



UNITED NATIONS



Habitat:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
Vancouver, Canada, 31 May-11 June 1976

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.70/9
11 June 1976

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/SPANISH

Agenda item 11

PROGRAMMES FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Report of Committee I

Rapporteur: Ms. Kerstin Oldfelt (Sweden)

PART I

I. Organization of work

1. The Conference, at its 2nd plenary meeting on 31 May 1976 allocated to Committee I agenda item 11 "Programmes for International Co-operation".
2. Committee I met under the chairmanship of Father George K. Muhoho (Kenya). It held 14 meetings between 1 and 11 June 1976. At its first meeting it elected by acclamation Mr. Hikmat Al Hadithi (Iraq), Mr. Antonio de Leon (Panama), Dr. Susan Stefanovic (Yugoslavia), Vice-Chairmen; Ms. Kerstin Oldfelt (Sweden), Rapporteur.
3. The Committee considered item 11 at its 5th to 14th meetings on the basis of the following documents: "Programmes for International Co-operation" (A/CONF.70/6 and Add.1), "Record of decisions taken and other actions recommended by the Preparatory Committee at its third session" (A/CONF.70/7) and "Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning audio-visual material prepared for the Conference" (A/CONF.70/8). It also had before it "Analysis of programmes of the organizations in the United Nations in the field of human settlements", as a background document (A/CONF.70/A/4).

II. Summary of the General Debate

Programmes for International Co-operation

4. The Committee discussed "Programmes for International Co-operation" contained in documents A/CONF.70/6 and Add.1, A/CONF.70/7 and 8. Statements were made on the objectives, functions, programmes and institutional arrangements for international co-operation. The close relationship of such programmes with the Declaration of Principles and Recommendations for National Action was stressed. Many delegates felt that a consensus on the Declaration of Principles would serve as the basis for international co-operation. The momentum already generated by the Habitat Conference, in creating global awareness of human settlement issues, must be continued after the Conference.

5. It was generally agreed that national action in the field of human settlements was of primary importance and that the role of international co-operation should be to supplement it in areas where the country itself was unable to mount effective programmes. It was pointed out that the decisions on the programmes for international action could take the form of a set of recommendations in line with those for national action. Some delegations felt that the recommendations might be based on the substantive items contained therein.

6. It was generally felt that increased multilateral and bilateral co-operation and assistance were needed and that countries themselves should elaborate their priority programmes, for example, through the UNDP country programme exercise. Some developed countries indicated their willingness to provide such assistance. The important role of non-governmental organizations in the human settlement field was also recognized and several countries suggested that their participation be encouraged.

7. It was generally felt that it would not be appropriate for the Conference to take decisions on specific programmes of co-operation but rather to indicate areas where programmes would be undertaken. Several areas were singled out for early attention: (a) exchange of information and experiences; (b) education, training and applied research; (c) development of delivery mechanisms; and (d) transfer of technology. The need for decisions on priorities was stressed.

8. Concerning the form that the institutional arrangements might take the predominant view was that use should be made of the existing United Nations institutions and machinery and that the proliferation of new agencies should be avoided. Many delegations favoured a solution centred around a strengthened Centre for Housing, Building and Planning within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Several delegations were in favour rather of placing the central responsibility for human settlements within the United Nations Environment Programme. A few delegations advocated the establishment of a new independent body. Some delegations chose not to indicate any preference at this stage.

9. Many delegations supported the proposal for further decentralization of activities and the strengthening of regional structures. The need to have a clearly established division of such responsibilities at the regional and global level was also recognized.

10. Several delegations cautioned that a decision on the international institutional arrangements should take into account results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring. Furthermore, it was pointed out by some delegations that the financial implications of any recommendation on institutional arrangements should be carefully reviewed.

11. The desirability of improved exchange of information and experience as well as establishing general information systems at the global and regional level, with particular attention to innovative approaches in the human settlement field was emphasized. It was agreed that the materials prepared for the Habitat Conference constituted a valuable resource for exchange of experiences and training. In this connexion, many delegations supported the follow-up programme, proposed by the host country, for audio-visual materials. A willingness to transfer copyrights and internegatives of films was also indicated by several countries.

