*
- Guatemala*
- Guinea***
- Hungary**
- India*
- Indonesia**
- Iraq**
- Italy*
- Jamaica***
- Japan***
- Jordan*
- Kenya*
- Lesotho**
- Malawi*
- Malaysia**
- Mexico***
- Netherlands**
- Nigeria**
- Noray**
- Pakistan***
- Papua New Guinea**
- Peru**
- Philippines***
- Poland*
- Senegal*
- Sierra Leone**
- Somalia***
- Spain***
- Sri Lanka*
- Swaziland***
- Syrian Arab Republic***
- Togo*
- Uganda**
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics***
- United Republic of Cameroon*
- United Republic of Tanzania***
- United States of America***
- Venezuela*
- Viet Nam*
- Zambia***

* Term of office expires on 31 December 1981.
** Term of office expires on 31 December 1982.
*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1983.

4. The fourth session of the Commission was held at Manila from 27 April to 6 May 1981, at the Philippine International Convention Center, at the invitation of the Government of the Philippines.
II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines. 1/ Inaugural statements were also made by Her Excellency Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the First Lady of the Philippines and Minister for Human Settlements, His Excellency General Carlos P. Romulo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and His Excellency Mr. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion, the text of which is reproduced as annex IV.

6. The session was opened by Mr. GregorioValerio Onjas, Chairman of the Commission at its third session.

B. Attendance

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

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Chile
Cuba
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Jamaica
Japan

Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zambia

1/ Excerpts from the President's statement are contained in annex V.

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

Algeria
Austria
Botswana
Brazil
Gabon
Israel
Ivory Coast
Kuwait
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Morocco
New Zealand
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Solomon Islands
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Upper Volta
Yemen
Yugoslavia

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

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

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Western Asia

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Development Programme
World Food Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank
Asian Development Bank
Inter-American Development Bank
League of Arab States

14. The African National Congress of South Africa was also represented.

15. In addition, 18 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.
C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 27 April, Her Excellency Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, First Lady of the Republic of the Philippines and Minister for Human Settlements, was elected to the post of Chairman by acclamation. The following other officers of the bureau were also elected at the same meeting:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mooki V. Molapo (Lesotho)

Mr. Hans Pflaumer (Federal Republic of Germany)

Mr. Janos Szabo (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Miss Gloria Knight (Jamaica)

D. Credentials

17. Under rule 11, paragraph 5, of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

18. Pursuant to the foregoing rule, the bureau reported to the Commission at its 5th plenary meeting, on 5 May, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the fourth session of the Commission and had found those credentials to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

19. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 27 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document HS/C/4/1/Rev.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): report of the Executive Director:

(a) Research, development and training;

(b) Technical co-operation;

(c) Information, audio-visual activities and documentation.

5. Review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social development.

6. Review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements.
7. Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989:
   (a) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
   (b) Regional commissions.

8. Work programme for the biennium 1982-1983:
   (a) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
   (b) Regional commissions.

9. National and international action to promote human settlements development:
   (a) Periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements: interim report of the Executive Director on Commission resolution 2/3 of 4 April 1979.
      (i) Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries on human settlements and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations system;
      (ii) Activities and collaboration between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and non-governmental organizations;
      (iii) Information on activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and collaboration between them and the Centre;
   (b) Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment;
   (c) Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.


11. Matter arising from a decision of the General Assembly: proposal to declare an international year devoted to the problems of the homeless.


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

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission.
P. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 April, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole, allocating agenda items to them as follows:

   Committee I: agenda items 5, 6, 9 and 12;

   Committee II: agenda items 7, 8 and 10.

21. Committee I held eight meetings from 28 April to 5 May, and Committee II held six meetings from 29 April to 5 May. The recommendations of both Committees have been incorporated into the present report.

C. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

22. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May.
III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT): REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (a) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING; (b) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION; (c) INFORMATION, AUDIO-VISUAL ACTIVITIES AND DOCUMENTATION

(Agenda item 4)

A. Introduction

23. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 27 and 28 April and 1 May. It had before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (HS/C/4/2), the report of the Executive Director on technical co-operation in 1980 (HS/C/4/INF.3), the report of the third joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Centre and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of Governing Council of UNEP (HS/C/4/INF.4), the report of the Executive Director on assistance to the Palestinian people (HS/C/4/2/Add.4) and the report of the Executive Director on assistance to Zimbabwe (HS/C/4/2/Add.5).

24. Before presenting his report, the Executive Director read a message to the session from the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in which the Director-General stressed the significant role which human settlements activities could play in national economic and social development through, inter alia, stimulation of employment, domestic capital formation and indigenous manufacturing, thereby contributing effectively to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Director-General also noted the opportunities which human settlements activities provided for equitable redistribution of the benefits of development throughout society and drew particular attention to the needs of rural communities and the poor in urban centres.

25. Introducing the item, the Executive Director focused on the more qualitative aspects of the Centre's activities and on human settlements conditions in the world generally. Despite the difficulties encountered in the recruitment of highly qualified candidates in specialized fields, the main outputs of the 1980-1981 work programme had been attained. However, some activities had had to be deferred until the biennium 1982-1983 because voluntary contributions to the Centre had not reached the level required to implement the total programme. About $US 10 million in extrabudgetary resources would be required to complete the work programme for the biennium 1982-1983. Nevertheless, he was confident that Governments which had not so far announced their contributions would do so before long and that those which had already contributed would substantially increase their contributions.
26. The purpose of the medium-term plan for the period 1964-1989 was to define the priorities and the implementation strategies of the Centre up until the end of the current decade. It was therefore crucial that the Commission examine the draft plan carefully to ensure that it reflected priority needs and was sufficiently comprehensive. It was not a simple task to look ahead to the end of the decade and pinpoint the crucial human settlements problems which the world would face at that time, but human settlements planning, because it was broad in scope and involved lengthy implementation periods, required that attention be focused on the period between 5 and 10 years ahead.

27. The conventional approach to human settlements had to be discarded because the assumptions on which human settlements development were based had changed. Virtually nobody had foreseen the energy constraints which the world had recently had to face, few planners had realized the suddenness with which the raw materials crisis would develop, and it had been thought that the Second United Nations Development Decade of the 1970s would be more successful than had actually been the case. The very disappointing shortfalls that had occurred with regard to economic growth, trade promotion, employment generation and industrial diversification in the developing countries had made necessary a rethinking of planning priorities for the 1980s, particularly in respect of human settlements.

28. The interlinked issues of food, shelter and energy conservation and utilization affected virtually every individual in the world and could easily become the focus of mass discontent and political and social disruption. Most programmes for increasing food production required increases in energy consumption, but it was unlikely that such increases could be sustained during the coming decade. It might therefore be necessary to develop alternative techniques or substitute other factors of production for scarce energy supplies, and such changes could have a far-reaching impact on rural-development policies and on physical patterns in rural areas. Most countries would not be able to continue with farming practices that produced little surplus, and very few countries had the land area to support significant increases in the population involved in agricultural occupations. Such a pattern must inevitably lead to a "no-growth" situation in which lack of capital formation would bring economic and social diversification almost to a standstill.

29. A similar situation prevailed in the fields of shelter and energy. Energy consumption in developing countries was low, and yet there existed a paradoxical situation whereby some of that consumption was wasteful. In the developing countries, transportation systems were often highly inefficient because they had been copied from the models of developed countries and were poorly adapted to the real needs of a quite different situation. The question of the relative efficiencies of private and public vehicular transportation had to be considered in order to understand the fundamentals of transportation economics. The traditional patterns of settlements, in which transportation movements were minimized by keeping all the most frequently used activity centres within walking distance of each other, must be restudied. Future cities would perhaps consist of walking-scale modules strung together like small beads on a network of urban
transportation threads. However, patterns already established in response to the needs of another era could not be changed radically overnight, and it might take many decades of painstaking effort to bring about a rational restructuring of settlement systems to enable them to respond more efficiently to future needs.

30. The Executive Director noted that attention had to be directed to the construction sector in order to examine the question of possible energy savings. Developing countries had long been adopting technologies and materials from the developed countries, with little consideration of the suitability of those technologies and materials for the new host environment. Many construction materials were actually oil-based, and others required substantial energy inputs in their manufacture, making them highly inappropriate for energy-poor countries. Yet, more often than not, such imported materials had displaced indigenous materials and traditional building techniques which were well adapted to prevailing conditions and which were in harmony with the natural-resource base of the country. Accordingly, an urgent effort must be made to use local construction materials and methods and to adapt them to changing shelter needs. Similarly, it was rarely necessary to install highly sophisticated waste-disposal systems when less energy-draining options were available. One of the Centre's most important tasks in the coming few years would be to disseminate information on energy-conserving options to Governments and assist Governments in the adoption and installation of more appropriate forms of shelter and infrastructure.

31. Very little work had been done to determine the over-all energy balance of individual developing countries, yet an understanding of energy linkages was essential for the formulation of rational policies. If animal wastes were burned for household fuel, synthetic fertilizers had to be substituted, perhaps with a high energy penalty. Yet if animal wastes were used for fertilizer, timber resources might have to be depleted for household fuel, perhaps with adverse effects on climate, environment and, hence, food production. As the web of relationships was extended to national transportation requirements, industrial production requirements and construction industry requirements, the trade-offs become more and more complicated, and the cost benefit relationships become progressively more difficult to quantify. There was, therefore, a need to undertake urgently needed research in order to gather a body of authoritative data on which decisions could be based.

32. The final purpose of all such efforts was to promote the well-being of the entire population of a country, starting with the poorest and most deprived segments, and to ensure that benefits flowed to the people in an equitable manner. In the development of human settlements, as in many other development endeavours, the challenge was to balance growth and equity, immediate needs and future requirements, political expediency and national interests. That implied that the greatest efforts should be devoted to remedying the inequities being suffered by the most disadvantaged groups and that strategies and approaches were needed to enhance the lives of the poor, the handicapped and other disadvantaged minorities. Finally, special attention had to be paid to the particular needs of women in all aspects of human settlements development.
B. Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

33. The Executive Director's report on the activities of the Centre (HS/C/4/5) described the action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in connexion with the recommendations made by the Commission on Human Settlements at its third session. It drew attention to the concern of the Economic and Social Council, as expressed in Council resolution 1980/47, regarding the inadequacy of voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Centre, and it referred to the Council's call to the Centre to elaborate specific proposals aimed at making an effective and meaningful contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and to report thereon, through the Commission on Human Settlements, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981.

34. With regard to Commission resolution 3/2, it was reported that the recommendations on the role of human settlements in the new International Development Strategy had been submitted to and accepted by the Preparatory Committee for the new International Development Strategy and approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. As a result, the preamble to the International Development Strategy now contained a separate section on human settlements as one of the means of achieving the objectives of the Strategy. That was considered a satisfactory outcome to the Commission's efforts.

35. The report referred to General Assembly resolution 35/78 of 5 December 1980 concerning the proposal to declare an international year devoted to the problems of the homeless, and to the Assembly's view that such an international year could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the international community on the world's shelter problems. The Commission's attention was drawn to the report on the international year (HS/C/4/2/Add.2) and to the request of the General Assembly that the Commission on Human Settlements transmit its comments on the proposal to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its second session in 1981. It was indicated that the scope of an international year might extend beyond concern for the homeless to encompass the shelter needs of the poor and squatters and shanty-dwellers.

36. On the question of co-operation with other organizations, it was reported that specific co-operative efforts were being pursued with more than 40 United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with an interest in human settlements. The latter organizations included a number of multilateral financing institutions which had shown strong interest in supporting investment projects in developing countries prepared by the Centre. Those contacts were being vigorously pursued in 1981.

37. In that connexion, and as described in the report of the third joint bureau meeting (HS/C/4/INF.4), special links had been established with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Two joint projects were under consideration - one on environmental impact assessment in the Mexico City region and the other on environmental management guidelines for human settlements. It was hoped that implementation of those two projects would begin in 1981.

38. Special reference was made to the Centre's co-operation with the regional commissions and to the eight approved temporary-assistance posts which had been deployed to the commissions for work on regional elements of the work programme.
approved by the Commission on Human Settlements at its third session. The hope was expressed that the temporary posts would be converted to permanent posts during the biennium 1982-1983.

39. With regard to the implementation of the 1980-1981 work programme, an analysis was presented for each of the six subprogrammes, namely, settlement policies and strategies, settlement planning, shelter, infrastructure and services, land-use policy, public participation, and institutions and management. It was reiterated that all substantive activities of the Centre - technical co-operation, research and information dissemination - were carried out within the framework of those subprogrammes.

40. On the issue of policies and strategies, attention was drawn to the two theme papers prepared for the fourth session of the Commission, namely, the "Review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social development" (HS/0/4/3) and the "Review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements" (HS/0/4/4). Those reports contained suggestions as to action which Governments could take in strengthening the building industry and implementing programmes for upgrading the infrastructure. The role of the Centre in supporting national action was also considered.

41. With respect to settlement planning, the report stressed the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding which had been signed with the Executive Director of UNEP and which defined eight planning topics for joint activities. The eight topics were: human settlements in fragile ecosystems; agricultural regions and rural settlements; environmentally sound human settlements technologies; environmentally sound energy conservation and utilization; environmentally sound transportation systems; environmentally sound water and waste management systems; the development of large metropolitan areas and other unique settlements; the planning of human settlements in disaster-prone areas. With regard to the development of large metropolitan areas, mention was made of the 24 recommendations contained in the Nagoya Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on Planning and Management of Metropolitan Regions, held at Nagoya, Japan, in October 1980.

42. Shelter, infrastructure and services continued to be given highest priority in the work of the Centre, in accordance with the instructions laid down by the Commission on Human Settlements. In 1980, work had begun on a number of experimental and demonstration projects, one of which concerned the construction of pilot housing units within the framework of a scheme being financed by the World Bank in Nairobi. Audio-visual material developed as a result of demonstration projects in the Philippines and Indonesia was being widely distributed and was being used for training purposes by a number of institutions.

43. With regard to shelter technology, three papers had been submitted for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Those papers dealt with land use in relation to solar energy, rural energy and rural habitat, and the role of passive heating and cooling systems in human settlements. Energy was becoming an important topic, and it was expected that considerable attention would be devoted to it in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

44. Modest efforts were reported in the field of land-use policy. Attention had been focused mainly on the gathering of information concerning current practices
throughout the world and on the evaluation of inputs with a view to producing a classification system for land-related measures. The problems of land-use information systems were also being examined in order to determine what kind of assistance the Centre could most usefully provide.

45. Since public participation was normally dealt with as an element of other subprogrammes, only a brief reference was made to the Centre's work on housing co-operatives and the development of local leadership skills for settlement organization and community management. A film on self-help, public participation and community development, produced in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology, would be available for distribution in 1981 and would add to the Centre's training materials on the subject. An agreement had been reached with the Federal Republic of Germany on a series of activities aimed at promoting co-operative upgrading programmes.

46. Finally, the report dealt with the institutional and management aspects of the Centre's programme, highlighting the efforts being made to promote the role of financial institutions in the mobilization of investment capital for shelter and infrastructure programmes. Considerable attention was being paid to the establishment of information networks through which data could be collected and documentary material disseminated. In that connexion, special mention was made of the Centre's regional information offices which provided a focus for information exchange activities.

47. The Executive Director's report emphasized that the Centre's activities had proceeded within the framework of the priorities laid down by the Commission at its second and third sessions and that the Executive Director was conscious of the need to avoid fragmentation within subprogrammes. An internal project management system was being introduced to permit continuous monitoring and evaluation of the Centre's activities and outputs. As a first step, the system would be applied to technical co-operation projects on a trial basis.

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

48. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made a statement to the Commission. He referred to the danger inherent in the fact that the growing conurbations in developing countries were facing not only the traditional environmental problems but also an increasing inability to sustain their existence within the support capacities of their ecosystems. He foresaw the need to modify growth and consumption patterns so as to remain within safety limits for such infrastructure elements as water supply.

49. He expressed full willingness to collaborate with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in promoting sanitation demonstration projects in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Such projects could include the installation of systems for solid and liquid waste disposal, the collection and conservation of water and the recycling of waste water for rural and urban purposes. It was hoped to focus particularly on the requirements of low-income groups in slums and squatter settlements.
50. He also referred to two important collaborative efforts which were currently going ahead involving the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). One was related to the preparation of guidelines on environmental aspects of human settlements planning, as referred to in the Executive Director's progress report. The other concerned the testing of methods for environmental assessment of the impact of urban development, to be applied within the framework of a prototype project in the metropolitan region of Mexico City.

D. Discussion

51. Most of the delegations which spoke expressed their appreciation for both the Executive Director's report and his opening statement. It was generally felt that the report provided a good overview of the Centre's activities and that the progress made in implementing the work programme had been satisfactory. The positive comment was made that the Centre, in its activities, had been guided by the Declaration adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements which contained the basic principles, directions and priorities that needed to be followed in the work of the Centre. Several delegations commended the Executive Director for coping with the problems involved in making the Centre operational in Nairobi, establishing the structure of the Centre in technical co-operation, research and development and dissemination of information, and at the same time producing all the documentation for the Commission session in an efficient and timely manner. However, two delegations reported that documentation had not reached them within the prescribed time-limit for the session. During the discussion, delegations outlined the results of the activities of their Governments on questions related to the state of and prospects for the development of human settlements in their countries. There was a useful exchange of experiences between countries with different social and economic structures and at different levels of development.

52. Two delegations expressed the view that the development of priorities and programmes for research, training and information was lagging behind the implementation of technical co-operation activities. That was unfortunate because the implementation of projects alone was not sufficient to achieve the Commission's objectives. The value of a project was doubled if the project was also used as an instrument of training and dissemination of information. The delegations in question therefore stressed the importance of creating training centres where necessary. It was realized that it was important for project outputs to be fed into research, training and information programmes, and such an approach called for systematic analysis and assessment of all projects as a continuous activity.

53. Several delegations expressed satisfaction that recognition was increasingly being granted to human settlements as an important element of development planning, and, in that connexion, the inclusion of human settlements as a component of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was welcomed. The fact that shelter was one of the basic requirements for sustaining human life was considered prima facie justification for high priority being accorded to the human settlements sector in national plans. One delegation drew attention to the need to prepare human settlements programmes from the bottom up, so that they reflected the aspirations of the people in each country.
54. It was also pointed out that international aid programmes sometimes had difficulty in reaching the poorest population groups, who were often identified as the intended beneficiaries. It was surprising that such a small proportion of international aid was assigned to human settlements work, which was almost uniquely capable of responding to a wide spectrum of needs of low-income households. It was suggested that what was needed was a world-wide campaign to draw attention to the potential of human settlements investment. One delegation suggested that the Commission should issue a manifesto calling on all Governments to eliminate the negative forces which were hindering the attainment of a better quality of life through human settlements programmes.

55. General emphasis was placed on the comprehensive, integrating role of human settlements programmes which must, by their very nature, involve a cross-sectoral view. The ability to co-ordinate and integrate sectoral subprogrammes was considered a vital factor in achieving a comprehensive human settlements approach to development. One delegation commented on the need to make a radical departure from traditional concepts of human settlements projects and approaches, emphasizing information, training and appropriate technology as prime vehicles for achieving a significant impact on the massive problems of poor and disadvantaged groups. Many delegations drew attention to the fact that settlement programmes must encompass not only the physical elements of improvement but also the preservation and enhancement of social and cultural values and of each individual's human dignity. The need was also stressed for a multidisciplinary approach to the human settlements question, with concerned United Nations agencies working in close co-operation in order to make the most judicious use of the scarce resources and skills available.

