



HABITAT

The United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Vancouver 1976

BACKGROUND TO HABITAT

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INTRODUCTION

Habitat deals with how people live. Increasingly, people are living in urban communities, creating new pressures on the human environment. Our human settlements are becoming very large very quickly. A world of problems faces mankind in our cities, towns and communities: food... water supply... shelter... energy.. work... transport... population pressure... pollution... aesthetic environment... protection... recreation...

At the end of May, 1976, representatives of 140 nations will come together in Vancouver for two weeks to discuss solution's to these problems at the United Nations Conference of Human Settlements, more familiarly known as HABITAT.

The man-made environment was one of the topics at the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. But it became quite apparent that this subject was too wide and complex to be discussed adequately there. So one of the provincial delegates to Stockholm, Dr. Victor Goldbloom of Quebec, formally proposed the idea of a Human Settlements Conference as a sequel.

This proposal by Canada to host the HABITAT Conference was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly and Señor Enrique Peñalosa, a former Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, was chosen as Secretary-General with a Preparatory Committee of 56 UN member nations to advise him.

Prior to Señor Peñalosa's April 1974 appointment, preliminary planning was carried out by a small group established by Maurice Strong, then Executive Director of the UN Environment Program. This was done in co-operation with a task force in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with members of the Canadian Government. A Vancouver meeting of experts in May of 1973 discussed themes and how to select projects.

Supplementing the UN HABITAT will be HABITAT FORUM, a gathering at outlying Jericho Beach of non-governmental organizations and involved individuals. Parallel conferences are now standard practice with the United Nations in order to encourage much broader participation in discussing issues and developing strategies for solutions.

The UN Conference itself will bring together delegates, accredited observers, officials and journalists. It thus will be the largest conference ever sponsored by the UN.

HABITAT aims to encourage a greater awareness of settlement problems, issues and solutions among the 140 member countries of the United Nations. It may also establish a number of new programs of international co-operation in these fields in the way that the Stockholm Conference did for the environment.

In any case, HABITAT will differ from traditional conferences in that it will place special emphasis on solutions. Each country has been asked to submit, in audio-visual form, a presentation detailing the solution to some problem in the context of human settlements.

The purpose of this Backgrounder is to give a working knowledge of how HABITAT came to be and to outline the varied and extensive preparations necessary for the organization of an international conference on this scale. We also learn how the world as a whole, as well as each individual person, can participate in as well as benefit from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the UN Conference on Human Settlements are:

1. To raise the level, in Canada and the other participating countries, of government, media and public awareness about the phenomenon of urbanization, mass migration from rural to urban settlements, and the consequences for public policy.

Background: The world population took several million years to reach 800-million. It increased by less than 500-million in the 100 years between 1750 and 1850, and by 1,200-million in the next 100 years to 1950. In the next 20 years, however, it jumped by more than 1,000-million, and it could double during the next 30 years.

In 1850 there were 1,200-million people on earth. By 1971 there were about 3,600-million — three times as many. Within the life expectancy of Canadians born in the 1970s, this number could reach 11,000-million or more.

The population of Canada and the United States — 215 million in 1965 — may increase to 350 million by 2000 and to around 500 million by 2020. Canada's population, about 22 million now, could rise to 30 or 40 million by the end of the century.

2. To identify and recommend various national approaches to managing this dominant trend so as to improve the quality of human settlements, and to encourage acceptance of solutions that have been tried and found more or less successful.

Background: Between 1920 and 2000, world population could triple; rural population could double; urban population could increase ninefold.

In the more developed regions, urban areas contained 260 million in 1920. By 1960 this had increased to more than 500 million and by 2000 could exceed 1,000-million. In the less-developed regions, urban population amounted to 100 million in 1920, but had surpassed 400 million by 1960, and may reach nearly 2,000-million by 2000 — a twentyfold increase in 80 years.

In the United States between 1850 and 1900, the urban population increased tenfold to 30 million. Fifty years later 60 per cent of the American population — nearly 90 million — lived in urban regions. By 2000 this could reach 260 million, an increase of 170 million in 50 years, or 85 per cent of all Americans.

Since the Second World War, Canada has had the highest rate of urban growth of any developed country. Although a majority of Canadians have lived in urban areas since the early 1920s, the absolute increases in Canada's urban population were small until 1951. Between 1951 and 1966, urban regions absorbed almost all of Canada's population increase of 6 million. Between 1951 and 1961, urban growth averaged 4.1 per cent each year. Among developed nations, the next highest rate during this period was 2.7 per cent in the United States. By 2000 Canada's urban population could more than double.

3. To develop, debate and refer to governments recommendations for more effective action at the national and international level on human settlements policies, strategies and programs.

Background: The prospect of a doubling of Canada's urban population during the next 30 years means Canadians will have to build as many new settlements during that time as we have built in our

entire history to date. This is a staggering prospect, but it is also an immense opportunity. It means Canadians have the choice of developing new urban regions and redeveloping most of their existing ones in ways more harmonious with the existing environment than in the past.

4. To use HABITAT — its preparatory process, the conference itself and post-conference activity — to achieve a greater consensus on the objectives and substance of Canadian Human Settlements strategy, and to promote and refine the development of intergovernmental and public/private mechanisms and processes to implement it.

5. To establish the central relevance of human settlements policy in the framing of national development strategies.

Background: In HABITAT, we are dealing with two sets of problems — those of the privileged and those of the deprived. These distinctions still exist in one degree or another in every country. The problems of the deprived demand primary attention. HABITAT will provide an opportunity to focus on the problems of both groups.