III. Establishment of a working group

12. At its 9th meeting, on a proposal from the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to establish a working group of the whole to formulate a proposal on Programmes for International Co-operation. The working group met under the chairmanship of Mr. Ghulam M. Samdani (Pakistan) and was composed of a core group of two representatives from each region (Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Tanzania, Ukrainian SSR, United States of America and Zaire). Participation in the working group was open to all members of the Committee.

13. The working group had before it draft proposals and resolutions submitted by the following Governments: United States, Sweden, Netherlands, Swaziland, Gabon, Italy, France, Iran and the Philippines (A/CONF.70/C.1/WG.2/CRP.1 and Corr.1, CRP.2 and Corr.1, CRP.3-8, 10 and 11), as well as draft resolutions submitted to the Committee by Guatemala (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.3) and Sri Lanka (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.5).

14. The working group proposed a draft resolution for consideration by the Committee (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9), based on the proposals before it, which had annexed to it proposals submitted by Sri Lanka, Philippines and France.

IV. Action taken by the Committee

15. The Committee had before it the draft resolution proposed for its consideration by the working group (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9), as well as amendments submitted thereto (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.12, 14 and 15).

16. At its 13th meeting on 10 June 1976 the Committee decided to adopt the preamble and chapters I through IX of the draft resolution proposed by the Working Group (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9) and to recommend that the General Assembly at its thirty-first session consider that text and take the final decision on chapter X concerning the Organization Link, recognizing that the decision on this chapter would necessitate certain changes in related parts of the text of the resolution. (See draft resolution A in part V below.) The amendments submitted to the draft resolution (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9) were withdrawn on the understanding that delegations that wished to make reservations would do so in writing on 10 June and that such reservations would be included in the report of the Committee to Plenary on this item. The Committee then unanimously approved the draft resolution contained in A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9, with the preamble as revised at the 12th meeting, (see section V, draft resolution A, annex), subject to the General Assembly's taking a final decision on chapter X.

17. Reservations were made on this resolution by the following Governments (see part VI below): Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Chad, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Latin American Group, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela.

/...

18. At its 13th meeting on 10 June 1976, the Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.13). The Committee unanimously approved this resolution, as orally amended by the representative of India. The text appears as draft resolution B in section V below.

19. At its meeting on 10 June, the representative of Canada introduced a draft resolution, entitled "Post Habitat use of audio-visual material" (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.6) also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Colombia, Finland, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Sweden, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. He stated that the draft resolution should be revised through the deletion of the word "and" in operative paragraph 1. The Committee then unanimously approved the draft resolution. The text of the resolution appears as draft resolution C in section V below.

20. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution submitted by Iran (A/CONF.70/C.1/L.10). At its 13th meeting on 10 June 1976, the representative of Iran withdrew this draft resolution.

PART II

V. Recommendations of the Committee

The Committee recommends that the Conference should adopt the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution A. Programmes for International Co-operation

HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Having considered the objectives, programmes and proposed institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements (A/CONF.70/6 and Add.1),

Acknowledging the efforts of the Preparatory Committee and of the working group on Programmes for International Co-operation in the preparation of the draft resolution on the issues contained in document A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9,

1. Adopts the preamble and chapters I through IX of the draft resolution on Programmes for International Co-operation (see annex);

2. Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-first session consider document A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9 and take the final decision on the remaining chapter X concerning the Organization Link, recognizing that the decision on this chapter will require necessary changes in the relevant parts of the resolution.

/...

ANNEX

Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 2718 (XXV), 3001 (XXVII) and 3327 (XXIX),

Convinced of the need for urgent action to improve the quality of life of all people in human settlements,

Recognizing that such action is primarily the responsibility of Governments,

Conscious that human settlements problems represent a primary field of action in international co-operation, which should be strengthened in order to find adequate solutions, based on equity, justice and solidarity, especially among developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community, both at the global and regional levels, should provide valuable encouragement and support to Governments determined to take effective action to ameliorate conditions, especially for the least advantaged, in rural and urban human settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements and the forces which affect them must be viewed as a whole,

Recognizing that human settlements problems are not isolated from the global problems of development and environment and, therefore, that a new world economic order should be urgently established based on the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly and on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,⁷ a/

a/ This paragraph depends on the wording included in the Declaration of Principles.