56. Many delegations stressed the need for the internal integration of activities within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The mutually supportive roles of research and technical co-operation were emphasized. Several delegations referred to the desirability of producing practical outputs from the Centre's work programme; that could be achieved through the extensive application of research results in technical co-operation projects. One delegation spoke of the need for the Centre to establish an independent role within the United Nations system by providing comprehensive guidelines which could be followed in technical co-operation, research and training activities. One delegation requested the Executive Director to make greater efforts to promote technical co-operation among developing countries as part of the Centre's technical co-operation programme.

57. In identifying crucial technical questions, a large number of delegations focused on the issue of the indigenous construction and building materials industry. The need for developing countries to attain self-sufficiency in the production of building materials and the associated need to encourage, adapt and train tradesmen in the use of traditional building techniques received strong endorsement. There was general agreement on the importance of the informal sector and of self-help techniques in shelter production and, especially, in equator upgrading programmes. In that regard, the significant role played by non-governmental organizations was noted. One delegation also called attention to the role of the private sector. Some delegations referred to the successful development of industrialization in the field of housing construction and civil engineering infrastructure in some developing countries and to the fact that in those countries, thanks to centralized planning, strict economy in the use of building materials and energy and increased efficiency in the construction industry, there had been neither economic recession nor unemployment.
58. In that connexion, some delegations spoke of their countries' efforts to develop legislative and regulatory instruments more in harmony with national human settlements needs. That was necessary because in many cases standards had been inherited from colonial administrations and had been intended to protect the interests of elite groups rather than respond to the needs of the population at large. More work was needed on that question, which could be taken up by the Centre in its future programmes.

59. A number of delegations commented on the lack of sufficient priorities among the array of activities of the Centre and urged the Commission to give more attention to the matter, particularly in view of the available resources.

60. Two delegations considered that the Centre's primary efforts should be concentrated on training, since no country could become self-sufficient until it had the skills to manage and implement its human settlements programmes. Two delegations asked that the Centre take up the matter of land policy as its next priority issue. One delegation placed greatest emphasis on policy-making and on the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services, while another expressed the view that the mobilization of financial resources should receive priority attention. Still another delegation drew attention to the problems of energy supplies in rural areas and the need both to increase supplies and to use energy more efficiently. It was pointed out that greater efficiency in energy use would reduce fuel-gathering time and release substantial labour for improvement projects.

61. Two delegations mentioned their particular satisfaction that appropriate attention was being given to the problems of rural settlements. They pointed out that the bulk of the population in developing countries was located in rural areas and that that situation would continue until near the end of the century; that fact alone justified efforts to upgrade rural living conditions. The opinion was expressed that a massive effort to improve rural standards might have an impact on urban/rural population distribution and change the current projections for urban growth up to the year 2000. One delegation referred specially to the need to study the settlement problems of traditionally nomadic people.

62. One delegation asked the Commission to reconfirm, in connexion with the proposal to declare an international year of the homeless, the text of the Vancouver Declaration which proclaimed peace and disarmament as essential prerequisites to the achievement of human settlements goals. Since the destructive effects of war were the direct antithesis of the constructive benefits of human settlements programmes, the two were incompatible, and that had to be recognized as the fundamental basis for improving the quality of life in human settlements. Another delegation supported that view, pointing to the position in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine as exemplifying the incompatibility of armed conflict and human settlements progress.

63. Several delegations congratulated the Executive Director on his special efforts to provide assistance to Zimbabwe, and one delegation asked that similar assistance be extended to Chad, Sudan and Uganda. Similarly, some delegations took particular note of the Executive Director's report on assistance to the Palestinian people. However, regret was expressed that the Centre had not had a more active role to play in projects designed to upgrade the living conditions of the Palestinian people. One delegation invited the Commission to give special attention to the people of South Africa and Namibia and of the African front-line
countries which were victims of the policy of apartheid and whose activities aimed at improving living conditions were systematically sabotaged by the racist régime of Pretoria.

64. More than one delegation made special mention of the problems associated with influxes of refugees into developing countries which lacked the resources to support temporary residents. While humanitarían considerations demanded that every effort be made to accommodate unfortunate displaced populations, the increased pressures on food, shelter and means of livelihood were an unbearable burden for most developing countries. An appeal was made to the international community to put an end to the conditions which forced populations to leave their own national territories and settle in adjoining countries.

65. One delegation stated strongly that insufficient attention was being paid to regional-level action in human settlements programmes and in the distribution of programme resources. Attention was drawn to General Assembly resolution 32/162 and to Commission resolutions 2/5, 2/6 and 3/1, none of which had been fully applied in so far as their regional provisions were concerned. It was suggested that stronger legislative measures might be called for to ensure the equitable treatment of human settlements in all the regions. It was also suggested that the strengthening of the regional organisations could, in the case of the African region, contribute towards the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

66. A few delegations expressed the opinion that technical co-operation to support developing countries was being given too much attention. It was considered that such co-operation was not always in conformity with the work programme because it reflected only the priorities of individual requesting Governments and not the priorities of the Commission as a whole.

67. Two delegations requested changes in the format of the Executive Director's report for the next session of the Commission. One asked that, in addition to reporting on the substance of work programme activities, the report should indicate the expenditures which had been made on each subprogramme element. The other proposed that the report on each subprogramme element should separately detail activities and outputs, since information on outputs, which was insufficient in the report before the Commission, was necessary in order to make any judgement on the effectiveness of programme activities. Another delegation also spoke of the need for evaluation of programme impact and asked that that be taken into account in the Centre's work. One delegation proposed that the Executive Director submit a report to the Commission at its fifth session on the highlights of what had been achieved by the Centre since its establishment in October 1978 and submit a full review to the Commission at its 1986 session. The same delegation proposed "land" as a special theme for discussion at the fifth session of the Commission.

E. Executive Director's response

68. In responding to the discussion, the Executive Director identified the main common theme of the statements as the desire to achieve self-sufficiency on the part of the developing countries. That meant self-sufficiency in the mobilization of human and financial resources, self-sufficiency in institutional and administrative structures, self-sufficiency in the management and use of information and, perhaps most important, self-sufficiency in the production of building materials and the development of indigenous construction technology.
international inputs to human settlements programmes should be directed primarily towards developing those capabilities.

69. The Executive Director referred to the question of the regional deployment of staff resources and pointed out that, contrary to common belief, the Centre had in fact deployed about 30 per cent of its staff of work-programme, who were paid from the regular budget, to the regions and about the same percentage of the staff provided from voluntary contributions. The shortfall in regional staffing concerned not the Centre but the regional commissions. He suggested that the problem should be taken up in the forum of the regional commissions themselves.

70. The Executive Director also took up the comments on the emphasis given to the Centre's technical co-operation projects. He explained that technical co-operation work did not divert funds and attention from other work, because the financing of projects was based on funds which could not be used for any other purpose. Accordingly, curtailment of the technical co-operation would not release any funds or staff resources for research, training or information purposes. In fact, those other elements of the Centre's work would be impoverished by the lack of practical application of research in the field and the absence of feedback from field experience for training and information activities.

71. On the matter of measuring programme impact, he pointed out that the Centre had not been in existence long enough to measure impact easily at the present time. However, an assessment procedure was being instituted for technical co-operation projects and that procedure would eventually be extended to research and training activities, as resources became available.

F. Special presentations

72. Pursuant to a decision taken by the Commission at its third session, 2/18 States made special presentations. The following States made audio-visual presentations: Canada, Chile, Cuba, France, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Upper Volta and Viet Nam. Photographic exhibits were presented by the following States: Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka. The audio-visual presentations which centred on the role of the construction industry and the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas, were followed by substantive discussions.

73. There was a general feeling among delegations that special presentations were useful as an instrument for exchanging practical information and that the practice of making special presentations should continue.

G. Action by the Commission

74. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission adopted the following resolutions which are reproduced in annex I to the present report:

(a) Resolution 4/4 on the strengthening of the ECA human settlements unit in Addis Ababa;

(b) Resolution 4/5 on co-operation at the regional level related to human settlements;

(c) Resolution 4/6 on the mobilization and utilization of resources for human settlements development;

(d) Resolution 4/3 on assistance to the Palestinian people.
   The Commission adopted the resolution by 17 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions. Explanations of vote were given by Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria and the United States of America.

(e) Resolution 4/7 on assistance to Dominica;

(f) Resolution 4/8 on human settlements and the International Year of Disabled Persons;

(g) Resolution 4/9 on information;

(h) Resolution 4/10 on the utilization of consultants and experts;

(i) Resolution 4/11 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

(j) Resolution 4/12 on assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism.

75. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission adopted the Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement (see annex I, resolution 4/1).
IV. REVIEW OF THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 5)

A. Introduction

76. Committee I considered agenda item 5 at its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 28 and 29 April. It had before it the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social development (HS/C/4/3).

77. In his statement introducing the item, the Executive Director said that there was a growing awareness of the crucial link between the development of the construction sector and the achievement of national social and economic development goals. The importance of the construction sector had been clearly recognized at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976 and in the report entitled "Human settlements and the New International Development Strategy" submitted to the Commission at its third session (HS/C/3/4).

78. The report before the Commission had been prepared in accordance with the wishes of the Commission, as expressed at the Commission's third session, and was based in part on a major study carried out in the field and on reports prepared by the regional commissions on the role of the construction sector in the various regions.

79. The construction sector could be managed in such a way as to achieve several development goals simultaneously. Construction investment not only benefited the users of the final product but also generated income and employment. It also had substantial multiplier effects, particularly if the use of local resources was promoted. Because construction activity in the informal sector was frequently omitted from national statistics, the total value of construction output was much greater than was realized, and there seemed to be a positive correlation between the rate of investment in construction and the rate of economic growth. Employment generated by on-site construction activity and the subsidiary industries of the construction sector might account for 10 per cent of the economically active population in developing countries, and in many such countries construction was the third largest employer, after agriculture and services. Furthermore, since the construction sector used mainly unskilled and semi-skilled labour, it provided opportunities for training on the job, a feature that made the sector particularly valuable in developing countries. However, the low wages and instability of employment that prevailed in the industry as a result of seasonal changes in demand constituted constraints that adversely affected the sector and its productivity.

80. Governments wishing to maximize the contribution of the construction sector to national economic growth should stress the development of an indigenous construction industry, defined as locally based construction organizations and the individuals and groups comprising the informal sector.
01. In many countries, the construction sector was beset by serious difficulties, including import dependency, shortages of semi-skilled and skilled labour, a low degree of local participation in contracting, the inadequate production of building materials, lack of capital, adequate equipment and tools and the poor quality of management and supervision. In addition, such problems were often aggravated by the adoption of designs, technologies and standards that were inappropriate to local conditions. Thus, it could be concluded that, in the majority of developing countries, the construction industry was not fulfilling its potential role in the development process.

02. Governments could take steps to improve the situation by providing technical support to promote the use of local resources, introducing selective controls to help protect local industries, providing incentives for local entrepreneurs and promoting training and employment for unskilled and semi-skilled workers. They could also enact appropriate building and planning codes and regulations, and they could act as clients, thereby participating directly in construction activity.

03. However, very few developing countries had succeeded in establishing a coherent policy for the construction sector, and the first step must therefore consist of the formulation of a policy for the development of locally produced construction materials and components. To that end, Governments should assess their national raw-material base, examine existing codes and regulations, identify constraints and promote research and development programmes. They should also take steps to prevent excessive fluctuations in demand for the outputs of the construction sector. In addition, national development plans should define construction output targets on the basis of construction inputs required for other sectors of the economy.

04. There was an urgent need for concerted action at the global, regional and national levels to develop the indigenous construction sector in developing countries. The Centre would be undertaking a broad range of activities designed to identify solutions to the problems being experienced by developing countries, particularly in respect of the informal construction sector. Those activities would include pilot and demonstration projects, training programmes and direct technical assistance. The construction sector should continue to receive special attention in the work programme of the Centre.

B. DISCUSSION

05. In the discussion which followed, several representatives stressed the importance of the construction sector for economic growth. It was observed that a large percentage of the active population was employed by the construction sector, and the sector's multiplier effects were considerable. However, although it was widely agreed that there was a correlation between economic growth and the level of construction output, more knowledge was needed to determine the precise nature of the relationship. One delegation pointed out that, in many developed countries, the basic conditions affecting construction had changed significantly in several respects. Slow-downs in economic growth and population growth and lower levels of intra-country and intercountry migration had reduced demand for new construction in developed countries. However, because of the nature of the built environment in developed countries, there was a considerable need for investment related to modernization, repair and maintenance. Developing countries were characterized by
excessive population growth and increasing rates of rural-urban migration. There was therefore a great need for measures aimed at the renovation, repair and maintenance of the existing housing stock, and although such activities were often overlooked, they represented an important part of construction output, particularly in the informal construction sector.

86. Reservations were expressed about building industry models which emphasized standardization, industrialization and the use of prefabricated building systems as the central means of solving the problems of developing countries. It was argued that such systems did not always eliminate housing shortages or produce the benefits claimed, namely, effective use of labour, flexibility, increased production capacity, enhanced productivity and lower costs. Experience had shown that building industries in many of the developing countries had not yet attained the technological level required for the implementation of standardization and industrialization policies. Such strategies must therefore be developed carefully in the light of the conditions prevailing in each country. However, it should be noted that, in the case of at least one developing country, standardization and industrialization of the construction sector had proven extremely successful, and the representative of that country indicated a willingness to share his country's experience and knowledge with other Governments. Other delegations indicated the successful development of industrialized construction in a number of developing countries on the basis of central State planning. The dual nature of the construction sector in developing countries was acknowledged, and it was recommended that the informal sector be given a special role in housing construction activities. Since the informal sector used labour-intensive methods and local materials and techniques and tended to lack managerial and other skills essential for large-scale contracting, it appeared that a division of labour between the formal and informal sectors was desirable. The informal sector might, for example, continue to be responsible for a large share of housing construction. In that connexion, more information was needed in order to enable the sector to respond more effectively to existing opportunities. The development of a uniform system of measurements and improved methods of co-operation between the various parties involved in the construction process would be an appropriate matter for research and training programmes geared to the needs of individual countries.

87. Most delegations were of the opinion that further research and studies should be undertaken to determine the structure and nature of the informal construction sector in both urban and rural areas. Such research would be particularly important since a large share of construction work, perhaps more than half in the developing countries, was accounted for by the informal sector. It was suggested that the Centre should focus its attention on the indigenous building industry and the informal sector in developing countries.

88. Some representatives felt that the role of Government in the development of the construction sector should be re-examined carefully. It was suggested that, in promoting the construction sector, Governments should stress the formulation of policy and provide general orientations for development. In that connexion, the development of the construction sector in developing countries should take into account such factors as the significance of energy costs, industrial dispersal and lack of adequate financing. Several delegations indicated that the description in the report of the role of Governments placed too much emphasis on Governments' control and not enough emphasis on government support, promotion and incentives for the construction sector.
89. Many areas of activity were suggested as being appropriate for national action, including: production of locally produced materials; training and manpower development; promotion of labour-intensive techniques; strengthening and expansion of local firms in all areas of construction and the provision of assistance for the development of local contractors; promotion of the development and use of appropriate technology; promotion of national technical centres in the field of construction; co-ordination and evaluation of research projects involving the use of indigenous resources; conduct of research related to national priorities to satisfy the needs of the low-income population. At the international level, it was felt that funds should be made available for research and technical co-operation projects in the construction sector.

90. A number of delegations expressed concern about the import needs of the construction sector because of the impact of such imports on the balance of trade and on project implementation. In that connexion, building materials were critically important, and the development and use of indigenous materials must therefore be encouraged. Emphasis was placed on the need for each country to maximize its degree of self-sufficiency in building materials and skilled labour. In addition, flexible construction standards appropriate to national circumstances should be developed. It was suggested that the Centre could play a useful role in that area by preparing guidelines for national initiatives.

91. A number of delegations pointed out that many aspects of the construction sector required further study and that there was a need for regional analyses of materials in the context of present and future needs and of the efficacy of alternative forms of international co-operation.

92. The modernization, maintenance and repair of the built environment was identified as an important area of activity of the construction sector. It was noted that much of the sector was often beset with institutional, legal and technical problems that impaired the implementation of much needed programmes. However, it was stated that home maintenance by individuals in the informal sector was a continuous activity undertaken as resources permitted.

93. Several delegations stressed the need for the expansion of training programmes for skilled workers and craftsmen and for producers and suppliers of building materials and components. It was suggested that such training programmes could be undertaken by private guilds or quasi-public organizations and international agencies. Higher-level training should also be provided, and, in that connexion, the Committee was informed that some countries had training and research networks linking together various branches of industry. The countries concerned expressed willingness to co-operate with the Centre in assisting developing countries.

94. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), referring to the many years of relevant experience which ILO had in several areas of the construction sector, stated that ILO continued to be interested in associating itself with the Centre and indicated that a co-ordinated and co-operative system-wide programme in the construction sector was indispensable if international efforts to assist developing countries were to be effective. To that connexion, a number of delegations felt that the Centre should, when developing its programme, co-ordinate its efforts with other international and national organizations in order to avoid duplication.
95. Several representatives identified the exchange of information as an important activity in the context of the construction sector and suggested that an information component should be included in the Centre's projects in that sector.

96. It was clear from the various statements made that there were no universal prescriptions for solving the many complex and varied problems confronting countries in the construction sector. Thus, the most suitable approach for any given country would depend on that country's economic and social priorities and its level of economic development, as well as on the relationship between the construction sector and national development plans. Infrastructure and other services were based on existing social and economic conditions which were decisive for achieving harmonious development.

97. Finally, it was pointed out that the quality of data in the construction sector in the majority of countries was not high enough for conclusions to be drawn regarding the role of the construction sector in national social and economic development. Crucial relationships were often obscured because the data collected did not measure critical variables explaining the relationships between the construction sector and other sectors of the economy. A few representatives indicated that the observation contained in footnote 6 in the report regarding the availability of data on the construction sector in countries with centrally planned economies, especially developing countries, was incorrect. Relevant information was available and had been made available in the past to international organizations. The footnote in question should therefore be removed.

C. Action by the Commission

98. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted a resolution on the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social development (see annex I, resolution H/13).
V. REVIEW OF THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN SLUMS AND
SQUATTER AREAS AND IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS

(Agenda item 6)

A. Introduction

99. Committee I considered agenda item 6 at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on
29 and 30 April. It had before it the report of the Executive Director on the
review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squat ter areas and in rural
settlements (ES/C/4/4).

100. The Executive Director, introducing the item, outlined the background to the
International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The original proposal
for the Decade had been made at Habitat: United Nations Conference on human
Settlements in Vancouver, in 1976, and the Decade had actually started at the
beginning of 1981. The period in question had also seen a reorientation of the
efforts of national and international agencies towards the satisfaction of the
needs of the poor in low-income communities. It was therefore encouraging to note
that, as the Decade got under way, tangible targets had been established and there
was widespread commitment to their attainment. The bulk of the resources for the
improvement of infrastructure must emanate from Governments, therefore it was
particularly important that government institutional support structures be firmly
established. It was also important that all aspects of infrastructure, not just
water supply and sanitation, be dealt with during the Decade.

101. The Executive Director outlined the important issues that had to be tackled
in the field of infrastructure. Problems that affected all aspects of community
development included rural-urban migration and the poor conditions that existed in
slum and squatter areas. The lack of land tenure was a major obstacle to the
effective improvement of infrastructure, since few people were willing to
contribute to the upgrading of land or property to which they had no secure claim.

