

**"IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE HANDICAPPED  
IN THE WORLD'S SETTLEMENTS"**

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TWO AFTERNOON SESSIONS AT  
HABITAT N.G.O. FORUM ON  
MAY 31ST AND JUNE 2nd, 1976

Monday,  
May 31st, 1976  
14:15  
Hanger 5

Topic: Opening Statement by Mother Teresa,  
"International Perspective"

Rapporteur: Mr. Eric Carlson - U.N.E.P.

Speakers/

Panel: Mr. F. Bradford Morse,  
Administrator, United Nations Development Programs,  
U.S.A.  
Mrs. Fidelina Aguilar,  
Assistant Minister for Health, Dominican Republic  
Dr. Julia Ojiambo,  
Assistant Minister for Social Welfare and Housing,  
Government of the Republic of Kenya (Trustee of the  
Foundation for Social Habilitation)  
Mr. Maurice F. Strong,  
Chairman, Petro Canada (Honorary Trustee of the  
Foundation for Social Habilitation)  
Lady Barbara Ward,  
Author: President of International Institute for  
Environment and Development.  
Mr. Pran Nath Lutra,  
Former Secretary to the Government of India - Head  
of Department of Social Welfare  
Mr. Arnold Gangnes,  
Chairman, Architectural Environmental Planning Committee  
International League of Societies for the Mentally  
Handicapped.

16:30 -  
17:00

Discussion:

17:00 -  
17:30

Topic: "Opportunities for Action by International and  
UN Agencies"

Speaker: Mr. F. Bradford Morse,  
Administrator, U.N.D.P., U.S.A.

Wednesday,  
June 2, 1976  
14.15  
Hanger 5

Topic: "Analysis, Solution and Alternatives"

Speaker/

Panel: Same Panel as Monday's Session with  
Mr. Andrew Ligale,  
Director, Physical Planning, Government of the Republic  
of Kenya (Trustee - Foundation for Social Habilitation)

15.30

Topic: "Action for Habitat"

Speaker/

Panel: Same Panel as above with  
Mr. Norman Fisher,  
First Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment &  
Housing and Community Development

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Wednesday,  
June 2, 1976 Informal Film and Slide Presentation  
10.00 - MORNING  
12.15  
Media Room  
Hanger 5

\*\* Translation Services for the ...



# HABITAT FORUM



## *Improving the Quality of Life for the Handicapped in the World's Settlements*

SESSION 1

31 May 1976

14.15 h. to 17.30h.

SESSION 2

2 June 1976

10.00h.to 17.30h.

### Speakers

Mother Theresa, Mrs. Fidelina Aguilar, Mr. Eric Carlson,  
Mr. Andrew Ligale, Mr. Bradford Morse, Dr. Julia Ojiambo,  
Mr. Panayis Psomopoulos, Mr. Maurice F. Strong,  
Lady Barbara Ward Jackson, Pran Lutra, Arnold Gangnes.

Sessions to be held in Hangar No.5

HABITAT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Forum of the Non-Governmental Organizations

"Improving the Quality of Life for the Handicapped in the World's Settlements"

31 May to 2 June 1976

Sponsor

Foundation for Social Habilitation  
P.O. Box 30648  
Nairobi, KENYA

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

Social Planning and Review Council  
of British Columbia  
2210 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver V6K 2N6  
British Columbia, CANADA

Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation  
of British Columbia  
2256 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver V6K 2N5  
British Columbia, CANADA

Rehabilitation International  
122 East 23rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10010  
USA

An Expert Group Meeting on Barrier-free Design was convened in 1974 to discuss the possibilities of eliminating architectural and other man-made barriers that make buildings, structures, parks, leisure areas and means of transportation inaccessible to disabled persons (as well as to mothers with children or to the aging). The report of the Expert Group was published in 1975 by Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization, as a contribution to the United Nations. The Expert Group recommended, among other things, that the United Nations and other interested organizations consider ways for promoting international guidelines affecting policies on barrier-free design and promoting research on architectural and other physical barriers and on their elimination.

The Social Development Division will maintain close co-operation with the interested non-governmental organizations, such as Rehabilitation International and the International Organization for Standardization, in order to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting.

- United Nations/ESA/Social Development Division

Ten per cent of the world's population, approximately 400 million people, are disabled; many of them are in urgent need of services to reduce their dependency and increase their opportunities. Present medical rehabilitation services are inadequate, therefore, a review of policy changes, to emphasize preventive measures, to decrease disability and increase coverage of services, have been undertaken by the World Health Organization, at the fifty-seventh session of its Executive Board in November, 1975. As a result, a new programme was formulated with disability prevention and rehabilitation activities as an integral part of primary health care and the general health services.