Aware of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness of human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that new priorities must be identified and activities developed to reflect comprehensive and integrated approaches to the solution of human settlements problems,

Convinced that prompt consolidation and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements is absolutely necessary,

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

Believing that:

(a) The current level of resources available for development purposes, particularly for human settlements, is clearly inadequate;

(b) The effective development of human settlements has been hindered by great disparities in socio-economic development within and between countries;

(c) The wasteful consumption and misuse of scarce natural resources including the resources expended by Governments on armaments constitute serious limitations on the availability of resources for development purposes;⁷ b/

Urges that the following recommendations for international co-operation be adopted and implemented:

I. Recommendations for international co-operation

1. International co-operation in the field of human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development;

2. The fundamental role of international development co-operation is to support national action. Therefore, programmes for development co-operation in the field of human settlements should be based on the policies and priorities established in the recommendations for national action;

3. In seeking development co-operation, countries should give due priority to human settlements;

4. Requests for development assistance should not be subject to discrimination on the part of the institutions to which these requests are addressed;

b/ Ibid.

5. Technical co-operation should be made available to countries requesting assistance in policy formulation, management and institutional improvement relating to human settlements;

6. Technical co-operation should be made available to developing countries requesting assistance in education and training and applied research relating to human settlements;

7. Financial and technical development co-operation should be made available to countries requesting assistance for, inter alia, projects in self-help and co-operative housing, integrated rural development, water and transportation;

8. All Governments should give serious consideration to contribution to the UNHHSF as soon as possible to expedite action programmes in the field of human settlements;

9. Emerging concepts and priorities regarding human settlements in developing countries present new challenges to the policies and capability of development assistance agencies in donor countries and to international bodies. Therefore, multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies should respond effectively to requests for assistance in the field of human settlements; special attention should be paid to the needs of the least advantaged countries /particularly in the provision of long-term low-interest mortgages and loans to facilitate the implementation of human settlements activities in the least developed countries that cannot comply with existing criteria/;

10. Information systems should be strengthened if necessary and better co-ordinated, and stronger links established on a regional level between human settlements and research institutions in different countries;

11. Many international organizations carry out activities related to human settlements. Specialized agencies and other relevant bodies in particular the UNDP, the World Bank, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF should seriously consider the recommendations of the Habitat Conference with a view to their implementation in their respective fields of competence;

II. Global intergovernmental body

12. Recommends that there be an intergovernmental body for human settlements composed of not more than 58 members, selected on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, ~~replacing the existing Committee for Housing, Building and Planning~~;

13. Recommends further that the intergovernmental body have the following main objectives:

(a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;

(b) To promote greater international co-operation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;

(c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and to encourage the comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries;

(d) To strengthen co-operation and co-participation among developing and developed countries and regions.

14. Recommends further that the global intergovernmental body should have the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding ongoing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements as formulated in the recommendations of this Conference and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;

(b) To follow closely the activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the over-all policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be served;

(c) To study, in the context of the Recommendations for National Action, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, both those of a national character when they are of concern to many States, and those of a regional or international character;

(d) To exercise over-all policy guidance and supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(e) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities, at the global, regional and subregional levels;

(f) To provide over-all direction to the Secretariat;

15. Recommends further that the above-mentioned intergovernmental body report to the Economic and Social Council or to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

III. Human Settlements secretariat

16. Recommends that a (small) and effective secretariat be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and co-ordination within the United Nations system;

17. Recommends further that the Human Settlements secretariat be headed by an (Executive) Director who shall be nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and who shall have the rank of (Assistant Secretary-General) (Under-Secretary-General);

18. Recommends further that the (Executive) Director shall be responsible for the management of the secretariat which shall comprise the posts and budgetary resources of the following (further clarification necessary on precise interpretation):

(a) The Centre for Housing, Building and Planning of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(b) The appropriate section of the Division of Economic and Social Programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme directly concerned with human settlements, with the exception of the posts required by UNEP to exercise its responsibilities for the environmental aspects and consequences of human settlements planning;

(c) The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(d) As appropriate, selected posts and associated resources from relevant parts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