102. The lack of resources of the poor and their inability to secure assistance
was a major problem. It had been found time and time again that the poor simply
could not afford to pay for the construction of anything but the simplest of
systems. Conventional water-borne sewerage or even house taps were beyond their
means. Hence, it was imperative to identify cheap and effective solutions and to
set up appropriate financial arrangements, for example cross-subsidization schemes,
to reduce costs to the poor. Another possible solution involved the provision of
infrastructure in stages so that a cheaper service could be established initially and
extensions or improvements could be introduced as time and finances permitted.
A major obstacle to the use of simple and cheap techniques was, however, the high
standards required by existing building and public health regulations. Those
standards must be revised to conform with what was practical and affordable.

103. Any improvement in the provision of infrastructure to low-income communities
must be based on the principle that all aspects of infrastructure were interrelated.
In addition, no meaningful improvements could be made unless the Government
concerned were capable of, and committed to, expanding programmes for the poor.
The authorities must, therefore, have the funds and the will to implement projects, to launch widespread training programmes and to promote administrative competence.

105. The Executive Director outlined some important issues that were relevant to infrastructure as such, as opposed to community development in general, beginning with the important subject of appropriate technology. Compared with infrastructure technology in developed countries, which was the subject of sophisticated research and development programmes, appropriate technology in developing countries had received little attention, and, although work on appropriate technology was now proceeding and the technology was not complicated, there was still no consensus on correct solutions and designs.

106. Non-technical questions were also important. Cultural considerations weighed heavily, especially in the case of sanitary practices, and projects that did not consider the aspirations of the recipients were normally unsuccessful. Other reasons for project failure included lack of spare parts, poor maintenance, lack of fuel, theft, vandalism and political or social problems. Even when a new component was working successfully, it might not be used, or the potential benefits might not be realized if community training or health education was not introduced.

106. In conclusion, the Executive Director requested the Commission to consider endorsing the recommended work programmes for the Centre as contained in annexes I and II to the document before the Commission (HS/C/4/4). He noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) had already volunteered to help in the implementation of projects 1 and 4 of the recommended work programme for 1982-1983.

B. Discussion

107. There was general agreement on the importance of the provision of adequate infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements. The provision of infrastructure was considered one of the most essential elements of a coherent and integrated human settlements development policy. Moreover, the statistics presented in the report before the Commission demonstrated that water supply and sanitation deserved high priority in the provision of infrastructure in low-income settlements. The data showed that about 1.3 billion people throughout the world were still without adequate water-supply services, and about 1.7 billion lacked adequate sanitation. Those affected consisted almost exclusively of residents of urban slums and squatter areas and rural settlements.

108. One representative felt that it was of critical importance to examine the costs of infrastructure and referred to the trend developing in many countries whereby the poor subsidized the provision of infrastructure for the more affluent groups of the population. The revenue derived from infrastructure facilities in urban areas already served by public utilities should be made available for infrastructure development in low-income settlements.

109. Several representatives expressed support for the Centre's potential contribution to the activities of other United Nations agencies in the area in question. In particular, it should be possible for the Centre to make an important contribution to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in collaboration and co-operation with other United Nations agencies.
110. Some representatives expressed concern about the scope of the proposed work programme on infrastructure and about the possibility of the Centre's activities overlapping those of other agencies. The representative of the World Bank, in supporting that view, drew attention to the difficulty of accomplishing the proposed programme within the guidelines indicated and to the activities of other organizations that might provide demonstration possibilities. It was explained that the Centre would proceed on a selective basis and use available resources in the most efficient manner, drawing on the expertise of other agencies when appropriate. Furthermore, before the proposed work programme had been finalized, WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank had been asked to comment on possible overlaps with their respective programmes. All of the responses had been most encouraging and supportive.

111. Representatives drew attention to the experiences of their Governments in providing infrastructure to low-income settlements and expressed a willingness to share their knowledge with other interested Governments. Such collaboration could be carried out on a bilateral basis or through the Centre.

112. Participants stressed the fact that the provision of infrastructure promoted better structured settlements because the supply of essential services resulted in the improvement of the quality of life of the entire community. The policy followed by many Governments was to provide low-cost housing and organize sites-and-services projects. However, one representative noted that such schemes sometimes did not benefit the poorest segments of the population. Another representative drew attention to the need to deal with the whole matter of increasing the well-being of the population, which would result in the provision of adequate infrastructure. In that regard, the emphasis placed on squatter settlements upgrading by the Executive Director's report was both commendable and realistic.

113. Some representatives expressed the view that, if squatter upgrading programmes were to be implemented, it was essential to resolve the question of land tenure for the poor. Security of land tenure was an important issue for the implementation of local infrastructure programmes. Local governments were not legally able to improve conditions in squatter areas unless the land question had been settled. The opinion was expressed that the major problems related to infrastructure did not centre on questions of capital, qualified personnel or the development of national plans and priorities. The major problem in many countries was rather security of land tenure for the poor.

114. In that connexion, several representatives drew attention to the fact that accurate data on land ownership and use must be assembled, and therefore cadastral surveys were essential. However, many developing countries lacked the expertise and equipment required to undertake such surveys. Cadastral mapping required close co-operation between land survey teams and planners responsible for infrastructure programmes. A representative of a developed country said that his Government would be willing to promote the idea of convening an international meeting to discuss the issues involved in harmonizing mapping and planning activities. Such a meeting could be expected to result in the identification of a number of pilot projects which could be implemented jointly by national and international agencies. However, the cadastral mapping programme ought not to be interpreted as a delay or as a substitute for substantive action on squatter upgrading programmes based on security of tenure.
115. One representative commented on the need to stimulate the interest of policymakers in the provision of infrastructure in low-income settlements. He drew attention to a meeting of experts on training for the improvement of slums and squatter areas in urban and rural communities, which had taken place at Enschede, the Netherlands, in 1978. At that meeting, it had been suggested that liaison officers should be trained in order to link together target groups, local authorities and central government institutions.

116. Several representatives noted that the guidelines contained in the Executive Director's report in respect of public participation were constructive and should be followed for infrastructure projects. The importance of involving target populations in the planning and execution of infrastructure projects was emphasized.

117. Appreciation was expressed concerning the detailed programme of planned activities provided in the Executive Director's report, and it was noted that similar programmes should be provided in future theme papers.

118. Reference was made to the desirability of following the graduated or step-by-step improvement of low-income settlements. That approach had been the subject of one of the main recommendations of the United Nations Seminar of Experts on Building Codes and Regulations in Developing Countries, held in Sweden in March 1980. The concept represented a suitable alternative for satisfying the basic needs of people, since priorities were established by the people themselves and improvements were made as resources became available. Experience had shown that, in the area of infrastructure, priority was normally placed on the provision of potable water, sanitation and solid-waste disposal through the use of simple technical solutions.

119. It was felt that the recommendations for national action contained in the report could be strengthened if they covered community development, finance and local and community government. It was noted that the inclusion of those elements in infrastructure programmes produced improved programmes, and efforts related to infrastructure must be integrated with the development of the social organization and skills of the community. Moreover, in the long term, the provision of infrastructure should stimulate and strengthen the development of local cottage industries. That in turn would increase the ability of the community to finance further improvements in the built environment. Various types of financial schemes should be studied in order to ensure the availability of resources for infrastructure improvements. It had been demonstrated that local governments best understood the needs and priorities of people and hence were in a better position to formulate locally appropriate standards and designs which might differ from national norms. That was particularly true in those countries affected by wide variations in climate, geography and culture.

120. Some representatives drew attention to the importance of the role that national policies played in the improvement of the quality of man's life through the satisfaction of basic social and economic needs, which made it possible to overcome the problems associated with marginality and the existence of squatter areas. The significance of international co-operation was recognized.

121. A number of representatives emphasized the need for the exchange of information on various subjects related to the provision of infrastructure in low-income settlements in urban and rural areas. Emphasis was placed on the need for information concerning variations in approaches to infrastructure as a function of social, economic and climatic conditions.
C. Action by the Commission

122. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted a decision on the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements (see annex I, decision 4/16).
VI. MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989: (a) UNITED NATIONS CENTRES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT); (b) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

(Agenda item 7)

A. Introduction

123. Committee II considered agenda item 7 at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 29 and 30 April. It had before it the draft medium-term plan for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the period 1984-1989 (HS/C/4/5) and the draft medium-term plans of ECA and ESCAP in the field of human settlements for the period 1984-1989 (HS/C/4/INF.C).

124. The Executive Director, introducing the item, said that the draft medium-term plan for the Centre for the period 1984-1989 had been prepared in the light of directives approved by the Commission in its decisions 3/13, 3/14 and, in particular, 3/15, and in accordance with detailed instructions issued by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in November 1980.

125. The primary substantive guideline issued by the Director-General was that the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 should be designed within the over-all policy framework of the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The new International Development Strategy, the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and General Assembly resolution 32/162 had thus provided the framework of intergovernmental human settlements policy within which the draft medium-term plan had been prepared. The development of human settlements in general and the proposed activities of the Centre in particular would contribute significantly to the achievement of the goals of the new International Development Strategy.

126. With regard to the presentation of the individual subprogrammes contained in the draft medium-term plan, the Executive Director described the format laid down in the instructions issued by the Director-General. A significant feature of that format was the identification of broad developmental objectives at the intergovernmental level and of more specific objectives at the secretariat level that would commit the Secretariat to providing the international community, by the end of the medium-term planning period (1989), with outputs which, if used effectively, would contribute significantly to the solution of the problems addressed and thus to the achievement of the broader intergovernmental objectives of each subprogramme. The continuing functions of the Centre were specified under the corresponding continuing objectives of the various subprogrammes.

127. The strategy for each subprogramme outlined the activities that would be undertaken by the Centre during the three biennial budgets to be covered by the plan.

128. In conclusion, the Executive Director invited the Commission to indicate the relative priority to be accorded to the eight subprogrammes included in the draft medium-term plan. He suggested that highest priority should continue to be accorded to subprogramme 3 (shelter and community services), subprogramme 4 (development of the indigenous construction sector) and subprogramme 5 (appropriate infrastructure
for low-income settlements). He also invited the Commission to indicate whether any of the activities proposed in the draft medium-term plan should be declared obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Director-General.

129. The document presenting the medium-term plans of the regional commissions (HS/C/4/INF.6) had been distributed to the Commission for information purposes only.

B. Discussion

130. Virtually all of the many delegations which spoke on the item expressed considerable satisfaction with the contents and presentation of the draft medium-term plan as submitted by the Executive Director. With regard to general values and priority areas to be emphasized in the medium-term plan, several delegations noted with satisfaction the orientation of the draft plan towards the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. One delegation emphasized the need for the Centre to emphasize the "human" aspects of development in carrying out activities under the medium-term plan and not to over-emphasize the need to accelerate economic growth. Another delegation emphasized the importance of activities designed to develop the informal sector. One delegation emphasized the need for research on new and renewable sources of energy and the conservation of energy. The same delegation noted the preparations that were taking place for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be held in Nairobi in August 1981. That Conference should develop an international programme of action and deal with the question of the generation of adequate financial resources to carry out the programme. The secretariat of the Centre had a duty to make an important contribution in the field of energy. Another delegation noted with satisfaction that the draft medium-term plan focused on the development of rural settlements, which was necessary in order to reduce the rapid growth of the largest cities. One delegation said that the lowest-priority items should also be specified.

131. Several delegations noted the difficulty of predicting what the most important areas of activity would be for individual countries, and therefore for the Centre, in three to eight years' time. One delegation expressed concern about the restriction set forth in the instructions of the Director-General to the effect that no new activity could be added to those now included in the strategies for the different subprogrammes during the entire period covered by the medium-term plan without specific new legislative authorization. That delegation noted the great value of the Centre's rapid launching of a variety of new activities designed to meet the special needs of the newly independent nation of Zimbabwe and expressed the hope that the medium-term planning process would not preclude similar initiatives during the period 1984-1989. In reply to the concern expressed by one delegation that the foregoing restriction, and indeed the whole medium-term planning process, discriminated against countries which could not forecast their needs accurately half a decade or more in advance, the representative of the Executive Director agreed that that was a problem and indicated that it was taken into account when the objectives and strategies of the different subprogrammes were formulated. It was believed that the plan would be flexible enough to allow the Centre's future work programmes to focus on a fairly wide variety of unanticipated problems and respond to emergency situations as they arose in the course of the 1980s. The medium-term plan, as formulated, would provide the Commission with considerable
Flexibility in the design of specific programme elements to be included in the three biennial work programmes embraced by the plan.

132. With regard to subprogramme 1 (HS/C/4/5, paras. 44-51), several delegations indicated that the problem addressed by the subprogramme was indeed important and should receive considerable emphasis. In reply to the comment by one delegation that it was very difficult to solve the problem addressed by the subprogramme—namely, how to formulate appropriate settlement policies—the representative of the Executive Director noted that the section of the subprogramme dealing with strategy suggested how that problem could be dealt with. While the Secretariat did not presume to claim that that strategy would solve the problem completely by 1989, it thought that it should allow the international community to achieve the time-limited objectives of the subprogramme, and attaining those objectives would, in turn, represent a significant contribution to the solution of the problem addressed. Another delegation expressed strong doubt about the feasibility of establishing and implementing national settlements policies because of the political difficulty of giving low priority to any particular settlement.

133. One delegation expressed concern that the title of subprogramme 1 as contained in the draft medium-term plan, namely, "settlements policy analysis" was different from the title used at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and in the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, namely, "settlements policies and strategies". As several delegations supported the general principle of keeping the terminology adopted at the Habitat Conference unless there were compelling reasons to change it, the former title of subprogramme 1, namely "settlements policies and strategies", would be retained for the medium-term plan for 1984-1989.

134. Several delegations indicated that high priority should be given to subprogramme 2, which concerned settlements planning (HS/C/4/5, paras. 52-61). Several other delegations indicated that, because of some overlap between subprogrammes 1 and 2 and because of those subprogrammes' relative lack of priority in comparison with shelter, infrastructure and services, subprogrammes 1 and 2 on human settlements policies and planning should be combined. One delegation said that the most important activity under subprogramme 2 should probably be the organization of training courses for planners. In reply to a comment by one delegation that the concept of growth poles had not proved very useful in settlements planning and the reference to it could well be deleted from the first of the time-limited objectives of the subprogramme, the representative of the Executive Director noted that, at its second session, the Commission had requested the Executive Director to prepare a report on the development of rural settlements and growth centres, which the Commission had considered at its third session (HS/C/3/7). Since the Commission decision 3/13 entitled "rural settlements and growth centres" did not make any reference to growth centres, it was perhaps the view of the Commission that the concept was not a particularly important one. Since no delegation had expressed support for emphasizing the concept, the reference to it would be deleted from the revised draft of the plan.

135. A large number of delegations indicated that very high priority should be given to subprogramme 3, on shelter and community services (HS/C/4/5, paras. 62-68). One delegation stated that the most useful type of activity under subprogramme 3 would concern demonstration projects, with emphasis on public participation and self-help. With regard to the relationship between subprogramme 3 and subprogramme 5, and in reply to a request for clarification of the Centre's definition of the terms
"Infrastructure" and "community services", the representative of the Executive Director stated that the Secretariat had used the term "infrastructure" to mean the physical facilities needed to provide, *inter alia*, water, sanitation, drainage and transportation, and the term "community services" to cover such services as education, health and recreation. One logical basis for that distinction was the fact that infrastructure items had high capital costs in relation to their operating costs, whereas community services were typically more labour-intensive, even in the developed countries. Another was that infrastructure consisted of physical networks for the collection or distribution of physical commodities or people, whereas community services were usually provided in single buildings, to which the people served came from various locations. Two delegations indicated a preference for having infrastructure and shelter remain in the same integrated subprogramme. One delegation stated that, for subprogramme 3, a strategy was needed to co-ordinate the work of the Centre with that of the other agencies in the United Nations system.

136. With regard to subprogramme 4, on the development of the indigenous construction sector (*ibid.*, paras. 69–75), one delegation emphasized the need to study the competitiveness of existing indigenous construction industries and to determine the quality of their products before embarking on the development of new industries. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that such studies could readily be incorporated into the strategy for subprogramme 4 and perhaps could be started as part of the 1982–1983 work programme. Another delegation emphasized that the Centre should not become directly involved in attempting to set up new construction industries, as that sort of activity was the responsibility of other United Nations agencies. The same delegation also suggested that the first of the time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat under subprogramme 4 should be reformulated to read:

"To promote the utilization of indigenous materials and technologies for human settlements construction by focusing on the institutional, informational and financial barriers to their wider application."

That reformulation was adopted.

137. With regard to the selection of the title for subprogramme 5, on appropriate infrastructure for low-income settlements (*ibid.*, paras. 76–92), one delegation recommended that it would be better to use the title "Low-cost infrastructure for settlements". The title used in the draft medium-term plan implied that activities carried out under the subprogramme would be likely to promote the segregation of different income groups. Another delegation supported the suggested change in title, noting also the city-wide character of infrastructure systems. It would be more logical to focus on the development of low-cost infrastructure systems for a settlement as a whole. The representative of the Executive Director agreed that the change was desirable and that the title would be revised as suggested.

138. With regard to priorities for different subject areas within subprogramme 5, one delegation emphasized the importance of sanitation facilities. There was some danger that the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade might emphasize water supply and that insufficient attention would be paid to the problems of sanitation. Another delegation strongly emphasized the importance of the maintenance of infrastructure and recommended that infrastructure maintenance should be included in the first of the time-limited objectives of the Secretariat. The Chairman of Committee II strongly seconded that recommendation.
representative of the Executive Director indicated that the revised draft of the plan would be amended accordingly. Another delegation indicated that the third time-limited objective of the Secretariat under subprogramme 5 was not clearly formulated. The representative of the Executive Director suggested an alternative formulation, namely:

"To identify and promote the development of transport systems in developing countries which would economize on energy consumption, generate efficient land-use patterns and provide greater social equity; this would require, inter alia, an analysis of the physical and economic relationships between the various types of transportation systems within individual settlements and also of the systems which connect different settlements."

The delegation which had raised the matter expressed support for the alternative formulation.

139. Several delegations indicated that subprogramme 6, on land (ibid., paras. 83-86), should be given considerable emphasis. Two delegations specifically emphasized the importance of the second of the time-limited objectives of the secretariat which dealt with the relations between land planning, control, regulation and cadastral mapping. Another delegation recommended that the objectives for subprogramme 6 should focus more clearly on the needs of low-income groups and should not emphasize purely cadastral and other technical aspects. The delegation in question indicated support for the proposal by the representative of the Executive Director to add the phrase "and of low-income groups in particular", at the end of paragraph 84 (ii). Another delegation drew attention to the report of the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cadastral Surveying and Mapping which had met in Tokyo in 1973. The report contained useful information relevant to subprogramme 6.

140. A large number of delegations said that the subject of subprogramme 7, namely, the mobilization of finance for human settlements development (ibid., paras. 89-96), was of great importance. Different views were expressed, however, on how the subject should be built into the structure and content of the medium-term plan. Several delegations emphasized the need to have a separate subprogramme for the subject, as proposed in the draft medium-term plan, while other delegations recommended that it should be regarded as an important aspect of the other subprogrammes. Two delegations suggested expanding the scope of subprogramme 7 to include the mobilization of human and other resources as well as financial resources. Two other delegations emphasized the need for the work under subprogramme 7 to focus on the development of appropriate financial institutions, including non-conventional institutions, to support the informal sector.