6. To achieve through HABITAT a real commitment, first by national governments and then by the world community as a whole, to meet the needs of our poorest people.

Background: Millions of the less-advantaged are still to be found in the industrialized nations and HABITAT should persuade governments to improve their condition. But the vast majority live, and will continue to live, in the rural settlements and the urban squatter settlements of the Third World. For the most unfortunate among these peoples, HABITAT will be justified if it helps governments to ensure their minimum needs for survival.

Canada agrees with the United Nations background papers that there should be “equitable distribution of the social and economic benefits of development among all national regions and groups, with special emphasis on the needs of the less favored segments of the population.”

Canada also supports the UN Preparatory Committee’s call on nations to concentrate first on “the most critical and immediate problems of human settlements” and particularly the call for “provision of a minimum standard of housing, infrastructure and services to the most deprived segments of the population.”

To achieve the national goals recommended by the UN Preparatory Committee, such as adequate shelter for every citizen and universal access to essential community services, will require a redeployment of resources within many nations. This will also require a more equitable sharing of wealth and resources between nations.

7. To encourage national governments to go beyond these broad goals of national policy and state their commitment to achieve certain hard program targets in the basic areas, targets which can then provide priorities for national action and, just as important, priorities for international co-operation.

Background: Targets are necessary for nations — just as they are for individuals. They have enormous value in focussing and spurring the efforts of governments and people. They also serve as 3 valuable measures of policy success.

It would be unrealistic and perhaps inappropriate to suggest that national governments at HABITAT should indicate their program targets in a large number of areas. But it should be possible and would be useful for Vancouver participants to report on their targets in a few basic areas — such as shelter, water and waste disposal.

The HABITAT Conference could then go beyond this to discuss those targets that have a measure of universality and consider how the world community, through its various international bodies, can respond effectively and efficiently to assist nations in achieving their basic priorities.

8. To focus the program targets discussed at HABITAT on the most crucial needs for the least advantaged, especially in the developing countries.

Background: HABITAT discussions should concentrate on the ways and means available to governments and to agencies of the world community to relieve the most basic problems in human settlements in the shortest reasonable time.

HABITAT cannot be asked to guarantee the happiness of every individual. Rather, through the discussions at HABITAT, we can together devise reasonable targets for the reduction of suffering and the elimination of unnecessary misery.

Access to safe water, provided in whatever manner the resources of each nation and community allow, is, in a very profound way, the keystone to any national strategy on human settlements.

The Canadian government believes the provision of safe drinking water in every definable community by the year 2000 is a realistic goal for a human settlements conference to deliberate upon and, hopefully, endorse.

The variety of settlement problems that depend for relief in the first place on safe water alone is one of the best examples of the interdependence of all of the solutions to our community problems. A poor man too sick to work because of bad water can't benefit from new job opportunities arising from a development project. In rural villages the world over, millions of woman-hours are wasted hauling water from distant sources. Simply by providing safe water in every community, this wasted energy and capacity could be diverted to the more productive purpose of providing other essentials for human life in their communities, such as growing more food, helping to build shelter, schools and roads.

At HABITAT an indication of national commitments to such basic program targets will make it easier for international and bilateral development programs to respond to the most urgent of our human settlements problems.

9. To encourage the industrialized nations to demonstrate that they will not permit the continuing abuse of their resources; that our cities must reverse a trend to blight in our urban cores; that concentration need not result in congestion and stagnation; that transportation need not control people and their settlement patterns but can be controlled to achieve desired patterns and reverse the trend to polluting our environment and dissipating finite resources.

Background: With our wealth and resources the developed nations have too frequently created chaos while with foresight and will we can achieve a higher degree of fulfilment in our cities and the option of a more tranquil fulfilment in our smaller centres.

A firm commitment by nations in Vancouver to focus the priorities of development assistance more directly on the most crucial needs of our human settlements is the result most likely to convince people that HABITAT is a valuable exercise in international co-operation.

This is the best way to overcome the scepticism about the effectiveness of the United Nations and the real value of HABITAT. In every country we still fall short of human capacity to alleviate existing misery. In urban and rural communities of rich and poor nations alike, men, women and children still suffer and die unnecessarily — not from conditions formerly imposed by humanity's limited

capacity to manipulate nature for its benefit, but from willful human indifference, neglect and selfishness.

Yet no country is so rich it can afford to waste the contribution of any citizen, and no government is so poor, so lacking in neighbourly aid, that it can convincingly claim it has no answer to basic human needs, and no hope for distributing minimum standards of subsistence to all in its human settlements.

It is Canada's hope that at HABITAT the ethical will finally be recognized as the practical.

HABITAT SYMBOL

The HABITAT symbol combines three traditional forms to reaffirm man's belief that he can find answers to the problems of human settlements.

The circle emphasizes the universal nature of such problems. The triangular Greek letter 'delta' represents shelter. The human figure appeals for better ways to provide this shelter.

And the rough graffiti style reflects mankind's urgent need for answers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

"How does HABITAT affect me?" "How can I be involved?"

HABITAT is an official United Nations Conference so in the broad sense, through our Government representatives, we are all involved. But of course this does seem a bit remote from our workaday lives and it must be recognized that only officials can speak at the UN Conference itself, with little or no facility for speculators.

But...

You can view the full-length audio-visual presentations (that are so important to the success of HABITAT) scheduled throughout the Conference at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse.