- United Nations World Health Organizations  
(see resolutions WHA 19.37 and WHA 28.57)

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations:

draws the attention of Governments to the increasing magnitude of the problems of disability and disabled persons throughout the world

requests UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and interested non-governmental organizations in official relations with ECOSOC to join with the United Nations in well co-ordinated activities to assist all Governments especially those of the developing countries in the planning and conduct of comprehensive programs to prevent physical and mental disability and to provide suitable rehabilitation services, and further requests the United Nations, the ILO and the WHO to intensify assistance to Governments, especially those of the developing countries, in the formulation of programs and the training of instructors for the prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons throughout the world.

- Economic and Social Council  
(resolution adopted 6 May 1975)

"For us in Africa, and the developing countries, we cannot afford a special housing program with details of window heights, corridor widths, etc. What we would, perhaps, require is the co-operation of medical and social authorities, architects, townplanners and engineers to insure that information on housing for the disabled is made available and capable of application to normal housing..."

The developing countries are in a particularly fortunate situation in that most of their public buildings are in the planning stages and they would be well advised to incorporate such ideas as barrier-free design. By so doing, they would avoid the high cost of future modifications - but, such incorporation will be made only when the planning authority is made aware of the trends in social rehabilitation of the disabled."

- J. Amoako

"Despite everything we do, or hope to do, to assist each physically or mentally disabled person achieve his or her maximum potential in life, or efforts will not succeed until we have found the way to remove the obstacles to this goal erected by human society -

the physical barriers we have created in public buildings, housing, transportation, houses of worship, centres of social life and other community facilities

the social barriers we have evolved and accepted against those who vary more than a certain degree from what we have been conditioned to regard as normal.

We have urged that the United Nations and all other agencies concerned with the newly awakening interest in the human environment never forget that their efforts will not have succeeded unless and until they have produced an awareness that every feature of that environment, both physical and social, must be made healthy for, hospitable to and protective of all members of society."

- Norman Acton

"Architectural barriers are undoubtedly the most universal complaint voiced by disabled people. This is because they provide a hindrance to a very broad spectrum of disabling conditions, and because they have the effect of restricting severely the mobility of large numbers of disabled people.

They affect all kinds of human activities, from doing the weekly grocery shopping or going for a beer at the local pub, to pursuing employment, taking a vacation or seeking cultural, recreational or educational fulfillment."

- Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled

"... it seems that little of our discussion and papers and few of our solutions will be readily understood by those ordinary peoples with special concerns in human settlements. These groups include children, women, the elderly, the handicapped, the sick and the ethnic minorities. Each group has a persuasive case for special attention at HABITAT.

- Norman Fisher

"It is the handicapped person who needs the best possible environment to assist him in his disabled condition, and this demand should become an inspiration for ecological development from which we all can profit. If we make it a key task of our environmental effort to render a service to the handicapped we shall, in fact, serve all mankind... Disabled people cannot be fully rehabilitated unless we win the active co-operation of those who must support us in rising up to the challenge of helping the handicapped: the individual citizens in all countries of the world. The insensitivity of society must be attacked, ignorance about the plight of the handicapped must be fought and rejection and neglect must not be tolerated..."

Every human being has something to offer, no one is 100 per cent handicapped. It is our task to provide environments in which the handicapped can find avenues of expression and self-realization. They must not be isolated in ghettos because to deny the handicapped the outlet of their skills and talent, which each one of them has, is soul-destroying... it is our obligation not merely to help all the handicapped in the world but, at the same time, to make sure that we help spare more suffering by countering the predicted trend that the number of handicapped people in the world will grow."

- Maurice Strong

"Between exploiting landlords, ominous "winklers", efficient but officious welfare workers, and a bewildering bureaucracy, overmanning and over-managing so much of public housing, the citizens with no clout - the aged pensioner, the single-parent family, the workless, the handicapped - can easily feel utterly powerless in the face of a system which, private or public, seems simply to push them around."

- Barbara Ward: "The Home of Man"

"One major cause of disabling settlements is that they are built for a non-existent population. Buildings, roads, open spaces cater to a fictitious model of the human being - exclusively for a man (not a woman) in the prime of life and the peak of his physical fitness.

Statistically speaking, only a small minority of the population can fall into this category, even among the fit. Naturally, there is no thought for the handicapped."

- Panayis Psomopoulos

BROCHURE BY MARELLE TOWNSEND.

# MOTHER TERESA



HER WORK & HER PEOPLE