141. Two delegations emphasized the need for a commitment by the developed countries to provide more financial resources for the development of human settlements in the developing countries. Four other delegations, however, emphasized that, as there was unlikely to be any growth in global resources, and as their Governments supported the policy of zero net growth in the real resources available to the United Nations system, any additional international resources for human settlements development would have to be obtained by reorienting resources from other United Nations programmes.

142. Several delegations suggested that subprogrammes 7 and 8 could be combined into a single subprogramme, as financial institutions were one of the most important types of institutions for the development of human settlements. One of those delegations,
however, noted that as the formulation of the subprogrammes in the draft medium-term plan (HS/C/4/5) was based on the instruction of the Director-General that each subprogramme should deal with just one problem area and that instruction was based in turn on instructions from Governments transmitted by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, it would withdraw its support for the suggestion to combine subprogrammes 7 and 8.

143. The Commission discussed several possibilities regarding the total number and organization of the subprogrammes. Two delegations said that it would be preferable for the medium-term plan to continue to have the same six subprogrammes and the same titles as used in the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 since those six subprogrammes reflected the six major areas of activity identified at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in 1976. In addition, one of those delegations stated that the subprogrammes in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 should follow as closely as possible the order of the six areas of activity presented in the report of the Habitat Conference, even if the number or titles of the subprogrammes for the 1984-1989 medium-term plan were to be different, the reason being that changing the order of the subprogrammes might appear to imply a corresponding change in the Commission's views on the relative priorities to be given to the different subprogrammes.

144. Several delegations suggested reducing the total number of subprogrammes by combining several of the subprogrammes presented in the draft medium-term plan. One of those delegations suggested that such a reduction would have a number of advantages: it would make it easier for the Commission to decide on relative priorities among fewer subprogrammes; it would reduce the complexity of reporting by the Centre in United Nations documents, as several of the reporting exercises required statements about each of several types of action under each subprogramme; it would ensure greater uniformity in the size of the subprogrammes, since subprogrammes with relatively few planned activities would be grouped together. The Government of the delegation concerned strongly supported the policy of zero net growth in real resources, and it was feared that increasing the number of subprogrammes to eight would lead to a need for additional resources. In connexion with the foregoing point, the delegation concerned also suggested the usefulness of "sunset clauses", which would limit the life of any new (or continued) subprogrammes and require that if new subprogrammes were to be introduced some existing subprogrammes would have to be discontinued. Another delegation questioned the desirability of separating planning and budgeting, as implied in the instructions of the Director-General. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that, basically, the plan assumed staff resources equal to those existing as at 1 January 1981. Those resources were described in the draft medium-term plan (HS/C/4/5, para. 104).

145. Several delegations stated that the introduction to the draft medium-term plan for the Centre should contain a clearer statement about the over-all objectives of the human settlements programme and a more adequate explanation of the reasons for changing the number and titles of the subprogrammes. It should also contain a clear statement of whether or not the addition of the new subprogrammes would be expected to lead to a need for additional staff and financial resources.

146. Another delegation emphasized, however, that there were no obsolete elements in the subprogrammes presented in the draft medium-term plan. The same delegation and several others further emphasized that what was important was the total content of the subprogrammes rather than the subdivision of that content among any particular number of subprogrammes.
147. Nevertheless, one delegation asserted strongly that the burden of proof for adding new subprogrammes was on the proposers of those subprogrammes, namely, the secretariat. If additional resources would not be required for carrying out the greater total number of subprogrammes, that should be clearly stated in the medium-term plan. In connexion with the suggestion for "sunset clauses", the delegation in question commended the inclusion of a section on evaluation in each of the subprogrammes. Several other delegations also supported the need to develop adequate ways of evaluating the activities to be carried out under the different subprogrammes.

148. Several delegations noted that public participation had been deleted as a separate subprogramme, but agreed that it was adequately incorporated into the other subprogrammes.

149. On the question of the priorities which the Commission should recommend for the different subprogrammes, delegations emphasized that it was up to each country to establish its own priorities for national policies and action in human settlements development. Other delegations pointed out, however, that what was required was a recommendation for the priorities to be followed by the Centre in implementing the medium-term plan, not priorities to be followed by individual countries.

150. In addition to discussing priorities for the different subprogrammes, a considerable number of delegations indicated their recommendations for the priorities to be given to the different types of activity carried out by the Centre, namely, research and development, training, technical assistance, demonstration projects and the dissemination of information. Several delegations stated that high priority should be given to training related to the development of the informal sector and to other areas, particularly those envisaged in subprogrammes 4 and 5. One delegation suggested that the resources devoted to training by the Centre should be indicated in tables showing the functional organization of the Centre such as the one shown in the medium-term plan (HS/C/4/5, para. 104). In that delegation's experience, demonstration projects tended to have relatively little impact and benefits were small relative to costs. Two delegations emphasized the need for the Centre to focus its attention on specific practical projects such as those envisaged under subprogrammes 3 and 5. One of those delegations also suggested that it might be better for the Centre not to use so much of its resources in executing relatively routine projects under the UNDP programme but to concentrate on its global role and implement selected technical assistance projects of global interest, such as those provided for under subprogrammes 3 and 5. The other of those two delegations recommended that the Centre should concentrate its resources on practical projects such as training and not on the organization of global meetings. That delegation noted that the Commission had expressed special appreciation for the practical assistance provided to the newly independent nation of Zimbabwe, as called for by the Commission at its second session. The same delegation also questioned the usefulness of the proposed directory service for building materials, doubting that it would be able to include much information on local sources of indigenous materials.

151. One delegation suggested that the medium-term plan should have a more clearly formulated regional dimension, in accordance with Commission decision 3/7. There was need for the more thorough integration of the regional commission's plans with the global elements of the Centre's medium-term plan. In addition, it would be
useful for the Commission to receive the medium-term plans of the regional commissions in a single document. In that connexion, another delegation regretted that the medium-term plan for the ECLA region was not yet available for review by the Commission on Human Settlements. It was noted that ECLA would review its draft medium-term plan for human settlements in the near future. One representative stated that priority should be given to training in the ECLA region. The representative of ESCAP outlined the main features of the medium-term plan for the human settlements programme in the ESCAP region and noted the usefulness of the joint programming exercise that had been carried out with the Centre for the preparation of their respective medium-term plans. Two delegations raised the question of the role of the Commission on Human Settlements with regard to the work of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements. Another delegation noted that General Assembly resolution 32/162 assigned to the Commission the responsibility to review policies, priorities and funding for human settlements programmes of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels as well as at the global level.

152. Two delegations expressed great concern about the possibility that the office of Vision Habitat at Dakar, Senegal, might have to be phased out for lack of funding. One of those delegations stated that its Government was prepared to provide some financial support in order to enable the office to continue its operations and appealed to other Governments to contribute also. A third delegation said that, before establishing new bodies, it was necessary to ensure that the necessary resources would remain available long enough to ensure that the existence of the body would not be jeopardized.

153. Several delegations expressed concern about the late receipt of the draft medium-term plan (HS/C/4/5) and other documents in their official working language, and specifically requested that the representative of the Executive Director convey that concern to the Executive Director.

154. One delegation also questioned the accuracy of the translation of several concepts from the original English version of the draft medium-term plan into the French version. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that the question would be brought to the attention of the relevant French translation sections (in Geneva and New York) for their consideration in preparing any future translation of the medium-term plan.

C. Action by the Commission

155. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee II, adopted a decision on the draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (see annex I, decision 4/17).
VII. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIAL 1982-1983: (a) UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT); (b) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

A. Introduction

156. Committee II considered agenda item 8 at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 30 April and 1 May. It had before it the draft work programme and programme budget of the Centre for the biennium 1982-1983 (HS/C/4/6) and the draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1982-1983 (HS/C/4/INF.7).

157. In his statement introducing the item, the Executive Director said that, in accordance with Commission decision 3/16, the draft work programme and programme budget had been prepared as a single comprehensive document. The substantive areas of activity included in the draft were based on the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 3/ and its revisions 4/ and on the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission at its third session, particularly those concerning the need to focus on ways of meeting the basic needs of the most disadvantaged groups of the population. The draft work programme proposed action by the Centre to identify problems of critical importance, to bring those problems to the attention of all those concerned with human settlements, including the donor community, and to promote the mobilization of resources and information networks with a view to solving such problems. The Centre would continue to carry out joint programming exercises with the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies.

158. The draft work programme and programme budget had been organized on the basis of the six subprogrammes used in the work programme and programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, which in turn corresponded to the six major subject areas identified at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in 1976.

159. The Executive Director outlined for the Commission the format used for the presentation of the individual subprogrammes, a format based on instructions issued by the Office of Financial Services. In addition to tables showing the proposed use of resources for individual programme elements within each subprogramme the draft contained separate summaries for special projects, including technical co-operation projects, to be financed from extrabudgetary sources. The Centre was requesting authorization from the Commission to implement those projects in accordance with the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

160. The draft work programme and programme budget had already been reviewed by the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination and the Office of Financial Services. As a result, the Centre's requirements had been revised and no longer included requests for the following:

4/ Ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/35/6).

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(a) The establishment of one new regular-budget post at the P-4 level for the Quinquennial Global Report on Human Settlements;

(b) The conversion of the eight Professional and four local-level posts redeployed to the regional commissions from temporary assistance to established posts;

(c) The upgrading of two existing regular-budget posts from the P-3 level to the P-4 level;

(d) The establishment of one new training officer's post at the P-4 level to be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

161. The Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a separate document requesting the establishment on a permanent basis of the 12 posts redeployed to the regional commissions.

162. In addition, the review of the draft work programme and programme budget had resulted in an over-all reduction of $185,700 in the funds being requested under the regular budget for the biennium 1982-1983 to cover the cost of consultants, ad hoc expert groups, official travel and printing and binding. Proportionate reductions would therefore be made in each subprogramme to reflect that over-all reduction.

163. The document presenting the work programmes and programme budgets of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements (HS/C/4/INF.7) had been submitted to the Commission for information purposes only.

B. Discussion

164. The Committee commended the Executive Director on his thorough presentation of the work programme and programme budget for 1982-1983 and on his careful and exact implementation of the wishes of the Commission, as expressed in its decision 3/16, to the effect that the work programme and programme budget should be prepared as a single comprehensive document. Many delegations felt that the contents of the draft work programme and programme budget were not only well structured but were also fully consistent with the objectives of the Commission and the United Nations. In particular, attention was drawn to the fact that the draft work programme was designed to provide support for national programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of low-income populations. The Executive Director was further commended on his efforts to co-ordinate the activities of the Centre with those of other United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, and on his efforts to relate substantive activities and resource expenditures.

165. Regarding the utilization of extrabudgetary resources for specific human settlements projects, it was pointed out by some delegations that the Executive Director should implement projects in accordance with the priorities and principles specified by the Commission in its decision 2/1. The representative of the Executive Director stated that the Centre would implement projects specified in the work programme only as resources became available. A number of delegations expressed concern about the lack of resources of the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) for project implementation and called upon Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to the Foundation. Several
delegations asked for more information on the use of extrabudgetary resources. They requested the Executive Director to prepare for the next session of the Commission a report stating the total amount of extrabudgetary resources received, broken down by source and use.

166. Although representatives were mindful of the efforts made by the Executive Director in the past to co-ordinate the work programme of the Centre with those of the regional commissions, a number of delegates stressed the need for close co-operation in the development of human settlements programmes with each of the regional commissions. Furthermore, some representatives observed that there was a pressing need to strengthen the human settlements programmes of the regions and to establish a regional intergovernmental body in each region. In addition, some representatives felt that the implementation of the work programme should be based on technical co-operation among developing countries and that every effort should be made to utilize qualified individuals from the developing regions for programme implementation. One delegation recalled that, in its resolution 3/7, the Commission had recommended that the Executive Director of the Centre should bear in mind that the formulation of regional policies and programmes was a responsibility of the regions and that there must therefore be a regional programme incorporating both the regional component of the over-all programme of the Centre and the programmes of the regional intergovernmental committees, which should take into account subregional and regional interests.

167. A number of representatives expressed their countries' views on the relative priority that ought to be accorded to the various subprogrammes and activities of the Centre. Some felt that training and education should be given high priority, while another felt that emphasis should be placed on system-wide co-ordination in human settlements policies. Another delegation felt that emphasis should be placed on supporting local and practical projects and programmes rather than efforts at the global level. The delegation in question raised questions about programme element 1.3 and indicated that it did not support the idea of biennial reporting to the Commission, as it believed that the preparation of the Quinquennial Global Report on Human Settlements was sufficient.

168. Although delegations were generally quite pleased with the work programme, some believed that the Centre ought to incorporate evaluation more explicitly into its over-all programme of work. Specifically, it was suggested that the Centre should undertake a review of its activities on the basis of the breakdown of activities presented in the annex to subprogramme 1 (HS/C/4/6, pp. 24-30). The purpose of the review would be to establish the relationships between the Centre's activities and other programmes and organizational units of the United Nations. It was also proposed that the Centre should seek to obtain synoptic estimates or evaluations of the impact of its research and development, information and technical assistance programmes. Finally, it was proposed that the Centre should undertake an analysis of the effectiveness of its co-operation with other United Nations bodies, especially UNDP.

169. The Centre was commended by one delegation for including the topic of the planning of human settlements in disaster-prone areas (programme element 2.8). However, it was noted that it would also be desirable to include a companion programme element within subprogramme 3 to focus on the implementation of appropriate projects.
170. The Commission took up each of the subprogrammes and, generally speaking, very few reservations were expressed. However, some delegations were concerned about the financial implications of the proposed International Year of the Homeless, provided for in programme element 3.2. Some representatives felt that the resources to be set aside under the work programme for the activities associated with the international year would be inadequate for such a large-scale undertaking. Moreover, some representatives felt that both the regular-budget and the extrabudgetary resources tentatively allocated to the international year might be better utilized for other programme activities. The Commission agreed that, if the international year of the homeless was not approved by the various organs of the United Nations, then the Executive Director would be free to allocate the resources currently programmed for the international year to other elements of the work programme in accordance with the priorities set by the Commission. One delegation raised the question about the desirability of holding the World Conference on Human Settlements Technology, as provided for in programme element 3.3, and noted that the resources currently allocated to such a conference might be put to better use elsewhere in the work programme. Finally, a number of delegations were pleased to note that the work programme contained a section on evaluation for each subprogramme. Thus, it should be possible to evaluate generally the benefits to be derived from the work undertaken by the Centre.

171. Attention was drawn to subprogramme 4 (land-use policy), and some representatives expressed concern about the limited volume of resources allocated to the subprogramme. Some delegations felt strongly that more emphasis should be accorded to the role of land in human settlements development and requested that land concerns be given emphasis in a number of other subprogrammes, particularly subprogrammes 2 and 3. The Centre’s work in the area of land should be focused and concentrated on such goals as: learning from countries’ successes in resolving problems of security of tenure in squatter settlements; facilitating effective decision-making in the management of the conversion of land in the urban fringe from agricultural to settlement use; understanding the nature and causes of inflation in land prices and its impact on low-income groups in order to develop appropriate public policies.

172. One representative emphasized the need to generate projects with far-reaching impact and benefits that would accrue to more than one country. With regard to the objective of maximizing the success of ongoing programmes, especially in terms of generating feedback based on actual experience, the same representative said that his government would be willing to participate in a technical co-operation project with the Centre so that his country’s human settlements experience could be used for actual field training through study tours or seminars in the country itself.

173. A representative of ESCAP outlined the structure and contents of the proposed 1982–1983 work programme in the field of human settlements approved by ESCAP at its thirty-seventh session held at Bangkok from 10 to 20 March 1981. The representative indicated the satisfaction of ESCAP concerning the extent of its co-operation with the Centre to date, co-operation that encompassed the fruitful joint programming exercise.

174. A number of representatives expressed their extreme dissatisfaction concerning the late distribution of Commission documentation in the French, Russian and Spanish languages. The Centre was instructed to make every effort in future to ensure that all countries received copies of all documents in the appropriate languages sufficiently well in advance of the Commission’s session. That would
enable Member States to evaluate the documentation thoroughly prior to the Commission meeting.

175. One delegation, speaking on behalf of the Eastern European States members of the Commission, said that those countries supported the decision on the draft work programme and programme budget of the Centre for the biennium 1982-1983 as a whole, but wished to recall that their position with regard to Commission decision 3/16 concerning the conversion of 12 posts to established regular-budget posts, as outlined in a joint statement issued by socialist European States members of the Economic and Social Council at the Council's second regular session in 1980, remained unchanged. One delegation expressed the view that those posts should be made available under the existing resources of the regional commissions themselves.

C. Action by the Commission

176. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee II, adopted a decision on the work programme and programme budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1982-1983 (see annex I, decision 4/18).
A. Periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements: interim report of the Executive Director on Commission resolution 2/3 of 4 April 1979

1. Introduction

177. Committee I considered agenda item 9 (a) at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 April. It had before it the interim report of the Executive Director concerning the biennial 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 system and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system (HS/C/4/7).

178. Introducing the item, the representative of the Executive Director said that, for the collection and presentation of information for the periodic reports, it was proposed to use a modified version of the format used for previous reports. The report to be submitted to the Commission at its fifth session would cover direct bilateral assistance, multilateral financial assistance and assistance provided by the United Nations system. The report would take the form of a series of tables, the format of which would be as described in the report before the Commission (HS/C/4/7, annexes I and II), and would include an analytical overview. Among other things, it was proposed that reports on the relevant activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and of non-governmental organizations should be presented to the Commission at its fifth session as information documents.

179. It was emphasized that information on bilateral assistance on human settlements was not generally available from sources other than the countries involved themselves and that the Secretariat could complete the relevant section of the biennial report only if countries themselves provided the required information. Finally, it was suggested that the Commission should consider requesting a more concentrated report for 1984, focusing on a priority area or issue rather than on all of the human settlements activities of bilateral and international organizations. However, the biennial report due in 1986 could, like the report to be submitted in 1982, include reports on all human settlements activities, since 1986 would be the tenth anniversary of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

2. Discussion

180. Some delegations commented on the proposals for the 1982 biennial report and subsequent biennial reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements. One delegation suggested that it would be helpful to have a more precise definition of human settlements and that special attention should be paid to technical co-operation among developing countries. Another delegation questioned
the usefulness of global biennial reports and proposed that such reports be prepared every four or five years rather than every two years. It was also suggested that it could be useful for the Commission to review not only current human settlements activities in the United Nations system but also the various medium-term plans.

181. In summing up the discussion on the item, the Chairman noted that delegations obviously found the suggestions of the Executive Director for the 1982 biennial report and subsequent biennial reports to be generally acceptable and that the first biennial report would be presented in the agreed format for review and consideration by the Commission at its fifth session.

3. Action by the Commission

182. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted a decision on periodic reports on international co-operation and assistance on human settlements (see annex I, decision h/19).

B. Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment

1. Introduction

183. Committee I discussed item 9 (b) at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 April. It had before it the report of the Executive Director on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment (HS/C/4/8).

184. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts had met at Nairobi in January 1981. He had directed the Group to focus its attention primarily on the financing of settlements, infrastructure and services and on the obstacles impeding the flow of funds to those sectors at the international, national and local levels.

185. The Group of Experts had concerned itself particularly with the large number of secondary towns and cities in the developing world, many of which suffered from poor administration and isolation from decision-making centres. More than one level of government was almost invariably involved in the provision of the necessary services, and the potential usefulness of intermediary institutions appeared to be considerable.

186. In examining the existing and potential role of financial intermediaries, particularly national development financing institutions, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts had recommended that national Governments consider extending the activities and operations of those institutions, either through the creation of specialized departments or through the formation of new subsidiary companies designed solely to finance urban infrastructure projects at the local or municipal level.