You can feel the pulse of the Conference by visiting the HABITAT Pavilion in front of the Courthouse on West Georgia Street.

You can join in all the various activities of Vancouver's FESTIVAL HABITAT as detailed in a later section of this Backgrounder.

You can follow HABITAT proceedings all day long on cable TV in much of the B.C. Lower Mainland, or watch special broadcasts on the regular networks elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

And you can attend and participate in HABITAT FORUM, the parallel conference specifically designed for input on human settlements issues by non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals.

But there is yet another way of involving yourself as a person, as a family or as a community in the purposes of HABITAT and that's by becoming aware of the issues of human settlements and their vital importance. Things such as land use (what are the implications of the fact that only 17 per cent of Canada is arable — and already 10 per cent has been filled up with shops and factories and housing developments?) and things such as energy conservation (do you turn off unneeded lights?), transportation (do we continue gobbling up land with multi-lane highways and parking lots?), pollution and safe neighbourhoods.

TWO ROLES FOR CANADA

The Canadian Habitat Secretariat was formed on December 17, 1975 from the Host Secretariat of the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian Participation Secretariat of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. There are two components to the Habitat Secretariat — the Participation Program, previously administered by MSUA, and the Host Program formerly with External Affairs.

Host Program

Canada's role as host involves planning the accommodation and meeting facilities for official delegations, which entails:

- Booking (but not paying for) hotel space for delegates, accredited observers, officials, journalists;
- Arranging meeting facilities for conference delegates and representatives of the news media;
- Arranging protocol, reception centres at ports of entry, health services and security.

Participation Program

Canada's role as the chief participant in HABITAT also involves the development of her contribution to the Conference itself. Organizing public participation and helping to define Canada's position at the Conference are included here, as are informing the public at home and abroad about the Conference and preparing audio-visual presentations about human settlements programs in Canada. Study tours before, during and after HABITAT will enable participants in the official UN Conference and HABITAT FORUM as well to view achievements in human settlements across Canada.

To acquaint the populace at large with the themes of the HABITAT Conference and to involve it in the planning, the Canadian Habitat Secretariat organized a series of 30 public meetings during the fall of 1975.

The Canadian National Committee, a group of 16 prominent Canadians headed by Senator Sidney Buckwold of Saskatoon, convened 16 of these gatherings coast-to-coast. The remaining 14 meetings were in-depth symposia bringing specialists together to interact with the audience on specific settlement problems.

The Committee received 212 briefs dealing with numerous facets of life in human settlements and also heard oral presentations from citizens and organizations. These views were formulated into a report prepared for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, a report which will help the Minister and his Cabinet colleagues determine the position Canada itself will take at the HABITAT Conference.

On the Pacific Centre plaza at Georgia and Granville one will find the Canadian National Exhibit, housed in four modules. The exhibit is intended to educate the Canadian public about the human settlements issues that are expected to be a major part of the national political dialogue between now and the end of the century.

ORGANIZATION

As the first UN Conference to be staged outside a national capital, HABITAT has a unique organizational structure divided between Ottawa and Vancouver under the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, the Hon. Barney Danson, MP.

The Canadian Habitat Secretariat is headed by Commissioner-General James W. MacNeill. Also based in Ottawa are the Director-General for Information, Don Peacock; Deputy Director-General/Comptroller R.J. Coulter; Deputy Director-General/Information Luc Sicotte; and the Co-ordinator for Priorities and Planning, John Cox, as well as the Co-ordinator for International Affairs, R.D. Munro, and the Co-ordinator for Protocol, G.R. Jeaurond.

In Vancouver itself, the Habitat Secretariat is directed by Associate Commissioner-General Dr. Hugh L. Keenleyside and includes the Director-General for the Host Program, J. Creighton Douglas; Deputy Director-General/Host Carl Pederson; Deputy Director-General/Information Pat Carney, and the Senior Advisor for Participation, Vern Wieler.

Most will come together in Vancouver as the opening of HABITAT draws near.

PARTICIPANTS

All the nations, states and organizations recognized by the United Nations are of course eligible to send delegations to the HABITAT Conference at the invitation or designation of the UN Secretary-General. Included will be representatives of UN member states and selected non-member states; representatives of interested UN agencies; representatives of specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and observers from intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.

Also included are observers from national liberation movements such as the Palestine Liberation Organization which has observer status at the United Nations. As an official UN Conference, HABITAT attendance, agenda, rules of procedure and so on are all matters determined by the United Nations as a whole and not by the host country.

In a speech to the UN Association in Canada, the Hon. Barney Danson acknowledged that some people might wish to express displeasure over the attendance at HABITAT of one or another participant nation or observer group. But these concerns should be aired at the appropriate place — and that place is not HABITAT, Mr. Danson stated.

Participation in HABITAT FORUM is open to any representatives of organizations and individuals having an interest in the issues of human settlements. By February 1976 more than 250 international organizations had indicated their interest in participating in HABITAT FORUM.

NGO

The 'NGOs' are Non-Governmental Organizations, and these play an integral part at major UN conferences. There are more than 250 national NGOs in Canada. Regional branches and local organizations run into the thousands and include service clubs, religious organizations, special interest groups and professional organizations.

The Secretary-General for HABITAT has invited NGOs to participate at Vancouver in the form of a counter conference, to be known as HABITAT FORUM. The Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements (ACSOH), a private non-profit organization, is the NGO equivalent of the Host Program.