187. The report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (HS/C/4/8, annex) contained 33 recommendations covering such questions as the need to re-examine and reform
ne of intergovernmental relations, the problem of effective revenue administration at the local government level and the increased use by local authorities of benefit or user charges.

189. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts was invited to present the Group’s report and recommendations to the Committee.

189. The Chairman said that the two principal issues with which the Group of Experts had been faced concerned firstly the question as to whether and in what way more resources could be mobilized for the financing and delivery of the services under discussion and secondly the question as to how relations between local government and central government could be reorganized to make it possible to deliver more and better services within the limits of the resources already available.

190. With regard to the second of those issues, the Chairman stressed the need to examine and reform the system of central, state and local government relations within many of the developing countries and noted that the Group of Experts had recommended that, as a first step, national Governments should establish special high-level commissions to examine the problem and to recommend basic reforms where necessary.

191. With regard to the means to be used to mobilize additional resources for financing local public services, it was recommended that improved property tax administration be strongly emphasized. Central governments should provide loans or matching grants to enable local authorities to identify properties, improve their records and update assessments. International agencies should also be prepared to assist with funding and technical assistance. The Group had also recommended the much greater use of benefit or user charges and the introduction at all levels of government of specific programmes designed to improve the managerial capability of personnel engaged in urban development financing and administration.

192. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts then addressed the question of how more resources could be mobilized for the financing and delivery of services and infrastructure and drew attention to the possibility of using national development financing institutions for that purpose. The creation of specialized public institutions entrusted with extending credit for public sector projects directly to local authorities would improve access to such projects for international lenders. It was therefore recommended that consideration should be given to the establishment of new specialized financial intermediaries or, preferably, to the extension of the activities and operations of existing development financing institutions.

193. In order to encourage development financing institutions to extend their operations as proposed, it was recommended that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should co-operate with the World Federation of Development Financing Institutions, as well as with the regional associations of development financing institutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America in order to promote the appropriate activities among their members.

194. The Chairman also informed the Committee that, in the opinion of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, there was a lack of information and knowledge about existing financial intermediaries already specializing to some extent in the provision of human settlements infrastructure and services. It was therefore recommended that
the Centre might assist in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, review
the experiences of the institutions in question and disseminate its findings among
developing countries.

2. Discussion

195. In the discussion that followed, many delegations stressed the need, in the
operations of existing or new financial institutions for human settlements, to pay
greater attention to the special needs and circumstances of the poor. It was,
however, underlined that loans could hardly reach the poorest groups, since such
groups did not have the regular cash incomes needed to repay loans and interest.
One delegation pointed out that the recommendation to increase collection
efficiency for all local revenues by making the penalties for non-payment much more
severe (HS/C/4/8, annex, para. 65(d)) would probably have the effect of placing an
even greater burden on the poor.

196. Another delegation considered that an important point was the impact of
inflation on loan financing, since inflation created increasing difficulties for
both borrowers and lenders. He noted that the Group of Experts had considered
a background paper on the subject and had recommended that the issue be given
special attention in future work. In reply, the Chairman of the Group of Experts
underlined the seriousness of the inflation problem and emphasized the need for
further study of it, but he noted that it was one of the areas which the Group of
Experts had had to set aside in order to fulfil its basic mandate in the limited
time it had had available to it.

197. Many delegations welcomed the report of the Group of Experts and expressed
their general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations set out therein
(HS/C/4/8, annex, chap. IV). Many delegations also expressed the view that high
priority should be given to strengthening financial institutions for human
settlements in the programmes of national Governments and the United Nations
Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Several delegations described the
situation in their own countries and the efforts being made to strengthen existing
financial institutions for human settlements financing and investment, as well as
to establish new ones.

198. With regard to the future role and programmes of the Centre, the Executive
Director was asked to pay special attention to the need for training and for the
dissemination of information on the experiences of different countries, on existing
international, national and local financial institutions for human settlements and
on ways and means of strengthening them. As a matter of priority, new efforts should
be made to expand existing financial facilities or to create new facilities for
human settlements. At the regional level, for example, the need for an Asian
housing bank was cited by one delegation as a major concern.

199. One delegation pointed out that massive amounts of new resources were unlikely
to be made available to multilateral or bilateral institutions. In fact, the level of
available resources might even decline and, as a consequence, the financing of
human settlements programmes would probably have to be based increasingly on national
and local sources. There was a need to provide security of land tenure as a basis
for making financial assistance for the improvement of living conditions more
accessible to the poor in urban and rural settlements.
200. Two delegations drew attention to a project of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development related to the role of central and regional governments in urban development. The results of the OECD study would probably be available in early 1962, and it was suggested that those results should be taken into account for future activities of the Centre.

201. In summarizing the main points emerging from the discussion, the Chairman noted that all delegations generally concurred with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, as set forth in the Group’s report (HS/C/4/8, annex, chap. IV).

3. Action by the Commission

202. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted:

(a) Decision 4/20 on ways and means of establishing or strengthening financial institutions for urban settlements financing and investment (see annex I);

(b) Resolution 4/14 on the creation of an Asian human settlements bank (see annex I).

C. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

1. Introduction

203. Committee I considered agenda item 9 (c) at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 April. It had before it the interim report of the Executive Director concerning the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HS/C/4/2/Add.1 and supplements 1 and 2).

204. Introducing the item, the representative of the Executive Director said that the report before the Committee had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 34/116 which, among other things, requested Member States to report every two years to the Commission on Human Settlements on the progress made in implementing the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and, where possible, on the level and sources of international and national funding being devoted to human settlements activities.

205. He pointed out that 44 Member States had submitted reports: 8 from Africa, 6 from Latin America, 11 from Asia and 19 from the ECE region. As a result of the experience gained during the first round of biennial reporting, some suggestions had been made in the report regarding the criteria, contents, approach and formats for the next round of reporting which would take place in 1983 (HS/C/4/2/Add.1, paras. 124). Among other things, it was recommended that a common framework be used for future national reports in order to enhance the comparability of data and facilitate the preparation of an overview. In addition, future reports might usefully concentrate on a specific policy area or priority concern rather than on all six areas for national action, as had been done in the past.
2. Discussion

206. During the discussion that followed, several delegations expressed the hope that, although 44 countries had submitted reports in 1981, many more countries would do so for future rounds of reporting. Some modifications were proposed in connexion with some of the terms used in the suggestions for the preparation of future biennial reports. For example, it was proposed that reports should not be called "progress reports" in order to encourage countries to report on difficulties as well as progress in implementing the recommendations.

207. One delegation expressed the view that such national reports could be better presented and discussed at the regional level. It also questioned the usefulness of discussing such reports at the global level and proposed that reporting at the global level should take place on a quinquennial basis. Other delegations stressed the continuing need for close co-operation and co-ordination with the regional economic commissions concerning the format and timing of requests for such reports from Member States. As with the biennial reports on financial assistance to and among developing countries in the field of human settlements, the view was expressed that it would be helpful to have a more precise definition of human settlements.

208. One delegation submitted some additional information to supplement its national report and suggested that, in addition to the summary of the country reports, it would be useful to have copies of the reports themselves. Each country could be responsible for preparing and disseminating reports on the basis of a common format.

209. The representative of UNIDO summarized the principal priorities of UNIDO activities in the field of human settlements and briefly described several projects being implemented by UNIDO in connexion with, for example, the provision of support to small enterprises for making low-cost building materials using local labour and materials. One such project concerned the provision of training on building construction in seismic areas and was being executed by UNIDO in co-operation with the Centre. UNIDO welcomed the establishment of the new audio-visual centre for eastern Europe and would co-operate in developing the centre's programme and services. The representative of ESCAP also described some of the principal human settlements activities of his organization and stated his appreciation for the close co-operation and support of the Centre.

210. In summing up the discussion on the item, the Chairman noted that the proposals regarding the criteria, contents, approach and formats for the next round of biennial reporting in 1983 were generally acceptable, although some modification should be made to some of the terms, as suggested by several delegations.

3. Action by the Commission

211. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted a decision on progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (see annex I, decision 4/21).
IX. BUDGETARY MATTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) FOR THE BIENNIIUM

A. Introduction

212. Committee II considered agenda item 10 at its 5th meeting, on 1 May. It had
before it the proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements
Foundation for the biennium 1982-1983 (HS/C/4/9 and Add.1), the report of the
Executive Director on administrative, financial and budgetary matters of the Centre
(HS/C/4/INF.9) and a report on pledges to the United Nations Habitat and Human
Settlements Foundation as at 1 April 1981 (HS/C/4/INF.12).

213. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that document HS/C/4/9 could
be divided into two parts. The first part provided a report on the state of
resources of the Foundation as at 31 December 1980 and the second part contained
estimates of the resources of the Foundation for the biennium 1982-1983. The second
part also detailed the proposed allocation of funds for the 1982-1983 biennium.

214. The current state of the resources of the Foundation was more favourable than
had been anticipated at the third session of the Commission. The level of
contributions had exceeded original expectations, with 65 countries, including
52 developing countries, contributing to the Foundation. He expressed his
gratitude to the donor Governments and appealed for their continued support for
the efforts of the Centre.

215. With regard to resources and expenditure, the estimates for the biennium
1982-1983 assumed the same level of contributions as in the current biennium. The
resource base for the next biennium was estimated at $US 8.4 million, distributed
as follows: $3.3 million for programme and programme support costs, $2 million for
project expenditures, $2.5 million in unencumbered funds and $553,300 for the fund
reserve.

216. The estimates for programme and programme support costs for the biennium
1982-1983 would exceed the corresponding outlays in 1980-1981 by some $1 million,
principally because of the increase in standard costs per post resulting from the
decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session to incorporate
30 points of post adjustment into the base salary. The increased inflation
projected for the biennium 1982-1983 was another contributory cause. None of the
increases were attributable to any staffing change, and the staffing level approved
for 1980-1981 was to be maintained. With regard to project commitments, however,
project activity would increase in response to the increasing number of requests
for assistance from Member States. For the reserve fund, it was recommended that
the Commission approve the same level of reserve resources as had been approved
for 1980-1981. That would still leave an unencumbered balance of funds for the
biennium of $2.5 million to be used for programme implementation.

217. In response to the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions (HS/C/4/9/Add.1), he had no difficulty in accepting the broader
recommendations of the Committee and asked for flexibility in utilizing the
resources provided for in his budget proposals.
218. With regard to the concern of the Advisory Committee that the Foundation might run out of funds except for its reserve at the end of the biennium 1982-1983, the Executive Director indicated that, in his estimates of resources, he had not taken into account the $1.5 million pledged or contributed since the preparation of the budget and potential miscellaneous income of $900,000. Those amounts taken together would increase the resources of the Foundation by $2.4 million.

219. With regard to the comments of the Advisory Committee on the staffing and programme support costs of the Foundation, he emphasized that he was not asking for any additional posts and was seeking approval only for the maintenance of the existing staffing level, which was required to implement the work programme. While he had no difficulty in adhering to the recommendation made the previous year, and repeated in the current year, that two posts (one at the Assistant Secretary-General level and one at the P-4 level) be kept vacant, he hoped that, should the resources of the Foundation increase and the workload so require, he would have the flexibility to fill those two posts.

220. With respect to the comments of the Advisory Committee on the costing of inflation, he stated that the costing was based on standard costs and inflation rates provided centrally by the Office of Financial Services. Any savings which resulted from the difference between actual and standard costs would naturally accrue to the Foundation.

221. On the observations of the Advisory Committee on the activities of Vision Habitat and its financing, he reminded the Committee that the former United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (UNAVIC), also known as Vision Habitat, had ceased to exist on 1 April 1980. It had been replaced by a unified information service of the Centre, as provided for in resolution 3/9 of the Commission. Some Governments had contributed funds to the Foundation and stipulated that those funds must be utilized to support the activities of the office of the Centre in their regions, but the regional offices had no separate identity from that of the Centre.

222. With regard to project activities and the justification for "non-staff" costs, the project activities of the Foundation were self-contained. They were completely separate from programme support costs. The latter related to fund-raising and administrative support activities of the Foundation. Out of $948,100 requested for programme support, 72 per cent, or $683,100, related to salary and common staff costs, and the balance of $265,000 consisted primarily of three large items, namely, $84,800 for fund-raising travel, $90,200 for communications and $60,000 for supplies and materials. Adequate travel funds were required in view of the importance of fund-raising to ensure the continued viability of the Foundation. The amount requested for communications was required mainly for the information dissemination activities of the regional offices. The amounts requested for supplies and materials reflected the requirements of all the staff of the Foundation and were calculated on the basis of minimum requirements. He recommended that his budget proposals be approved by the Committee.

B. Discussion

223. The Committee expressed its appreciation and satisfaction with regard to the documentation provided. The presentation and the contents were both concise and informative. Several delegations commended the Executive Director for the restraint shown both in the utilization of resources and in his budget proposals for the biennium 1982-1983, and they expressed full support for his proposals.
224. In accepting the clarification provided by the Executive Director on the various issues raised by the Advisory Committee, several delegations wondered why those issues had not been ironed out during the Advisory Committee's review of the budget proposals. The Committee was informed that, as the Advisory Committee had not been in session at the time those budgetary proposals had been examined, there had been no opportunity to clarify the various points raised by it at a formal meeting.

225. Several delegations said that there was an urgent need to augment the resources of the Foundation to enable the Centre to implement the minimum programme of work required to meet the growing needs of developing countries. One delegation appealed to Member States to make at least a token contribution during the Commission's session in recognition of the urgency of the problems that existed and the need to tackle them. Some delegations expressed the view that, in view of the lengthy budgetary procedures involved, it might not be possible to respond to that appeal within the given time, but their Governments continued to support the activities of the Centre fully and would find ways of providing support for those activities in a variety of ways other than the announcement of a contribution.

226. One delegation emphasized the need to fill the Assistant Secretary-General post so that a high-level official could visit capitals with the specific purpose of soliciting support from donor Governments. That was not a matter that could be dealt with effectively through correspondence. The Executive Director should therefore fill the post at an early date. Another delegation felt that, in view of the budgetary constraints and the limited resources of the Foundation, the question of filling the post in question should be considered carefully, and in the meantime, efforts should be made to raise funds through other channels.

227. Several delegations noted with satisfaction the establishment of a unified information service, of which the field offices in the various regions formed an integral part. The information offices located in the regions served the special needs of their respective regions.

228. The Chairman of the Committee, in order to reconcile the views of those delegations which supported the proposals of the Executive Director and those which, though in agreement, would nevertheless prefer to see the proposals implemented in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, proposed to the Committee that it recommend that the allocation of resources requested by the Executive Director be approved and that the Executive Director enjoy flexibility in complying with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

229. The Committee so decided without objection.

C. Action by the Commission

230. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee II, adopted:

(a) Decision 4/22 on budgetary matters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1982-1983 (see annex I);

(b) Resolution 4/15 on the mobilization of financial resources for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (see annex I).
X. MATTER ARISING FROM A DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
PROPOSAL TO DECLARE AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR DEVOTED TO
THE PROBLEMS OF THE HOMELESS

A. Introduction

231. The Commission considered agenda item 11 at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on
28 April and 1 May. It had before it the report of the Executive Director on the
proposal to declare an international year devoted to the problems of the homeless
(HS/C/4/2/Add.2).

232. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that the General Assembly,
in its resolution 35/76, had expressed the view that an international year devoted
to the problems of homeless people in urban and rural areas in the developing
countries could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the
international community on those problems. The General Assembly had therefore
requested the Executive Director to report, after appropriate consultations with
Governments, to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Human
Settlements at its fourth session, on the implications of declaring an international
year which would be committed to homes for the poor and the homeless and would
focus world-wide attention on the rehabilitation of the shanty-dweller.

233. For the purposes of the report before the Commission (HS/C/4/2/Add.2), the
term "homeless" had been taken to mean people without any shelter at all and people
who lived in shelter "unfit for human habitation". The title "international year
of the homeless" was also a tentative one.

234. The over-all goal of the proposed international year would be to enable the
homeless in urban and rural settlements to secure adequate shelter. The specific
objectives of the international year would be to focus world attention on the
problems of the homeless, to demonstrate practical approaches to the solution of
those problems, to assess and improve related policies, programmes and institutions,
to disseminate information and to provide training. For a variety of reasons, the
mobilization of the homeless themselves would be an essential feature of the
programme, which would be designed to contribute to the International Development
Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade at the global level and
to socio-economic development plans at the national level. At the regional level,
the programme would be designed to dovetail with regional strategies.

235. The Commission might wish to indicate its willingness to act as the
intergovernmental body responsible for guiding the work of the Secretariat, and,
also, to recommend to the General Assembly that the Centre be designated as lead
agency with a small secretariat under the Executive Director reporting to the
Secretary-General. Such an approach would not only result in considerable economy
but would also ensure maximum harmony between the international year and ongoing
human settlements programmes and activities.

236. The Executive Director requested the Commission's guidance as to the type of
activities that should be carried out at the global and regional levels and, above
all, at the national level. Some possible activities had been listed in the
document before the Commission (HS/C/4/2/Add.2, paras. 31-33), but that list was by no means final or exhaustive. Any further suggestions from the Commission would be helpful not only in developing a viable programme for the international year but also in preparing a statement on the resources that would be needed to implement the programme. Should the Commission decide to endorse the proposal to hold an international year, a detailed statement on administrative and financial implications would have to be prepared for the General Assembly.

237. A decision would have to be taken on the date of the proposed international year and, as indicated in the report, the most suitable years might be 1984 or 1986, since in 1982 the World Assembly on Aging would be convened, 1983 had been designated World Communications Year and 1985 had been designated International Youth Year. However, the Secretariat had recently learned of proposals to hold the Second World Population Conference in 1984, which would be the tenth anniversary of the 1974 World Population Conference.

238. In conclusion, the Executive Director stated that the total number of homeless people today was perhaps well over 1 billion, out of a total world population of just over 4 billion, and regrettably, in many parts of the world, the over-all problem was getting worse. Moreover, although the situation of the homeless should not be considered hopeless, it should not be thought that that situation could be resolved merely by holding an international year. The purpose of the international year of the homeless, if declared, would be to set in motion a process whereby the application of the resources and ingenuity of homeless families themselves - combined with national efforts and the requisite support from the United Nations system, the relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations - would produce significant and tangible results during the 1980s and 1990s.

B. Discussion

239. Most delegations strongly supported the proposal for an international year devoted to the problems of homeless people in urban and rural areas in developing countries. There was a widespread feeling that the problems of human settlements, and particularly the problems of the homeless and the poor, were so acute, so pervasive and so critically pressing that the efforts of individual countries would not be sufficient to overcome them. Accordingly, collective action on a global scale was called for, and such action could be appropriately stimulated through the declaration of an international year which would focus the attention of the international community on the poorest of the poor who lived in slums and shanties or who had no shelter at all. Since shelter was a basic need for all human beings, it deserved recognition as an area for concerted and concentrated world-wide action, with particular efforts being made at the national and local levels, but with necessary support being provided at the global and regional levels.

240. Most delegations indicated that they would be satisfied with the selection of either 1984 or 1986 as the proposed international year. A few delegations stated that they had no preference at all and would accept any suitable year. Several delegations expressed a strong preference for 1984, stating that the urgency of the problem would be de-emphasized by the selection of a year too far in the future. One delegation, however, expressed the view that, in designating a particular year,
full consideration should be given to the time required for adequate preparations if the objectives were to be realized. There must be sufficient time for the consideration of all important issues and, in particular, for the identification of the results to be achieved and the means to be adopted.

241. Two delegations expressed reservations about the declaration of an international year, noting that one of the criteria in the guidelines established by the Economic and Social Council for the declaration of international years might preclude human settlements as a topic of an international year prior to 1987. It was noted that, had an international conference been proposed instead of an international year, 1986 would be the earliest date for which such a conference could be scheduled. A number of delegations pointed out that the proposal complied with practically all the Economic and Social Council guidelines and that some flexibility of interpretation was permissible, since the provisions were guidelines and not mandatory requirements. One delegation expressed the view that an international year would not be a useful exercise and that the funds required could be spent more effectively in other ways.

242. One delegation noted that the Commission had not been asked to take a decision on the matter of an international year but had rather been requested to report on the financial and other implications if such a year were to be declared by the General Assembly. It was generally agreed that a decision on the matter would be taken by the General Assembly on the advice of the Economic and Social Council. Nevertheless, most delegations reiterated their strong support for the proposal and further expressed the view that the Commission on Human Settlements was the appropriate intergovernmental body to guide activities related to the international year, while the Centre, under the guidance of the Commission, should be designated as the lead agency within the United Nations system.

C. Action by the Commission

243. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission adopted a resolution on the proposal to declare an international year of shelter for the homeless (see annex I, resolution 4/2).
XI. MATTER ARISING FROM A DECISION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:
CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT) TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY

A. Introduction

244. Committee I considered agenda item 12 at its 6th and 7th meetings, on
30 April and 1 May. It had before it the report of the Executive Director on
the contribution of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the
United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (HS/C/4/2/Add.3).

245. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that, by its decision 3/12,
the Commission had asked him to incorporate activities related to energy in human
settlements into the work programme of the Centre in order to provide developing
countries with guidelines for developing energy-efficient human settlements. In
the same decision, the Commission had also requested the Executive Director to
recommend to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and
Renewable Sources of Energy, scheduled for August 1981, that the subject of energy
requirements and conservation in human settlements be included as a discussion item
at the forthcoming Conference and that steps be taken to ensure that the Centre
participated in and contributed to the deliberations of that Conference.

246. Accordingly, several elements on energy, as it related to human settlements,
had been incorporated into the Centre's draft medium-term plan for the period
1984-1989 (HS/C/4/5). Energy-related activities in the draft plan included: the
development of guidelines for the planning of settlements systems and individual
settlements in rural and urbanized regions in relation to, inter alia, energy
requirements and energy conservation in transport networks, environmental
considerations and national and regional planning for economic and social
development; the analysis in developing countries of the relationships between
intra-settlement and intersettlement transport systems for persons and goods in
terms of energy consumption, impact on land-use patterns and social equity; and the
development, testing and dissemination of methods for determining energy
requirements, for conserving energy and for utilizing renewable sources of energy
in the provision of infrastructure for low-income settlements.

247. The Centre's work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 also made provision for
initial work to be carried out on the development of criteria for the utilization of
alternative sources of energy, the introduction of more efficient uses of energy
in human settlements and the development of pilot demonstration projects on
renewable energy sources for the rural poor. Another project concerned studies for
the promotion of conservation measures, the efficient use of energy in building
and the introduction of innovative technologies. From those studies, criteria
would be developed for the production of building materials, the design of buildings
and the execution of building operations. A workshop would be organized on the
use of solar energy in the design of buildings, and data on modes of transportation,
transportation mixes and patterns of transportation in human settlements would be
compiled and analysed with a view to the preparation of a global report on human
settlements which would also refer to energy issues.
248. As for the substantive contribution of the Centre to the preparatory activities of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, officials of the Centre had participated in technical and interagency meetings organized by the Conference secretariat, and the Centre had submitted substantive papers on land use in relation to solar energy, the role of passive heating and cooling systems in human settlements, and rural energy and the rural habitat. Those papers contained recommendations for action at the national and global levels.

249. In its resolution 1980/47, the Economic and Social Council had called upon the Centre to elaborate specific proposals aimed at making an effective and meaningful contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and to report thereon, through the Commission on Human Settlements, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981. The report before the Commission (HS/C/4/2/Add.3) presented an overview of the potential role of new and renewable sources of energy in human settlements, with emphasis on the energy requirements of the poor in urban and rural settlements, technological options available for meeting energy needs in the domestic sector and the application of new and renewable energy sources in the provision of physical infrastructure for low-income groups.

250. Many settlements located in developing countries were confronted with a situation based on post-independence economic development plans, the desire for rapid industrialization, rising expectations for improved living conditions, continuing population growth, rural stagnation and generally deteriorating living conditions in urban slums and squatter areas. Under such circumstances, there was a need for an innovative approach to the problem of meeting human settlements energy needs. Such an approach should involve, among other things, optimizing the use of commercial (non-renewable) energy resources through the introduction of technological innovations, the development of more efficient settlements systems and the promotion of effective management and placing greater reliance on new and renewable sources of energy in the development, rehabilitation and management of human settlements. With just such an approach in view, five specific recommendations had been proposed which represented the essence of various studies and previous activities of the Centre related to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (HS/C/4/2/Add.3, chap. VI).

251. The recommendation on "settlement and energy policies" emphasized that such policies should be closely co-ordinated as an integral part of overall development policies and planning. In designing integrated settlement policies and planning, special attention should be paid to the development of spatial policies and land-use planning aimed at conserving energy. The development of appropriate methodologies, codes, standards, guidelines and evaluation methods for the effective utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in various aspects of human settlements, the development of a reliable data base for information on energy requirements and consumption in both urban and rural settlements, and the development of policies for promoting continuous interaction and dialogue between decision-makers, professionals and the public at large in respect of decisions and programmes for the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

252. The second recommendation, on "energy-efficient spatial patterns in human settlements", emphasized that the spatial patterns of existing and new settlements should be designed to conserve energy and to make greater use of new and renewable sources of energy. That could be achieved by undertaking urban renewal,
conservation and rehabilitation programmes with a view to reducing the use of energy-intensive modes of transport, promoting mixed land-use patterns, as opposed to the traditional approach of separating residential, commercial and industrial zones, developing optimal energy networks and district energy systems and making efficient use of agricultural residues, biogas, solar energy, etc., to meet the energy needs of rural settlements.

253. The third recommendation, on "energy for physical infrastructure and services in human settlements", stated that physical infrastructure should be designed or redesigned so as to conserve energy, to reduce its costs and to make greater use of new and renewable energy sources. That could be achieved by: designing energy-efficient transportation systems; promoting measures to reduce energy consumption in water and sewage treatment and in the collection and disposal of solid waste; recycling; promoting the use of solar energy; ensuring the efficient management of municipal wastes that were net producers of energy.

254. With regard to "energy and building", it was recommended that applied research should be undertaken to encourage the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and to choose building materials and technologies so as to promote the greater use of new and renewable sources of energy. To achieve that, special emphasis should be placed on: the development of passive design concepts which took account of variations in energy consumption due to the height, shape and orientation of buildings and which involved the natural principles of heat transfer in buildings; the retro-fitting of the existing building stock to permit the greater use of new and renewable sources of energy; the development of hybrid/integrated systems for space conditioning involving the use of new and renewable sources of energy; the promotion of the production and use of energy-efficient building materials and technologies, with emphasis on the shelter needs of the poorest segments of the population in rural and urban areas.

255. There were no universal solutions to the problem of meeting the energy needs of human settlements because of geographical and climatic variations and socio-economic and cultural differences in settlement patterns. Known solutions needed to be adapted, tested and promoted through pilot and demonstration projects in a variety of settlement situations. It was therefore recommended that pilot projects should be implemented in a variety of climatic conditions, in settlements of different sizes and in a variety of socio-economic situations in the urban and rural areas of various regions in order to promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

256. The five recommendations prepared by the Centre were brief, but they were comprehensive in that they addressed various problems related to energy requirements and conservation in human settlements and to the effective utilization of new and renewable energy sources to meet domestic energy needs, particularly the needs of the poor in urban and rural settlements. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/47, the Executive Director proposed to revise the recommendations in the light of the Commission's deliberations and submit the report to the Economic and Social Council and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy for inclusion, as appropriate, in the draft plan of action to be discussed by the Conference.
B. Discussion

257. During the discussion that followed, several delegations commended the Executive Director for his efforts and expressed satisfaction with regard to the substantive contribution made by the Centre to the preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Many delegations endorsed the recommendations contained in the report before the Commission (HS/C/C/2/Add.3, chap. VI).

258. Emphasizing the crucial importance of energy in the development of human settlements and particularly in the provision of physical infrastructure to low-income groups, many delegations expressed satisfaction with regard to the inclusion of energy-related programme elements in the draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and the draft work programme for the biennium 1982-1983.

259. Many delegations felt that substantive activities involving research and development, technical co-operation and the exchange of information in the field of energy as it related to human settlements should be initiated on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report before the Commission (HS/C/C/2/Add.3, chap. VI), once the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy were known.

260. One representative stated that a major international symposium was being organized in his country as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

261. Several delegations endorsed the recommendations on pilot demonstration projects, urging the Executive Director to implement pilot demonstration projects in a variety of climatic conditions, in settlements of different sizes and in a variety of socio-economic situations in the urban and rural areas of various regions in order to test, evaluate and promote energy-conscious settlements planning, energy conservation and the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

262. Some delegations, recognizing the importance of energy in building design, construction, rehabilitation and maintenance and in the choice of building materials and technologies, urged the Executive Director to implement action-oriented programmes in such fields as passive solar building design by organizing expert group meetings and training programmes.

263. Many representatives related their national experiences, stating that their countries had gained considerable experience in respect of the conservation of energy and the use of new and renewable sources of energy in human settlements, and they offered to make their knowledge and experience available to interested countries for possible adaptation and application.

264. One delegation suggested the inclusion in the document of an annex reorganizing the various recommendations according to short-term, medium-term and long-term perspectives.

265. A number of representatives requested the Executive Director to examine the results and the plan of action to be discussed at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy with a view to implementing those components of the plan of action which related to human settlements. It was proposed that the
Executive Director be authorized to forward document HS/C/4/2/Add.3, revised as necessary in the light of the Commission's deliberations at its fourth session, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981 and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

266. In response to specific comments, a representative of the Executive Director stated that every effort would be made to ensure the early availability of documentation in all languages for the Commission. As to the requests for information about any authoritative studies on the increased initial cost of building resulting from measures taken to reduce the energy costs of management and maintenance over the life-span of the building and studies on the relative energy costs of different forms of human settlements development, the representative of the Executive Director stated that the Secretariat planned to review thoroughly the relevant documents being submitted to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Secretariat would extract the information, if any, on those important subjects and make it available to interested countries. Failing that, and depending on the priorities of its work programme, the Centre would undertake the task in collaboration with the interested countries and agencies.

267. In summarizing the debate, the Chairman said that the most significant part of the report before the Commission (HS/C/4/2/Add.3) was chapter VI, which contained specific recommendations. As requested by the Economic and Social Council, those recommendations, revised as appropriate, would be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be included in the draft plan of action to be discussed at the Conference.

268. Many representatives had commended the Executive Director for bringing the question of energy, as it related to human settlements development, into the work programme of the Centre. Similarly, many delegations had expressed their support for the recommendations contained in the report.

269. The crucial importance of energy in the development of human settlements, particularly in terms of meeting the needs of low-income groups in rural settlements, had been emphasized by many representatives. The statements made by a number of delegates concerning national experience in the field had been most valuable. That experience related to a variety of climatic conditions in different parts of the world.

270. The importance of solar energy, which was available in abundance in most developing countries, had also been highlighted, and various programmes relating to solar energy had been described. Several developing countries had indicated the areas in which they would require further assistance to make effective use of their renewable energy resources in human settlements development. In that connexion, the information and assistance available from countries that had already gained some experience would have to be tapped.

271. The Chairman requested that the report recall Commission decision 3/12 on energy requirements and conservation in human settlements, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/47 requesting the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) to make a contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The report of the Executive Director should
be noted and the recommendations proposed in the report generally endorsed. The Executive Director should be authorized to forward the report, as required, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981. He suggested that the Executive Director should be authorized to submit the report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, suggesting that the Preparatory Committee might wish to consider the recommendations contained in the report for inclusion as appropriate in the draft plan of action to be discussed by the Conference. Finally, the Chairman suggested that the Executive Director should be asked to continue to follow the developments relating to the Conference and to initiate follow-up activities in the field of energy as it related to human settlements.

C. Action by the Commission

272. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission, on the recommendation of Committee I, adopted a decision on the contribution of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (see annex I, decision 4/23).
XII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 
FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION 

(agenda item 13) 

A. Discussion 

273. The Commission considered agenda item 13 at its 7th plenary meeting, on 
6 May 1981. During the discussion, one delegation indicated that, in the future, 
it might be desirable to select the subjects of the theme papers perhaps 
three years in advance and that the subjects of the theme papers ought to be 
related to aspects of the work programme. That would enable Member States to 
examine subjects in greater depth and consequently strengthen inputs to the 
discussions on the themes. In response, the Executive Director indicated that 
the matter was indeed important to the Centre and that every effort would be 
made to give countries sufficient time to study the themes to be discussed at 
each session. In that connexion, one of the themes to be proposed for discussion 
at the 1983 session of the Commission would be the subject of land in human 
settlements. 

B. Action by the Commission 

274. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May, the Commission decided that its fifth 
session would be held from 26 April to 7 May 1982 and noted that, in accordance 
with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the fifth session of 
the Commission would be held in Nairobi, Kenya. 

275. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following draft provisional 
agenda for its fifth session: 

1. Election of officers. 
2. Credentials. 
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work. 
   progress report of the Executive Director. 
5. Planning for human settlements in disaster-prone areas. 
6. Transportation for urban and rural areas, with emphasis on groups with 
   limited resources. 
7. International year of shelter for the homeless. 
8. 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 system. 5/ 

5/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/114, para. 2 (a). 

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10. Other matters.

11. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the sixth session of the Commission.

12. Adoption of the report.

XIII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

276. In closing statements, representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director thanked the Government of the Philippines for hosting the fourth session of the Commission and the representatives attending the session for the valuable guidance provided on the substantive issues before the Commission.

277. In her closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the bureau and all participants for their contribution to the work accomplished. On behalf of the Commission, she also thanked those Member States which had pledged contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. In referring to the Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement, she urged Governments and peoples to commit themselves to human settlements as a fundamental issue of development. She then declared closed the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.
ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fourth session

A. Resolutions

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A. Resolutions

h/1. Manila Communiqué on a Human Settlements Movement

The United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

Having held its fourth session at Manila, Philippines, from 27 April to 6 May 1981,

Noting with appreciation the high-level representation of Governments at its fourth session, which included the attendance of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, ministers and others of sub-ministerial rank, and high diplomatic representatives,

Grateful that, at the inaugural ceremony, His Excellency the President of the Philippines gave the keynote address,

Conscious of the commitment of the States Members of the United Nations, under the Charter, to promote the social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among States,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974,

Recalling also the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, with particular reference to paragraphs 159 and 160 thereof concerning human settlements,

Bearing in mind Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976,

Aware that the Commission has a responsibility, under General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, to promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries,

Recognizing that the Commission should provide support and encouragement to Governments committed to improving human settlements conditions, particularly the Governments of the least advantaged countries,

Recognizing further that a comprehensive human settlements approach provides means for Governments to promote economic and social development in an integrated manner,

Deeply concerned that the quality of life in human settlements is deteriorating for a great proportion of the world population and is likely to worsen even further and more rapidly unless positive and concrete actions are taken to find and implement solutions which satisfy basic aspirations consistent with human dignity,
Considering that the development of human settlements is related in a fundamental and real sense, to the unending quest for global peace and progress and the fulfilment of human aspirations,

Further considering that man occupies the centre of human settlements concerns and thus should be the beginning, the means and the goals of development,

Believing that the human settlements approach to development, in the authentic spirit of humanism, can be a powerful force in the improvement of the human condition,

Expressing the view that human settlements development does not mean just building houses for the poor or providing socialized housing but involves the co-ordination of all efforts in both the public and private sectors to improve the quality of life of people by satisfying their basic needs in connexion with water, energy, food, clothing, livelihood, medical services, education, culture and technology, sports and recreation, ecological balance and mobility,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of self-reliance in solving the problems of human settlements,

Convinced that man's environment dares him to rise to the challenge of survival and that the human settlements movement and the efforts of the international community give evidence of the fact that man need not be concerned with conflicts and covetousness but can be involved in improving his well-being and that of his fellow men, in particular the less fortunate members of society,

1. Reaffirms that, in accordance with the spirit of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, human settlements is an effective approach to development;

2. Emphasizes the need to co-ordinate sectoral activities in the field of human settlements within a comprehensive and integrated framework within which the basic human needs can be satisfied;

3. Notes the significant achievements of the session which include, inter alia, the adoption of work programmes for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) translating into action some principles and recommendations of the Vancouver Conference and which focused on the role of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and in national development and the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas in human settlements;

4. Deeply appreciates the substantial voluntary contributions announced during the session by a number of Governments to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

5. Welcomes the participation of the Chairman of the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in the mobilization of financial resources for the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation from Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
6. Requests the Chairman of the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements to address the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, when the report of this session is presented for consideration;

7. Calls upon Governments and international organizations concerned to join, as appropriate, in a comprehensive and effective human settlements movement designed to bring about the full development of man, as a tangible demonstration of the spirit of co-operation and understanding that has animated the session.

7th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/2. Proposal to declare an international year of shelter for the homeless

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) containing a preliminary proposal concerning the declaration of an international year of shelter for the homeless, a/  

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Director, in principle and in broad outline, subject to the Commission's comments at its fourth session;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To transmit his report, with the Commission's comments, to the Economic and Social Council for preliminary review at its second regular session of 1981;

(b) To revise the report taking into account the Commission's comments;

(c) To continue consultations with Governments, with the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies concerned and also with interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the revised proposal and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council to enable the latter to consider the proposal and take appropriate action at its resumed second regular session to be held in October/November 1981;

3. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption at its thirty-sixth session of the following draft resolution on the proposal to declare an international year of shelter for the homeless, taking into account the criteria and guidelines for the proclamation of international years adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/67 and approved by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424:

"International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 35/76 of 5 December 1980, in which it expressed the view that an international year devoted to the problems of homeless people

a/ HS/C/4/2/Add.2.
in urban and rural areas in the developing countries could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the international community on those problems,

"Recognizing the grave and generally worsening situation of the homeless, especially in the developing countries, which could lead to social unrest and instability in the communities and nations concerned,

"Convinced of the imperative need to mobilize effectively the considerable ingenuity, skills and resources that the homeless themselves possess for building, improving and maintaining their own shelter and neighbourhoods,

"Emphasizing the fact that the building, improvement and maintenance of shelter, related physical infrastructure and social facilities can contribute significantly to national development, as envisaged in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

"Believing that, because of their complexity and magnitude, the problems of the homeless require co-ordinated and concerted action at all levels,

"Considering that the preparation and holding of an international year of shelter for the homeless would offer a timely and significant opportunity to forge international solidarity among nations and peoples throughout the world,

"Confident that an international year of shelter for the homeless would serve to increase public awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels and set in motion a process which would lead to a significant improvement in the situation of the homeless in the present and next decades,

"Recognizing that the preparation and holding of an international year of shelter for the homeless would contribute to the reaffirmation of the goals of the new international economic order and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

"Aware that, for an international year of shelter for the homeless to be successful, adequate preparation and the support of Governments, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public at large would be required,

"Noting with satisfaction the follow-up action so far taken by Member States on the implementation of the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as well as the support being provided to a large number of developing countries by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to facilitate this action,

"Appreciating the important leadership being provided by the Commission on Human Settlements in this broad field, as mandated under General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977,

"Noting that the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981, recognized that the lack of adequate housing is a major problem facing many developing

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countries and urged member countries to support all measures leading to the declaration of an international year devoted to homes for the poor and the homeless, b/.