FORMAT AND AGENDA

The HABITAT Conference will have before it three major issues for consideration and decision:

- Declaration of Principles
- Proposals for National Action
- Recommendations for International Co-operation

Drafts of these papers were discussed at a Preparatory Committee meeting last January which the UN Habitat Secretariat later redrafted and circulated to participating governments. These three papers will go to Vancouver as recommendations of the Secretary-General.

In the weeks before the opening of the Conference, governments will have the opportunity to formulate amendments and additions and these will be placed before the Conference when it opens. But delegations may also propose changes at the Conference itself.

The HABITAT Conference will be organized into four bodies meeting in parallel. The first is the Plenary Session which will meet for the duration of HABITAT, concentrating on national statements for the first week then giving consideration and approval to reports from the other bodies. Committee I will discuss a declaration of principles followed by a program for international co-operation. Recommendations for national action will involve Committees II and III, the former dealing with such items as policies and strategies; planning, and institution and management, and the latter concentrating on shelter; infrastructure and services; land, and public participation.

Committee I will submit its report to the Plenary Session on June 9 and Committees II and III will follow suit 24 hours later. The final day will be devoted to plenary approval of the official HABITAT report.

The formal Conference working day is expected to run around six hours. With about 140 delegations wishing to express their views, some constraints will have to be placed on formal conference dialogue and much of the substantive interchange at HABITAT will likely take place in corridors, in ad hoc sessions arranged around the audio-visuals and in drafting groups set up to carry out major revisions of the policy papers.

Background preparation for HABITAT has been intensive, extensive and global in scope, including a four-day symposium in Yugoslavia attended by 30 of the world's leading architects, planners, environmentalists and related experts who laid the philosophical basis for human settlements as an inter-disciplinary science. More than 100 countries participated in four regional meetings in Cairo, Tehran, Caracas and Geneva and 30 special studies were commissioned by the UN Habitat Secretariat.

In addition there has been the experience gained from four recent UN Conferences: Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972); Population (Bucharest, 1974); Food (Rome, 1974), and Status of Women (Mexico City, 1975).

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Facilities for the HABITAT Conference in downtown Vancouver will be extensive. At the centre is the unique, papier maché HABITAT Pavilion on the Courthouse Plaza where delegates can keep in touch with all events. Two blocks west along Georgia Street is the HABITAT Operations Centre, housing the Media Centre, Conference Services offices, the UN Secretariat, Canadian host functions and the UN Office of Public Information. Canadian participation functions will be located in the HABITAT Secretariat on the ninth floor of Bentall Tower III.

Delegate registration will take place at 652 Burrard Street. The Plenary Session will continue throughout the Conference at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. This Plenary Hall can seat 150 delegations of four members each and will allow for 2000 observers, reporters and public; Host Broadcaster TV cameras will cover proceedings, and there will be a six-language simultaneous interpretation system and a large rear-screen projection system for viewing of project presentation capsules.

Next door, the 650-seat Queen Elizabeth Playhouse will be utilized for public showings of the numerous audio-visual project demonstrations.

Committee I is scheduled to meet in the Commonwealth Ballroom of the Holiday Inn City Centre (to be known at HABITAT as Conference E) to consider the draft charter. The other Committees will gather in the B.C. Ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver (Conference B) and the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Conference D). The Pacific Ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver will be held in reserve as Conference C.

Simultaneous wireless translation of committee proceedings will be offered in the six official UN languages — English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. Most conference rooms will have small TV monitors at every table for viewing of project demonstrations.

Other services to be provided include accommodation, booking, transportation, security, information, hospitality, health, registration, briefing and printing.

HABITAT PAVILION

The central Conference facility will be the HABITAT Pavilion on the Courthouse Plaza facing Georgia Street. Here, in a low, modular structure with a roof of papier maché, will be facilities for the distribution of Conference literature; travel and tour information for delegates, and postal services. A closed circuit system will provide live television coverage of the Conference for the general public.

The 9,700-square-foot pavilion, designed by Arthur Erickson Architects, is partially being built by 2000 school children in the Vancouver area, it taking 15 youngsters some 2½ hours to build each of the 112 modules. The children will also decorate the underside of the specially-treated papier maché roof shells in keeping with the theme of human settlements. Cost of the Pavilion is estimated at \$342,090 to the Canadian Habitat Secretariat.

The HABITAT Pavilion will be an important part of the total festive environment which the City of Vancouver is developing through the Habitat Festival Committee.

PROJECT PRESENTATION CENTRE

The HABITAT Conference will be solution-oriented. Answers to settlements problems do exist; new models and approaches are being carried out in many parts of the world and these could be applied successfully elsewhere if they were more widely known.

So, most of the countries coming to the Conference are bringing with them audio-visual displays of how they solved their particular settlement problems. Some 220 such presentations from 120 countries will be shown during HABITAT and, in capsule form via closed-circuit television, to those sitting in plenary and committee sessions. To support a position they may be making, Plenary Hall delegates can call up a three-minute capsule on a five-metre television projection screen, invented by British Columbian Russel Bratkowski and being used for the first time. Capsule playbacks will also be available on tabletop monitors in Conferences B and D.

Full-length versions of these audio-visual demonstration projects will be on call in the Project Demonstration Centre, adjacent to Conference D in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Here, outside official proceedings, delegates will be able to screen any of the full-length versions of the audio-visual programs in the official language of their choice. Viewing arrangements will accommodate individuals or small- to medium-sized groups of up to a dozen or so people.