"Recalling in this connexion its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on the question of international years and anniversaries,

"1. Decides, with special regard to the tenth anniversary of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in 1976, to proclaim 1986 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"2. Designates the Commission on Human Settlements to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"3. Decides to entrust the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with the responsibility of guiding the work of the Secretariat in this connexion and reporting to the Secretary-General;

"4. Invites all States, all specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to make every possible effort to contribute to the preparation and holding of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, in accordance with their experience and priorities;

"5. Stresses the importance of fully mobilizing the resources and skills of the homeless themselves for activities organized at the local and national levels in connexion with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in accordance with the proposals of Member States and in consultation with the specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft report to be considered by the Commission at its fifth session, outlining, inter alia, the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the objectives envisaged and the financial implications of the Year;

"7. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session to formulate, for consideration by the General Assembly, a specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless on the basis of the draft programme to be prepared by the Secretary-General and to submit its first report on the Year to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite States not members of the Commission on Human Settlements, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate as observers in the work of the Commission related to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

b/ A/36/116, annex, para. 171.
"9. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to take concrete measures, using all the communications media at his disposal, to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system related to the homeless and to expand the dissemination of information on this subject;

"10. **Appeals** to all States, to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to the public at large to make generous voluntary contributions in support of the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

"11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to obtain such voluntary contributions;

"12. **Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled 'International Year of Shelter for the Homeless'.**"

6th plenary meeting 6 May 1981

4/3. **Assistance to the Palestinian people**

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 3/1 of 15 May 1980 and General Assembly resolution 34/133 of 14 December 1979 on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people", c/

Noting with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the Executive Director to implement the above-mentioned resolution of the Commission,

Deploring the obstacles and difficulties set up by the occupying authorities in Palestine, hindering the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions concerning assistance to the Palestinian people and the projects endorsed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in this regard,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue his efforts, within the responsibility and competence of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to implement the General Assembly resolutions concerning assistance to the Palestinian people, and in particular resolution 34/133, and to report the results to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session;

2. **Urges** the General Assembly to deplore the occupying authorities in Palestine for the obstacles set up to hinder the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the specialized agencies concerning assistance to the Palestinian people and to reiterate the necessity of implementing its resolutions in this regard.

6th plenary meeting 6 May 1981

c/ HS/C/4/2/Add.4.
The Commission on Human Settlements.

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

Taking note of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session devoted to economic matters, held at Lagos,

Taking note also of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, held at Addis Ababa from 28 July to 1 August 1980,

Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen the human settlements unit of the Economic Commission for Africa for the effective implementation of the relevant sections of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with section IV, of General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Economic Commission for Africa has already established an intergovernmental committee on human settlements,

Appreciating the assistance being provided by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to a large number of African countries,

Welcoming the redeployment by the Executive Director of the Centre of two Professional posts and one General Service post to the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa,

Taking note of resolution 408 (XVI) - Human Settlements - of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa which endorsed resolution 1 (II) of the second meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission, without prejudice to the operations of the Centre, to further consolidate, strengthen and expand the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the Commission,

Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to strengthen their relationship through periodic discussions on programme co-ordination and through exchanges of information on all regional and subregional human settlements activities in Africa.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981
4/5. Co-operation at the regional level related to human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977, on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in particular paragraphs 159 and 160 thereof,

Recalling also Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 2/5 and 2/6 of 4 April 1979 and 3/7 of 15 May 1980,

Further recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the special responsibilities of regional commissions with regard to promoting economic and social development through technical co-operation among developing countries and the potential of technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements constitute a basic element of social and economic development,

Also recognizing the importance of international co-operation as a factor complementary to the policies and actions of national Governments,

Noting that the type and basis of international co-operation and support have been defined in various resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 35/56,

Recalling that the need for co-operation at the regional level, as a component of international action, has been emphasized in, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 32/162, section IV, Commission on Human Settlements resolution 2/5, on support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action on United Nations institutional questions relating to human settlements, and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7, on co-operation and organization at the regional level,

Noting that the activities of the United Nations system in the area of human settlements need to be strengthened at the regional level through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 32/197 of 20 December 1977 as they relate to the redeployment of resources from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the regional commissions,

Recognizing the existing limitations on increases in the United Nations budget,

1. Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions to continue to strengthen their ties and co-operation in the field of human settlements, inter alia, through the establishment of joint units in accordance with paragraph 6 of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7;

2. Further urges the regional commissions to consider ways and means of improving regional and subregional collaboration in the field of human settlements through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries;
3. Requests the Centre to take appropriate action to improve co-ordination with other agencies of the United Nations system and to ensure more effective action at the regional level;

4. Urges that regional commissions enhance regional and subregional co-operation in the field of human settlements and to that end make available sufficient resources for their human settlements units;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session that the temporary assistance approved for deployment to the regions for 1981 be converted into established posts as of 1982;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to prepare and submit to the Commission at its fifth session a detailed report on the implementation of this resolution, with special emphasis on:

(a) The programmes of the Centre at the regional level;

(b) The Executive Director's proposal for implementing the Centre's work programme for the period 1982-1983, with special reference to the regions;

(c) The means by which institutional co-ordination between the Centre and each of the regional commissions is to be further promoted, in accordance with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7 as it relates to the joint units.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/6. Mobilization and utilization of resources for human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, which, inter alia, provided for the mobilization and utilization of resources in the various regions in the field of human settlements,

Further bearing in mind other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolutions 327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 31/109 of 16 December 1976, 31/113 of 16 December 1976, and 34/114 and 34/116 of 14 December 1979,

Taking note of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, inter alia, stresses the significance of mobilizing financial and other resources for development, including development in the field of human settlements, d/

Recognizing the urgent need to mobilize financial, manpower and other resources necessary for the promotion of technical co-operation, research, training, the

__d/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 96-114 and 159-160.

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dissemination of information and other activities in Africa, and for the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, as adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Convinced that it is necessary to utilize financial and other resources promptly once they have been allocated to human settlements development,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels with a view to improving human settlements,

1. **Adopts** the recommendations of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the mobilization of finance and other resources for human settlements development, as contained in his reports to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director of the Centre to ensure the prompt utilization of the resources allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa and the other regional commissions;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director of the Centre to intensify his efforts to mobilize financial and other resources for human settlements development, especially in the developing countries;

4. **Calls upon** all States and international organizations, including international financial institutions, to increase their voluntary and other contributions in this regard to developing countries;

5. **Calls** for the accelerated implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director of the Centre, in close co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to harmonize their respective work programmes and priorities in the field of human settlements with regard to manpower, training, public participation at the grass-roots level, financing, energy requirements and conservation in human settlements, services and assistance in research relating to human settlements.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/7. **Assistance to Dominica**

The Commission on Human Settlements,

**Recalling** General Assembly resolutions 34/19 of 9 November 1979 and 35/102 of 5 December 1980 in which the General Assembly expressed concern at the magnitude of the damage caused in Dominica by hurricanes "David" and "Frederic" in 1979 and hurricane "Allen" in 1980,

**Bearing in mind** the heavy burden the Government of Dominica faces in its efforts to replace lost and damaged human settlements,
1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to explore the possibility of extending assistance to the Government of Dominica so as to replace lost and damaged human settlements speedily;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to consult with other specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system on the matter of assistance to Dominica;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those States, organizations and United Nations agencies that have provided assistance to Dominica following the recent hurricanes;

4. Requests the Executive Director to report on the present resolution to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/8. Human settlements and the International Year of Disabled Persons

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976 by which 1981 was proclaimed the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 34/47 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing the legitimate right of the disabled to full participation in the development of the societies in which they live,

Further recognizing that it is in human settlements that obstacles preventing the full participation of disabled persons are most apparent and tangible,

Affirming that it is technically and economically feasible to design and adjust human settlements to meet the needs of disabled persons,

1. Urges Governments to give special consideration to the legitimate needs of the disabled in their human settlements programmes and policies;

2. Further urges Governments and the United Nations system to support and assist national and international endeavours to diminish or eliminate barriers in human settlements that prevent the full participation of the disabled in social development;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give due consideration to the needs of disabled persons in human settlements in the work programme of the Centre.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981
4/9. Information

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/115 of 14 December 1979, in which the General Assembly recommended the establishment of a unified information service within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Further recalling its resolution 3/9 of 15 May 1980, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the information activities of the Centre in research, training and technical co-operation,

Believing that project support communications and information should be an integral part of projects, particularly those which have a demonstration character,

Reiterating the importance of integrating such activities as the training of project staff and field workers, educational activities at the village level and the use of audio-visual material and the mass media into human settlements development projects from the outset and of providing adequate resources for such components,

1. Notes with satisfaction that a unified information service has been established within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

2. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to take the necessary measures to ensure that technical co-operation projects implemented by the Centre contain the appropriate project support communications components, emphasizing human settlements aspects.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/10. Utilization of consultants and experts

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, as revised by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which stressed as a strategy the need for the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to concentrate on, inter alia, the organization and technology of the construction and building materials industries, the aim being to ensure, among other things, the more efficient application of technology, the reduction of costs and the expansion of output, e/

Realizing that studies and experience in countries could help international agencies in developing a methodology and technical expertise in certain fields, as emphasized in the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment, f/

e/ A/33/6/Rev.1, A/35/6.

f/ HS/C/4/8, annex, para. 63 (a).
Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in the Executive Director's report on the review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements to the effect that the target population of a project should be involved at all stages of the project, from conception through planning and design to implementation and operation, in order to improve a project's chances of success and therefore to make best use of available resources, g/

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to intensify his efforts to promote the use of consultants and experts from the developing countries in all aspects of work in the field of human settlements and also to give preference to qualified indigenous personnel in the recruitment of project personnel;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to make a special effort to ensure that due consideration is given to qualified personnel from the developing countries in the compilation and updating of the Centre's roster of consultants and experts.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981


The Commission on Human Settlements.

Recalling section VI entitled "Concerted action and co-ordination" of General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 35/77 of 5 December 1980, in which the Assembly approved the holding of joint meetings of the bureaus of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with the two Executive Directors once a year rather than on a biannual basis,

Having considered the report of the third joint meeting of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council, held at Nairobi, on 4 and 5 December 1980, h/

Recognizing the close interrelationship between the man-made environment and the natural environment and the consequent need for continuous co-operation between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Conscious of the fact that the organization of the joint bureau meetings places a special demand on the human and financial resources of the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme,

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g/ HS/C/4/4, para. 53.
h/ HS/C/4/INF.4.
1. 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 study ways and means of strengthening their co-operation with a view to making it more effective;

2. Further 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 review the demands placed on their staff and budgetary resources in connexion with the preparation and servicing of the joint bureau meetings and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session, taking into account the recommendations on interpretation made by the joint bureau meeting in December 1980. 1/

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/12. Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism

The Commission on Human Settlements,

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

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

Compassion of the efforts and contribution being made by members of the Organization of African Unity, particularly the front-line States of southern Africa, and other members of the international community towards the eradication of the evil of apartheid in South Africa and the bringing about of a speedy end to the apartheid régime’s continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

Concerned about the increased repression by the Pretoria apartheid régime of the people and their national liberation movements in South Africa and the occupied United Nations territory of Namibia, as well as the apartheid régime’s intensified aggression against the front-line States because of their continued support for and commitment to the eradication of colonialism and apartheid,

Viewing with serious concern the destruction of human life and settlements in the front-line States,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the assistance provided to national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia in the field of human settlements;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

1/ Ibid., paras. 31 and 32.
(a) To intensify human settlements training assistance for the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity in order to make victims of apartheid self-reliant and to enable them to obtain the skills necessary for the improvement of their living conditions;

(b) To provide additional assistance to those countries the human settlements of which have been disrupted by the Pretoria racist régime;

(c) To report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session on the implementation of this resolution;

3. Also commends members of the Organization of African Unity, particularly the front-line States, and all other members of the international community for their unwavering support for the struggle against apartheid and colonialism;

4. Strongly condemns the Pretoria racist régime for its inhuman repression in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, as well as its acts of aggression against the front-line States.

6th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

4/13. Role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social development

The Commission on Human Settlements.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1972 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980 containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as it pertains to human settlements as a separate policy measure of development,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Director on the review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social development, 1/

Mindful that investment in human settlements constitutes a prerequisite for the attainment of national economic and social development objectives and that further economic and social benefits may be obtained through increased investment in human settlements,

Bearing in mind the differences that exist between countries in terms of structure and the degree of development of their economic and social systems,

Recognizing that the construction sector is the major contributor to domestic

1/ HS/C/4/3.
capital formation and, through its multiplier effects, has a major impact on employment and income not only in construction and related production sectors but also in other sectors of the economy.

1. **Urges Governments to recognize the significant role that construction investment in human settlements has to play in economic and social development efforts, a role which should be guided by government policies to ensure that all groups of the population benefit;**

2. **Recommends that Governments give high priority to construction investment in human settlements as an integral part of national economic and social development efforts;**

3. **Also recommends that Governments formulate policies for the development, strengthening and support of the construction sector and related activities on the basis of the development and mobilization of indigenous resources in terms of technology, labour and building materials;**

4. **Further recommends that, at the national level, priority should be given, among other things, to the co-ordination of information, research and training, the mobilization of financial and other resources at both the national and international levels, the involvement of local professionals and the creation of national and subnational co-ordinating agencies, inter alia, for the evaluation of research projects in building materials;**

5. **Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):**

   (a) To continue to give high priority to the development of the indigenous construction sector in the Centre’s work programme and programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 and medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

   (b) To pay special attention to specific issues affecting the indigenous construction sector in developing countries, and in particular to those issues which relate to the informal sector and to the relationships between construction institutions, between design, construction technologies and materials and between supply and demand;

   (c) To provide assistance to countries in the form of training and pilot or demonstration projects geared to the further development of the indigenous construction sector and to disseminate information and experience in that field;

6. **Further requests the Executive Director to co-operate fully with, and to act as a catalyst for, activities of other relevant organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, national Governments and non-governmental organizations for the mobilization of resources for human settlements and for the implementation of this resolution;**

7. **Recommends that the Executive Director should convene a meeting of an ad hoc group of experts from selected countries and international organizations to examine ways and means of developing the indigenous construction sector with a view to promoting human settlements programmes and national economic and social development, taking into account the discussions and proposals made at the Commission’s fourth session, and that he should transmit the group’s report to the Commission at its fifth session;**

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8. **Requests** the Executive Director of the Centre to report to the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the present resolution.

**7th plenary meeting**
**6 May 1981**

4/14. **Creation of an Asian human settlements bank**

**The Commission on Human Settlements.**

Considering that the Asia and Pacific region has the world's largest concentration of population,

Recalling the recommendations of the Regional Conference on Human Settlements Finance and Management for Asia and the Pacific, organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and held at Manila from 5 to 11 June 1979,

Recognizing the importance of adopting innovative schemes for financing human settlements programmes,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give priority to the conducting of a feasibility study, in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank, on the creation of an Asian bank dealing with human settlements, as recommended by the Regional Conference;

2. **Calls upon** regional and international funding agencies and other relevant agencies to assist in this study;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to report on the study at the fifth session of the Commission.

**7th plenary meeting**
**6 May 1981**

4/15. **Mobilisation of financial resources for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation**

**The Commission on Human Settlements.**

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, and in particular the recommendations on institutions and management adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to the effect that human settlements policies, strategies, plans and programmes cannot be elaborated or implemented without appropriate instruments and institutions on human settlements designed to play a variety of roles in development.


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Recalling further the recommendation of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements for the establishment of a global intergovernmental body the functions of which would include following closely the activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and, when appropriate, proposing ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be served, 1/

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, which provided for the institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, including the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on the proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1982-1983, which reveals that estimated total resources are not adequate for the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), m/

1. Welcomes the participation of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in the mobilization of financial resources for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation from Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

7th plenary meeting
6 May 1981

B. Decisions

4/16. Provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee I:

(a) Commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on his efforts to formulate a work programme in the area of infrastructure with emphasis on water supply, sanitation, surface drainage and solid-waste disposal in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the willingness of the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations and international organizations to collaborate in the implementation of the Centre's work programme in the area of infrastructure;

(c) Requested the Executive Director:

1/ Ibid., chap. III, resolution 1, annex.

m/ HS/C/1/9.
(i) To continue the Centre's work on research and development in the field of human settlements infrastructure in accordance with the short-term and medium-term work programmes outlined in the annexes to the report submitted to the Commission, n/ taking into account the substance of relevant comments made;

(ii) To co-operate with other United Nations agencies in that area and thereby make a significant contribution to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;

(iii) To consider other aspects of infrastructure such as paths, roads, transportation and energy supplies in the context of over-all community development;

(iv) To involve the Centre in demonstration projects integrating the provision of infrastructure with other aspects of community development, with the participation of the informal sector;

(v) To promote the evaluation and development of appropriate materials, equipment, techniques, standards and training manuals related to the provision of infrastructure affordable for low-income groups, with special emphasis on alternative sanitation solutions;

(vi) To communicate the experience acquired to developing countries and to make use of the Centre's considerable expertise in the collection and transfer of information and in the provision of training assistance, with particular reference being made to the report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Physical Improvement of Slums and Squatter Settlements, held in the Bahamas in 1977, and the recommendations and findings of the United Nations Seminar of Experts on Building Codes and Regulations in Developing Countries, held in Sweden in 1980, with a view to developing and propagating the concept of the graduated or step-by-step approach for the improvement of shelter, infrastructure and services.


At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee II:

(a) Commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on his efforts to prepare the draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 in accordance with Commission decision 3/17 and the instructions issued by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation pursuant to directives given by Member States through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

(b) Decided to adopt the following structure for the subprogrammes of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan:

n/ HS/C/4/4.
Subprogramme 1: Settlements policies and strategies;
Subprogramme 2: Settlements planning;
Subprogramme 3: Shelter and community services;
Subprogramme 4: Development of the indigenous construction sector;
Subprogramme 5: Low-cost infrastructure for human settlements;
Subprogramme 6: Land;
Subprogramme 7: Mobilization of finance for human settlements development;
Subprogramme 8: Human settlements institutions and management;

(c) Expressed the view that that decision reflected the dynamic and evolving nature of human settlements issues, would not require any increase in the Centre's budget, would not lead to any duplication of the activities of other United Nations bodies and did not imply any commitment on the part of the Commission to endorse any future expansion in the number of subprogrammes implemented by the Centre;

(d) Decided that, in that part of the draft medium-term plan concerned with the general orientation of the programme, the last sentence of paragraph 41 should be deleted and the following more comprehensive text should be inserted:

"Subject areas of the subprogrammes

"41 (a). At Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976, after considerable debate, agreement was reached on six focal areas for national and international attention in the field of human settlements: settlement policies and strategies; settlement planning; shelter, infrastructure and services; land; public participation; institutions and management. Those six focal areas were subsequently approved by the General Assembly and by the Commission on Human Settlements and provided the structure for the work programme for 1978-1979 of the former Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and for the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and the work programmes for 1980-1981 and 1982-1983 of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

"41 (b). With regard to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, the Commission has decided to organize the work of the Centre under the following eight subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Settlements policies and strategies;
Subprogramme 2: Settlements planning;
Subprogramme 3: Shelter and community services;

"o/ HS/C/4/5, paras. 38-43.
Subprogramme 4: Development of the indigenous construction sector;

Subprogramme 5: Low-cost infrastructure for human settlements;

Subprogramme 6: Land;

Subprogramme 7: Mobilization of finance for human settlements development;

Subprogramme 8: Human settlements institutions and management.