This will be the largest and most diverse audio-visual presentation of human settlements solutions yet assembled. Three titles have been prepared by Canada: Management for Urban Growth and Land Use; Design Innovations for Cold Climates; and Governing Human Settlements.

All projects will be listed in a catalogue to be prepared in Vancouver by the Secretariat's Creative Design Group. Some titles from the preliminary list:

Algeria	The Green Belt and 1000 Socialist Villages
Botswana	Rural-Urban Drift
Colombia	Invasion of Colinas (squatters)
Egypt	Greater Cairo
Greece	New Towns Dealing with New Needs
Hungary	Thermal Water Utilization
Iran	Pardisan - A Persian Garden
Israel	Conquest of the Desert
Kuwait	Resettlement of the Bedouin
Liberia	From Mats to Mattresses
Mali	The Village of Djoliba
Rwanda	Delivery of Community Services to Farmers
Sudan	Squatter Improvement Program in Port Sudan
Togo	A New Togolese Approach to Urban Renewal
USA	Citizen Involvement in Public Decision-Making
USSR	Mass Housing Construction in Vilnius

MEDIA FACILITIES

A fully-equipped and -staffed Media Centre will operate from the first two floors of the HABITAT Operations Centre at 1110 West Georgia Street from May 24 to June 12. It is planned to service more than 1,000 journalists, broadcasters and film-makers.

The facilities will include: work spaces for journalists, an annex for private radio reporters, photography lab, briefing and viewing areas, reserved offices for major news agencies, offices for the United Nations Office of Public Information, document distribution area, a message centre and national and international telephone and telex connections.

In addition, Media Sub-Centres will be located at major conference sites, including the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Hotel Vancouver, Hyatt Regency, Holiday Inn City Centre and HABITAT FORUM. Each Sub-Centre will include a press room and a Media Lounge, providing a "rest" area and allowing journalists to monitor proceedings at both HABITAT and HABITAT FORUM. Telephone, telex and work facilities also will be available at each Sub-Centre.

Pacific Ballroom at the Hotel Vancouver will serve as the main briefing centre and press conference site.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, as host broadcaster for HABITAT, will provide and staff video and audio coverage of plenary sessions in English and French and audio coverage of committee sessions in English, French, Spanish and floor sound. Additionally, the CBC will provide visiting accredited broadcasters with a variety of facilities and services enabling production of all aspects of conference activity, including use of archival material of committee activities and conference audio-visual presentations.

Host Broadcaster facilities will be headquartered in the Hotel Vancouver, in a broadcast centre which includes a booking office, shipping and receiving office, film processing laboratory, two colour television studios and five radio studios (two equipped for live transmission), as well as a full range of broadcasting sub-services.

Television/film and radio studios also will be located at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, a television/film studio at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and radio facilities at a number of locations.

As an additional service, four fully-equipped film crews and two colour-equipped mini-vans will be available for mobile coverage.

A closed-circuit TV system will link the Conference sites together and also connect these sites with HABITAT FORUM. Pick-ups of the proceedings at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Hotel Vancouver, Hyatt Regency and HABITAT FORUM will be carried. Distribution in six languages will be made to the delegates' lounges. Distribution in three languages: English, French and Spanish, will be made to the HABITAT Pavilion, Media Centre, Holiday Inn City Centre, Hotel Georgia (downtown base for NGOs) and to HABITAT FORUM.

Cable television's Channel 10 will function as STATION HABITAT for the duration of the Conference. Proceedings will be carried live and on video-tape; project audio-visual material will be scheduled, and there will be news programs in the morning and early afternoon, and news and magazine programs in the evening. So the public will be able to tune in to HABITAT right at home.

DELEGATE HOUSING

Vancouver, Canada's third-largest city, is one of the few in the country with the facilities to hold a conference of this size which requires hotel bookings several years in advance.

Accommodation for some 6000 persons has been block-booked in hotels and motels as close as possible to the City Centre. Advance reservations are being made through Conference Services, Canadian Habitat Secretariat, P.O. Box 49183, Bentall Centre, Vancouver. Details are recorded on a computer for use as delegates arrive.

Transportation is being provided from the airport direct to the hotels and motels, as well as between these points and the Conference sites.

For those attending HABITAT FORUM accommodation has been block-booked for about 3000 persons in the University of B.C. residences. Advance reservations along with registrations are being made through Sandy Marriage or Jane Wood, HABITAT FORUM, Box 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1K8.

Transportation is being provided from the airport to the University, between the University and Jericho Beach, and between Jericho and downtown.

BUDGET

The estimated direct cost of the HABITAT Conference to the federal Government is \$14 million. Of this, \$9.2 million is required to meet host nation commitments and \$4.8 million to prepare for Canada's participation in the Conference.

Of the \$14 million expenditures, approximately \$8.5 million, or 60%, will be spent in Vancouver.

Expenditures on the conference have been incurred since fiscal year 1972-73 and will be completed in fiscal year 1976-77.

Appropriations for HABITAT in the regular budget of the United Nations total U.S. \$2.77 million. Since Canada is assessed 3.18 per cent of this regular budget, the indirect cost to Canada will be U.S. \$88,086.

In addition to the allocation from the U.N. regular budget, HABITAT is receiving grants from the United Nations Fund for the Environment, totalling U.S. \$3 million. This is to support the full participation of developing countries in the Conference.

HABITAT FORUM

On May 27, 1976 — four days before the UN HABITAT Conference begins — non-government organizations will gather at Vancouver's outlying Jericho Beach for an 'alternative' or 'counter' conference known as HABITAT FORUM. Events to be held in five converted seaplane hangers on the former RCAF base and at the University of British Columbia will range from a formal conference to related meetings of non-governmental organizations.

Facilities and hosting are being arranged by the Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements (ACSOH). As will HABITAT itself, HABITAT FORUM will formally end on June 11, but various related activities are expected to extend a week or so before and after these dates.

FORUM activities will be available to all who wish to participate or to simply observe or listen. In addition, those at Jericho will be able to monitor the UN sessions by closed-circuit TV.

A preliminary program for HABITAT FORUM outlines an hour-long briefing each morning on the proceedings downtown at the official Conference. The panel discussions and debates will be held in

plenary sessions on some of the major human settlement problems, with emphasis placed on methods to improve living conditions of the most deprived groups in both developing and developed countries.

Each day will have a principal theme, including: national human settlement policies; participation in planning implementation; human settlements in rural areas; community involvement in improving the quality of life; land use and ownership, and user-oriented human settlements technologies. The man-made and natural environment provides another theme, as does social justice and the question of differing values and culture.

Workshops of two or three sessions each will take place on such subjects as low cost and self-help housing; interdisciplinary approaches to human settlements; conservation of energy and other resources, and population policies, as well as ways and means of governmental and NGO co-operation.

Also: the role of women; education; employment problems; the building industry as promoter of economic development; international co-operation for human settlements research, and metropolitan areas and the problems of megalopolis, as well as case studies of human settlement policies.

In addition there will be NGO demonstration projects dealing with solutions to human settlement problems — social, technical, political and economic — presented through films, video and audio tape, posters and scale and full-sized models.

An environmental equipment and services pavilion will be a feature of HABITAT FORUM, with an exhibition of goods and services relating to human settlements.

Independent professional and academic meetings will be held for those concerned with human settlements: architects, town planners, psychologists and so on. A Distinguished Lecture Series by well-known speakers and writers on human settlements issues has been arranged by the University of British Columbia. And FILM HABITAT will be an international film festival on human settlements.

Facilities for the business sessions and display areas of HABITAT FORUM can be arranged through ACSOH, including both official HABITAT FORUM activities and meetings of independent organizations being held in Vancouver during the HABITAT period. There will be no charge for HABITAT FORUM facilities; independent organizations holding private meetings will be charged for the space they use.

Both HABITAT and HABITAT FORUM are dedicated to presenting solutions to problems of human settlements. Although the two conferences are different in sponsorship, in structure and in format, there are mechanisms for the NGO HABITAT FORUM to make its views known to the UN HABITAT, and the two will be linked by closed-circuit television.

FESTIVAL HABITAT

The City of Vancouver, through its Habitat Festival Committee, is developing a five-week festival program to start May 21 and running through to July 5, 1976. FESTIVAL HABITAT will include a theatre series at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre and at the David Y. H. Lui Theatre of the best young theatre groups from Canada's various regions. The new City Stage plans to reopen with special HABITAT performances, and there will also be special participation by the Arts Club.

A concert series will include classical, pops, new music and early music at Christ Church Cathedral, which will be specially sound-proofed for the event. A 'Street Scene' will use three 'stages' — Granville Square, Pacific Centre Mall and Alexander Park Bandstand — to feature special festival bands, including a swing band in the 1940s style. And a musical composition will be created specifically for the downtown acoustic environment.

Also under this STREET FESTIVAL program, folk-art mini-festivals will be staged in Vancouver's Gastown and Chinatown districts on the weekend of June 4-6. Included on June 5 is a big bicycle race of 100 miles from Hope to Gastown. That afternoon the best of ethnic acts in town will be featured and, in the evening, more local musicians will perform. The big finale late Sunday afternoon in Gastown will feature native Indian dancers. The Chinatown festival, serving both residents and visitors, will include a Lion Dance and classical music and opera.

A two-week film festival will use three locations. Canadian feature and futuristic films will be shown at the National Film Board and experimental films will be screened at The Western Front. At HABITAT FORUM, a look at social change and alternatives will be presented, also through the use of films.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is planning 'The Night Shift at the Gallery', when doors will remain open from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. to feature numerous special events with local artists.

Street decorations in Vancouver, expanded this year in honour of HABITAT, will include designs by local artists Jack Shadbolt, Michael Morris, Sheri Grauer and Gordon Smith. And 300 billboards — of virtually every one in the main part of the city — have been donated for a public contest on the theme human settlements.

A HABITAT Craft Festival, being organized by Circle Craft Co-operative of Victoria, B.C., already has about 100 exhibitors registered from British Columbia and Eastern Canada. The show has three major components. The Exhibition of Outstanding Canadian Crafts — contemporary Canadian, Inuit, Indian, B.C. and Nova Scotia quilts — will be displayed from May 21 to June 20 on the lobby and mezzanine floors of Project 200 at the foot of Granville Street. A quality-controlled, juried Concourse Fair will be located inside the adjacent CPR station from May 21 to July 5. And the Plaza Fair will be open on a first-come, first-served basis on the open plaza of Project 200's Granville Square, also May 21 to July 5.

STUDY TOURS

Members of foreign delegations to the Conference, as well as participants in HABITAT FORUM and the media, will have a chance to tour Canada and see Canadian endeavours and accomplishments in the field of human settlements.