Thus, in essence, the structure of subprogrammes to be used in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 will differ from the structure followed in the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 in two ways: the former subprogramme 3, on shelter, infrastructure and services, will be subdivided into four subprogrammes, namely subprogrammes 3, 4, 5 and 7, and the former subprogramme 5, on public participation, will be deleted as a separate subprogramme. These changes have been made for the reasons set out below.

"hl (c). Public participation is to be eliminated as a separate subprogramme not because of any decline in the importance of participation but because it is regarded as an integral part of all other aspects of human settlements development. It is now widely agreed, both in and beyond the field of human settlements development, that public participation is not only a significant goal in its own right but also a vital means for achieving most of the other goals of social and economic development. The Centre's efforts to stimulate public participation will gain in both credibility and effectiveness by being linked directly with the substantive aspects of settlements development, in which it is believed all people should participate. Indeed, in the implementation of the subprogramme on public participation for the work programmes for 1978-1979 and 1980-1981, it was found necessary to organize the work as part of the activities of the other subprogrammes, particularly those dealing with shelter, infrastructure and services and with institutions and management, in order to make it meaningful. In the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, activities to promote public participation will be included as part of several of the subprogrammes, particularly those related to shelter and community services, the development of the indigenous construction sector, low-cost infrastructure for human settlements and human settlements institutions and management.

"hl (d). The subdivision of the former subprogramme 3 into the new subprogrammes 3, 4, 5 and 7 represents a recognition of developments which have occurred since the Habitat Conference in Vancouver in 1976. The first such development was the clear determination by the Commission, at its second session, that the broad area of shelter, infrastructure and services should be given highest priority by the Centre. The second was the emergence of a clearer concept of what the priorities within this broad area should be, namely the provision of shelter to low-income groups, the installation of sewerage, water and transport facilities in slums, squatter areas and rural settlements and the creation of an indigenous, localized (national) construction capacity to make it possible to supply such shelter and infrastructure, as well as buildings and infrastructure for other sectors. In addition, it has become increasingly apparent that, unless specific measures are taken to mobilize and channel financial resources for human
settlements programme, the formulation of policies and plans for settlements
development will not lead to the actual implementation of useful projects.

"41 (e). In order to facilitate consideration of the broad area of shelter
infrastructure and services in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
and in the related biennial work programmes and budgets, and in view of the
Director-General's instruction that each subprogramme in the medium-term plan
for the period 1984-1989 should be directed to just one fairly distinct
problem, it was felt that the former subprogramme 3 should be subdivided into
the smaller, more manageable problem areas indicated by the new
subprogrammes 3, 4, 5 and 7."

(e) Recommended that, with regard to the relative priorities to be accorded to
the subprogrammes in the Centre's medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, the
highest priority should be accorded to subprogramme 3 (shelter and community
services), subprogramme 4 (development of the indigenous construction sector) and
subprogramme 5 (low-cost infrastructure for human settlements);

(f) Decided that, at the time of its consideration of the draft medium-term
plan, no subprogramme activities proposed in the draft medium-term plan were
obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

(g) Approved the submission of the draft medium-term plan, incorporating the
foregoing text on the structure of the subprogrammes and the foregoing
recommendation on priorities, to the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination
and subsequently to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and
Social Council and the General Assembly;

(h) Requested the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination not to
substantially change the draft medium-term plan in order to ensure that the
Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the
General Assembly be given a sufficiently detailed picture of the activities proposed
in the field of human settlements;

(i) Decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for
Human Settlements (Habitat), when preparing subsequent work programmes and
programme budgets based on the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, to
continue to give high priority to the promotion of adequate living conditions for
low-income groups, particularly those in the least developed, land-locked and
island developing countries.

4/18. Work programme and programme budget for the United
Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for
the biennium 1982-1983

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements,
on the recommendation of Committee II:

(a) Commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human
Settlements (Habitat) on his presentation of the draft work programme and programme
budget for the biennium 1982-1983 p/ and on his efforts to prepare the consolidated

p/ HS/C/4/6.
work programme and programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 in accordance with
Commission decision 3/16, in which the Executive Director had been requested to make
every effort to streamline future programme-related documentation into a single
comprehensive document for submission to the Commission;

(b) Endorsed the draft work programme for 1982-1983; g/;

(c) Approved the proposed use of extrabudgetary funds for projects described
in the work programme as funds became available;

(d) Requested the Executive Director to prepare for the next session of the
Commission a report on the use of all extrabudgetary resources broken down by source;

(e) Noted with concern that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General for
the biennium 1982-1983 indicated a negative rate of growth of 8.6 per cent, in spite
of the fact that the Commission had urged that human settlements programmes within
the United Nations system be given higher priority;

(f) Decided, in order to implement fully the regional component of the
Commission's work programme, to request the Executive Director to seek the conversion
by the General Assembly of the 12 posts (6 Professional and 4 local-level) redeployed
to the regional commissions to established regular-budget posts, in accordance with
Commission resolution 3/7 and decision 3/16, the aim being to ensure that the
resources in question would be utilized for the implementation of the regional
component of the Commission's work programme and that the Centre would be
accountable to the Commission in respect of the use of those resources;

(g) Decided to request the Executive Director to make every effort to reflect
to the maximum extent possible in the activities of the Centre the various comments
made by delegations on the draft work programme and programme budget for the-

4/19. Periodic reports on international co-operation and
assistance on human settlements

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements,
on the recommendation of Committee I, found the proposals of the Executive Director
for the report on international financial assistance to be generally acceptable and,
in particular:

(a) Approved the format of the charts to be suggested for use in collecting
and presenting to the Commission at its fifth session the basic information on
bilateral and multilateral financial assistance provided to and among developing
countries and on the human settlements activities of the United Nations system,
intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and
non-governmental organizations; r/

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g/ Ibid.

r/ H/0/17. annexes I and II.
(b) Agreed that reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should be presented to the Commission as information documents.

4/20. Ways and means of establishing or strengthening financial institutions for human settlements financing and investment

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee I, endorsed the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment, and decided to request the Executive Director:

(a) To develop proposals, in conjunction with the World Bank, the regional development banks and the World Federation of Development Financing Institutions, to acquire and disseminate knowledge and information about existing financial intermediaries in developing countries specializing in the provision of human settlements infrastructure and services, to review the experience of those institutions and to disseminate the findings among developing countries;

(b) To co-operate with the World Federation of Development Financing Institutions, as well as with the regional associations of development financing institutions, with a view to encouraging national development financing institutions in developing countries to extend their activities and operations for the purposes of financing human settlement projects and to direct their activities towards the lower-income groups;

(c) To formulate proposals aimed at encouraging the mobilization of additional financial resources at the national and subnational levels in developing countries, redirecting more resources to the provision of urban services and encouraging the more efficient management of services provided in urban areas, bearing in mind the need in many cases to restructure the existing system of intergovernmental relations and to eliminate overlapping of responsibilities between different levels of government;

(d) To promote studies aimed at finding solutions to the problems posed for human settlements financing by inflation.


At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee I, decided to request the Executive Director:

(a) To request Member States to inform him on the progress made in implementing selected recommendations for national action adopted at Habitat:

s/ HS/C/4/8, annex.
United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and, where possible, on the level and sources of international and national funding being devoted to human settlements activities with a view to submitting the information to the Commission at its sixth session;

(b) To prepare an outline for the preparation of such a report, to be submitted to Member States;

(c) To take into account the following criteria in the selection of the recommendations to be reported on:

(i) The recommendations selected should be relevant to the human settlements themes reviewed by the Commission;

(ii) They should relate to the goals of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

(iii) They should be relevant to the assessment of the progress made in the attainment of the goals of the international Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

(iv) They should be the subject of existing or perceived concerns on the part of developed and/or developing countries in terms of policy formulation and ongoing action;

(v) They should address those issues in respect of which it is believed that a more sustained effort on the part of both national Governments and the international community is necessary;

(d) To prepare an overview paper, based on the information contained in national reports to be submitted by countries in one of the working languages of the Commission by October 1982, the overview paper to be translated into the working languages of the Commission and distributed at the Commission's 1983 session.


At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements, on the recommendation of Committee II:

Having commended the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for his clear and concise presentation of the budget proposals and for the restraint shown in the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

Having reviewed the report of the Executive Director t/ and the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions u/ on the utilization of the resources of the Foundation during the biennium 1980-1981 and on the proposed

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t/ HS/C/4/9.
u/ HS/C/4/9/Add.1.
utilization or resources for the biennium 1982-1983, taking full account of the
detailed explanations provided by the Executive Director on the observations of
the Advisory Committee relating to that proposed utilization,

(a) Approved the proposed allocation of funds for programme, programme support,
project and reserve purposes for the biennium 1982-1983, in accordance with the
mandate of the Foundation and financial rule 303.1, v/ recommending that the
Executive Director should have flexibility in complying with the recommendations of
the Advisory Committee;

(b) Noted that the existing financial resources of the Centre and the
Foundation were inadequate to ensure the proper implementation of the projected
activities set out in the Centre's draft work programme and programme budget for
the biennium 1982-1983 and draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

(c) Reiterated its urgent appeal to Member States which had already made
voluntary contributions to increase their contributions and to Member States which
had not yet contributed, particularly developed countries and other countries in a
position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat
and Human Settlements Foundation.

Settlements (Habitat) to the United Nations
Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Commission on Human Settlements
recalled its decision 3/12 on energy requirements and conservation in human
settlements and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/47, in which the Council
had called upon the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to
elaborate specific proposals aimed at making an effective and meaningful
contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy
and to report thereon, through the Commission on Human Settlements, to the Economic
and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981. The Commission noted
with satisfaction the contribution made by the United Nations Centre for Human
Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New
and Renewable Sources of Energy and took note of the report of the Executive
Director on the contribution of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
(Habitat) to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, v/

The Commission on Human Settlements also:

(a) Decided to endorse the recommendations proposed in the report of the
Executive Director; x/

(b) Requested the Executive Director to forward his report, and any other
documents or reports which he would prepare for the said Conference, to the Economic
and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981;

v/ ES/C/4/2/Add.3
x/ Ibid., chap. VI.
(c) Requested the Executive Director to submit his report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its fourth session with a view to having specific recommendations included, as appropriate, in the draft plan of action to be discussed by the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

(d) Decided that follow-up activities involving research and development, technical co-operation and information dissemination should be initiated in the field of energy as it related to human settlements, with particular attention being paid to the possibility of saving energy through appropriate planning, construction, rehabilitation and building management and operation, once the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy were known.
ANNEX II

List of special presentations

A. Audio-visual presentations

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

"Building Together" - a case study in self-help from Thailand. Co-production with AIT (not finally edited).
Duration: 30 min.

Canada

"Exploding cities" - a review of urban expansion in developing countries.
Duration: 30 min.

Chile

"Cimientos" - on housing, industry and financing.
Duration: 30 min.

Cuba

"Para vivir mejor" - on living conditions and habitat.
Duration: 25 min.

France

"Construire sous le soleil" - on housing, building materials and methods in tropical climates.
Duration: 15 min.

"Les bardeaux de couverture" - on roofing with various types of shingles.
Duration: 15 min.

Hungary

"Development of Housing in the Hungarian Construction Industry".
Duration: 13 min.
Japan

"Prefabrication in Japan" - on various methods of prefabrication and construction.
Duration: 15 min.

Kenya

"Open door settlement" - on development and the provision of infrastructure to rural settlements.
Duration: 20 min.

Malaysia

"To build is to develop" - on the contribution of the construction industry to development.
Duration: 15 min.

Mexico

"Hombres Trabajando" - on construction and economic development.
Duration: 8 min.

Philippines

"Building a nation of man" - on BLISS housing, livelihood programmes and infrastructure.
Duration: 20 min.

Sri Lanka

"Gamudanya" - on the village awakening programme and the right to a home.
Duration: 10 min.

Upper Volta

"Industrie du bâtiment" - on the informal building sector.
Duration: 17 min.

"Mise en place d'infrastructure" - on infrastructure in urban settlements.
Duration: 6 min.

Viet Nam

Duration: 18 min.
B. Photographic exhibits

Australia
"Housing programmes for aboriginal communities".
13 photographic enlargements.

India
"Improvement and upgrading of slums" - Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority.
10 photographic enlargements.

Indonesia
The new rural settlements and transmigration.
20 photographic enlargements.

Malaysia
"The role of the construction industry in national development". Provision of infrastructure and slum improvement measures.
20 photographic enlargements.

Philippines
"Human settlements in the Filipino community".
43 photographic enlargements, 5 models.

Saudi Arabia
"Urban transformation" - examples of comprehensive spatial planning from Riyadh and Damman.
10 drawings, 5 photographs.

Sri Lanka
"Slum and shanty improvement programme".
48 photographic enlargements.

United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat)

An expose by the Bangkok information office; examples of technical co-operation projects from the following countries: Argentina, Bahrain, Burundi, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mozambique, Philippines, Romania, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

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C. Computer demonstration

A United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) urban-data-management software package on micro-computer was available for demonstration purposes throughout the session.
ANNEX III

List of documents before the Commission at its fourth session

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<td>HS/C/7/INF.6</td>
<td>Draft medium-term plan of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the period 1984-1989</td>
<td>7 (b)</td>
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<td>HS/C/14/INF.7</td>
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ANNEX IV

Message from the Secretary-General to the fourth session of the Commission

1. It gives me great pleasure to convey my warm greetings to the participants in the fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

2. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for their kind invitation to the Commission to hold its fourth session in the beautiful city of Manila. It is indeed fitting that this session of the Commission is taking place in the Philippines, a country that has consistently supported the United Nations and which has also been making an invaluable contribution to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The strong commitment of His Excellency President Marcos and the distinguished First Lady of the Philippines, Madame Marcos, to the cause of human settlements is exemplified by their presence here today to participate personally in the opening ceremony of this important session of the Commission.

3. It is gratifying to note that since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in 1976, human settlements issues and considerations have begun to take their rightful place in strategies for economic and social development both at the national level and at the regional and international levels. The role and contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) towards this end have been widely acknowledged.

4. The deliberations and conclusions of the second and third sessions of the Commission have left no doubt as to the Commission's capacity and determination to exercise fully its leadership role in the discharge of its mandate in the field of human settlements. The impact that the Commission has made within the brief three years of its existence is ample demonstration of its rapid evolution into a fully operational and substantive policy organ of the United Nations in this area of the world Organization's activities.

5. I welcome the selection of two key themes for review at this session of the Commission: "the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlement programmes and national economic and social development", and "the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements". Appropriate investments in the construction industry, particularly in the development of human settlements, can of course stimulate the entire economy through this labour-intensive industry's well-known "linkage" and "multiplier" effects. Furthermore, by increasing the supply of shelter, one of the most basic necessities of life, such investments can also contribute immeasurably towards the enhancement of the quality of life of the great majority of peoples. In its choice of the topic on the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements, the Commission demonstrates once more its continued determination to give priority attention in its work to issues which affect the welfare of the poorest and the most disadvantaged groups of society and which are also of special relevance to the developing countries.
6. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, gives full recognition to human settlements as an important dimension of development activity and to the key role of human settlements programmes in the development process, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission at its third session.

7. The international community is acutely aware of the need to develop, in the shortest possible time, decent and affordable shelter for an ever-increasing world population, in both the developed and the developing countries. The challenge to the international community in the 1980s is thus the formulation and immediate implementation of policies and projects for the provision of basic shelter and related infrastructure to the world's communities, utilizing low-cost designs, appropriate construction techniques, and indigenous building materials. I am confident that your conclusions and recommendations at this fourth session will point the way towards meeting this challenge and will contribute significantly to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

8. I wish you every success in your important deliberations.
ANNEX V

Excerpts from the statement made by His Excellency
Mr. Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of
the Philippines, at the inaugural meeting of the
Fourth session of the Commission

Ideology of humanism

I must say that it is a great cause that has brought you here in Manila, and I shall merely add to the First Lady's words of welcome the appreciation and pride of our people in being chosen to host this fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements ....

The creation of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements stands in direct line with the birth of the many non-political bodies of our United Nations system, which separately and together have widened mankind's defences of peace. And it is moreover a Commission, unique to our contemporary world, reflecting the new concerns that have entered into the work of the global family during the last few years.

These concerns elevate what we have often referred to as "the human condition" as a fundamental issue for the global conscience to confront. They have brought to centre stage the poor of the world, whose presence is common to all societies and to all nations. They have highlighted the position of the working man as symbol of humanity's strivings for survival and personal well-being. And they have called upon the rich - whether individuals or nations - to break out of their insulation and share part of the burden of providing relief and change ....

Individuals, communities and nations pass irrevocably through the phases of instability and of growth, and in the process suffer or absorb the violence of change and carry the scars through their lives, marking the face of the society and age in which they belong. Fortunately, for men and societies, there have always been points of light and hope that counterpoint. if not completely dissipate. the pools of darkness that surround us.

This gathering is such an expression of humanity's capacity for creative reforms and change. It shows us one means to arrest the alienation of man in the face of industrial and technological change.

The human settlements movement, it may be truly said, is one beacon of light that gives direction to development, in all the sectors that constitute a society, whether in a unit community, a nation, or in the entire global sphere.

It has begun to bring back the true ethic in every undertaking: that man should be the beginning, the means and the end of all development ....

And I think that when we speak therefore of human settlements, we do not speak alone of habitat, of houses. We speak of man. We speak of his income.
We speak of his capability to pay for the house that is going to be set up and for the other amenities that are going to be set up for the entire settlement.

Another move and proposal we have made is to increase investment in construction and raise the levels of production of the construction industry, which is the subject of your conference. But more than this, we have looked into the indigenous materials that we have never imagined could be utilized for houses ....

Here in the Philippines, construction actually means participation of the people in construction. Not just those who are employed by construction companies. When we say increased construction, we mean everybody becomes a productive unit. But if there is anybody who is lazy and cannot participate, he will probably be ostracized by the entire community. This is what is happening right now. That is why when anybody asks me: What do you think is the best achievement of the new society that you have set up? I say: It is not infrastructure. It is not increase in income. It is not our becoming a rice-exporting country. It is not the development of the geothermal sources of energy, biomass, and the other sources which threaten to make us self-sufficient. It is not all of these. It is the change of the attitude of our people.

Before, they were dependent upon Government for everything that you could imagine. Every time they turned around, they would say: Let us wait for the Government to give it to us — clothing, food, housing and everything. But now that self-reliance has been taught them, it has become actually an article of faith. Every Filipino now asks for the right to work for himself, for the right to stand on his own feet. And to me, that is the greatest achievement that any society can attain in any given lifetime ....

The human settlements movement and the efforts by the international community to call attention to this part of the human dimension do give inspiration to the fact that man certainly is not concerned alone with wars and covetous influences, that man is interested, too, in improving the livelihood of the less fortunate members of our society.

May I therefore congratulate you for coming all the way from your respective countries to participate in this International Conference. The hopes and inspirations of many peoples of the world ride on your talents, on your genius, on your dedication. While there are men and women like you who can devote themselves to the solution of these problems, there is hope for all of mankind. It is my prayer therefore that those hopes will ultimately give fruit to the fulfilment of the rising expectations of the poor of our world.

Thank you.