A series of pre- and post-Conference study tours have been arranged by the Federal Government in close co-operation with the provincial, territorial and municipal governments. Except for air transport, hotel accommodations, meals and items of a personal nature, all costs will be borne by the various governments, including bus transportation and sightseeing, social functions hosted by the various governments and the services of tour escorts, French and English translators and tour guides.

POST-HABITAT

What are some of the hoped-for results of HABITAT?

1. A decision may be taken to restructure existing UN divisions to establish a UN Human Settlements agency assigned a role of international co-ordinator in this field.
2. A decision may be taken to strengthen a number of urban and regional planning training institutes around the world to train people how to manage mushrooming cities and developing rural regions.
3. A Declaration of Principles is expected to be approved which will have three basic characteristics:
 - It should recognize that the challenge of exploding human settlements is one of the critical issues confronting mankind. This challenge should be clearly described in language that is universally understood.
 - It should recognize the diversity and complexity of human settlements, and identify the main areas of action and the political and scientific resources that need to be marshalled.
 - It should represent a commitment by governments to tackle human settlements issues with the resources and urgency that are required.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Rt. Hon. Pierre Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

“No human need is more basic than shelter. Yet no country can claim that it provides adequate shelter to all its people. Nor can any country claim to protect its people from the consequences of inadequate shelter, impure water, congested transportation systems, primitive processes of waste disposal, the pressures which come from crowding, from noise, from fumes. Solutions to these human problems are available. That is why we in Canada have offered to host the HABITAT Conference in Vancouver. HABITAT brings variable solutions together offering governments the opportunity to share their knowledge. It holds out to everyone the promise of a planet that can yet become a wholesome human habitat.”

At present 79 per cent of the families living in Calcutta have to share living space; typhus and dysentery are endemic in almost all squatter settlements in Latin America; only 45 per cent of the municipalities in Brazil have a satisfactory water supply system and only 34 per cent have a sewage system.

“The world is our constituency. Yours, mine. Governmentally, personally. That world is not just a physical planet with immutable physical laws and finite limits; it is as well a single, interdependent community.”

Hon. Barney Danson
Minister of State for Urban Affairs

“A firm commitment by nations in Vancouver to focus the priorities of development assistance more directly on the most crucial needs of our human settlements is the result most likely to convince our peoples that HABITAT is a valuable exercise in international co-operation.”

“When we meet in Vancouver at the end of May, the relevance of the United Nations to basic human problems once again goes on public trial.”

“It is Canada’s hope that at HABITAT the ethical will finally be recognized as the practical.”

“Like all countries, Canada is facing the challenge of accelerating change. Habitat represents an opportunity for new initiatives not only in meeting massive global requirements but also in addressing the needs of our own communities.

“It (Habitat) is a process as much as an event and one that will profoundly affect each of us.”

Maurice Stong
Former Executive Director
UN Environment Program

“Those of us involved in trying to tackle the problems of the environment crisis are frequently disheartened. It is easy to be discouraged by the proportions of the crisis; it is easy to be overwhelmed by the need for urgency in acting to maintain this planet as a truly human habitat for man. We are in a race against time, against rising population, against rapid technological change, against depletion of resources, against concrete and steel.

“On the other hand, we are encouraged by the growing sentiment among some governments and many citizens that action must be taken, and immediately.”

James W. MacNeill
Canadian Commissioner-General for Habitat

“Vancouver has become a symbol of hope for many people... People are beginning to measure the future in terms of ‘before Habitat’ and ‘after Habitat’ ... The importance of HABITAT is that Canada and other countries see HABITAT as a beginning and not an end.”

Enrique Peñalosa
UN Secretary-General for Habitat

“At Vancouver, we will be coming together for a global exchange of ideas, techniques and systems for solving specific problems. The illustrated projects, if they are well chosen, will be the pilot models for the future. And in the years that follow they must be duplicated a hundred and thousand-fold around the world.

“Above all we must come together prepared to adopt new priorities, prepared to change our past ideas, prepared to cast off obsolete institutions, and prepared to discuss rationally the options, the trade-offs, the sacrifices that may be required to preserve our civilization.”

**Barbara Ward, author of
Habitat: Home of Man
Human Settlements: Crisis and Opportunity**

“On balance, human settlements are simply not felt to be fulfilling this promise. In many ways they grossly contradict it.

“They represent a spectrum of failure — from the basic ‘biological’ failure of destitution and worklessness on through increasing urban fears of violence and lawlessness, to the irritations and frustrations of the commuter in the traffic block, or the light sleeper under the flight path. Some are technological. But on the whole, technological failures should be included in the social category since, again and again, it is human misuse of vastly increased material power that creates the dangers and nuisances. Technology does not operate on its own. Man directs it... But if technology, misused by man, is at the root of many of the most keenly-felt failures in modern settlements, a wiser and more humane use of its unrivalled power and technical capacity can hopefully begin to mend the situation. This surely lies at the centre of the hopes for Vancouver.”

**Dr. Margaret Mead
World Famous Anthropologist**

“The study of human settlements is an important interdisciplinary science of the future. It deals with the total relationship of every element that makes up the total picture of how and where we live.”

FACTS AND FIGURES

Of the 12 fastest growing cities in the world in the next decade, all will be in developing countries. These 12 “fastest growing” cities will increase their population from a total of 46.5 million to 106.9 million between 1970 and 1985.

The first 1,000-million mark for humanity was passed about 1825. The next 1,000-million took only 100 years, the next only 50.

By 1985, the number of one-million population cities will have jumped from two to 273 in less than a century — and 147 of them will be in the less developed lands.

Nearly half the municipalities of Latin America have neither sewage systems nor piped water.

By virtually every statistical measure Canadians are among the best housed populations in the world. For example, in 1971, only 2.7 per cent of all dwelling units lacked piped water.

The average number of persons per room in Canada is just over 0.7, perhaps the lowest in the world.

If current trends continue unchanged to the turn of the century, we will have to build the equivalent of 40 new cities the size of Halifax, or eight new cities the size of Vancouver, to accommodate Canada’s population.

Men began to live in cities some 5500 years ago.

Rural farm population in Canada has declined rapidly. Its population decreased from 1.9 million in 1966 to 1.4 million in 1971 — a decrease of 26 per cent in only five years.

If India’s population should grow as the UN projections indicate it will, the largest city in India in the year 2000 will have between 36 and 66 million inhabitants.

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

1. Why was the Canadian Urban Demonstration Program cancelled?

A. It was cancelled as a result of federal budgetary cuts. But 14 projects are going ahead.

2. How much is HABITAT costing Canada?

A. About \$14 million has been committed by Canada. Of this, about \$9.2 million is required to meet host nation commitments and \$4.8 million to prepare for Canada's participation in the Conference.

3. Canada has few settlements problems compared to many of the developing countries. What can these countries learn from Canada?

A. They can learn how regional provincial governments work within the framework of a central government. They can learn about regional development and about our social and welfare programs. They can also learn how Canadians cope with the cold climate and from such innovative designs as the Ark project in Prince Edward Island, a solar house near Toronto and Montreal's unique underground city.

4. Wouldn't it have had more impact to hold such a conference in say, India, Bangladesh or Brazil? Why Canada?

A. It might perhaps have had more impact to hold this conference in a developing country. But a high degree of sophisticated infrastructure and technology is needed to mount the sort of closed circuit TV system to be used in Vancouver as well as supply the logistics for a conference of this size, which will be the largest ever held under the auspices of the UN.

5. What will happen to the Canadian Habitat Secretariat when the Conference ends?

A. There will be a wind-down period. The documentation collected will be catalogued and referred to other government departments and UN agencies so that the experiences, data and knowhow will not be lost.

6. What are the 14 CUDP projects that are going ahead and how much are they costing?

A. They are costing a total of \$1.9 million. Briefly they are:

AN ARK FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. It is a home which provides a fish-culture pond, greenhouse, laboratory and living space. Designed to be self-sufficient in energy, it relies on solar heating and a windmill system for heat and power.

THE CONSTANT MODULE. It is a bulk cargo container that can be used to store and transport wheat, potash, and other commodities or to serve as a shell for modular housing.

THE BLOOD TRIBE 1964-1974 — A PROJECT FOR INNOVATION AND CHANGE. This is an evaluation of a 10-year program designed to revitalize Alberta's Blood Indian Reserve socially, culturally, economically and politically.

TURN DOWN TRAFFIC VOLUME. A project to increase the capacity of downtown Vancouver's transportation facilities by 40 per cent through computer-matched car pools, publicity aimed at car drivers, and flexible working hours to reduce peak demands.

PACKAGE RESERVOIR SYSTEMS. This is a rubber reservoir built in Golden, B.C. using rubber fabric covers and liners as an alternative to the more expensive standard reinforced concrete.

MIRABEL AREA PLANNING. This shows how the new international airport near Montreal was planned to fit physically, administratively and economically with the environment.

PROVIDENT HOUSE. This is a solar-heated single-family house in the Toronto area which demonstrates the feasibility of year-round 100 per cent solar space heating.

SOLAR HOUSE. Another year-round solar-heated house in the Toronto area which features a solar collector and heat storage system as the primary source of energy for winter heating.

A SOLAR HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE PRESENT. A third solar house located in Ontario, near Gananoque, is designed to conserve heat. Half the heat load is supplied by sunlight via a roof-mounted solar collector and the rest is extracted from the fire-place flue gas. The house is built on and around a large rock, which provides storage for heat transmitted directly through the glazed south wall.

LEAF RAPIDS. This is a new Manitoba mining town, built between 1971 and 1974 on the Churchill River 550 miles north of Winnipeg. The purpose of this demonstration project is to show how a whole community can be effectively developed with government help.

LAND REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE (LRIS). This project involves the nationwide dissemination of information on LRIS which is a 10-year program, begun in April, 1973, to totally revamp and integrate land survey data in the three Maritime Provinces.

APPROPRIATE ENERGY AND BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR HOUSING QUEBEC INDIAN COMMUNITIES. This project is intended to improve housing conditions for Quebec Indian communities by building four prototype houses, designed in consultation with Indian communities.

THE STAY OPTION. This project by the Manitoba government to convince people to stay on the farm instead of moving to the big cities.

THE LIVEABLE REGION PROGRAM. This is a project to encourage citizens in the Greater Vancouver Regional District to have greater control over the area's growth.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Before the Conference further information is available by telephoning or writing the Habitat Information Centre, 131 Water Street, Gastown, Vancouver, B.C., phone (604) 666-8641.

During the Conference, information is available at the HABITAT Pavilion in front of the Courthouse on West Georgia Street.

Information is also available from the UN Habitat Secretariat, 485 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York City, New York 10007, U.S. A.

And HABITAT FORUM information is available from P.O. Box 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1K8, or by telephoning (604) 228-9011. The FORUM office is located at 4397 West 2nd Avenue in Vancouver, but this is not a mailing address.