19. Recommends further that the secretariat under the leadership of its (Executive) Director shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To ensure the harmonization, at intersecretariat level, of programmes planned and carried out by the system;

(b) Under the guidance of the intergovernmental body, to assist in co-ordinating human settlements activities within the United Nations system, to keep under review their implementation and to assess their effectiveness;

(c) To execute projects on behalf of UNDP;

(d) To provide the focal point for a global exchange of information on human settlements;

(e) To provide substantive support to the intergovernmental body;

(f) To deal with interregional matters;

(g) To supplement the resources of the regions when so required, particularly in areas of specialization;

(h) To promote collaboration with, and involvement of, the world scientific community concerned with human settlements;

(i) To establish and maintain a global directory of consultants and advisers to supplement the skills available within the system and to assist in the recruitment of expertise at the global level, taking into account the expertise in developing countries;

(j) To initiate major public information activities in connexion with human settlements;

(k) To promote the further and continued use of audio-visual material related to human settlements;

(l) To carry out the mandate and responsibilities previously assigned by the appropriate legislative bodies to the secretariat units to be absorbed in the central staff;

(m) To implement programmes until they are shifted to the regional organizations;

20. Recommends further that a group of representatives appointed by the Governments at a regional level be created to support the Secretary-General in the adequate implementation of recommendations for the institutional administrative structure above mentioned;

IV. Organization at the regional level

21. Recommends further that the regional economic commissions consider the establishment of intergovernmental regional committees on human settlements, comprising all members, where such committees do not already exist;

22. Recommends further that the regional committees should be established as soon as possible to co-ordinate their activities with the global intergovernmental body, and report through the appropriate regional commission and to the global intergovernmental body, for which purpose it is recommended that they be represented ex officio by their senior officers;

23. Recommends further that the responsibility for implementing regional and subregional programmes, should be gradually shifted to the regional organizations;

24. Recommends further that each regional committee should be served by a (small) unit of the secretariat of the parent regional commission under an executive officer, which unit should be established during 1977 and should be provided with the necessary resources for its operation;

25. Recommends further that the regional committees should be responsible for the formulation of regional policies and programmes and for their final implementation;

26. Recommends further that the posts and budgetary resources available to each regional unit should be made up of those already available from the regular budgetary resources and those redeployed from the aggregate posts available to the central secretariat (voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as well as selected resources currently available to each region);

27. Recommends further that the principal functions of the regional staff would be:

- (a) To serve the regional intergovernmental body described above;
- (b) To review progress in the implementation of programmes within the regions;
- (c) To promote the active collaboration of governmental representatives in human settlement related activities;
- (d) To assist Governments in the region in the formulation of their requests for assistance from the appropriate bilateral and multilateral bodies;
- (e) To establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with the corresponding regional and subregional echelons of the specialized agencies;
- (f) To formulate, implement and/or supervise regional and subregional programmes and projects;

28. Recommends further that the regional agencies on human settlements with the approval of the regional committees identify those national and regional institutions which are best able to provide services, training and assistance in research on human settlements;

V. Terms of reference

29. Recommends further that, at both the global and regional levels, human settlements activities and programmes should deal in particular with the following subject areas:

- A. Settlement policies and strategies
- B. Settlement planning
- C. Institutions and management
- D. Shelter, infrastructure and services
- E. Land
- F. Public participation

30. Recommends further that the formulation of priorities within these broad subject areas be identified by the intergovernmental body in consultation with the regional committees and governments on the basis of the needs and problems of the region and the countries within the region;

31. Recommends further that the following functions be considered on a priority basis, related to the subject areas mentioned in paragraph 28 above:

- (a) Identification of the problems and possible solutions;
- (b) Formulation and implementation of policies;
- (c) Education and training;
- (d) Identification, development and use of appropriate technology, as well as limitation of hazardous technology;
- (e) Exchange of information, including audio-visual information;
- (f) Implementation machinery;
- (g) Assistance in the mobilization of resources at the national and international level;

VI. Priorities

32. Recommends further that because financial, technical and human resources are limited, it is essential that programmes, both existing and new ones, reflect a clear sense of priorities, that the number of fields selected for a concentration of effort be limited and that phasing of such activity be planned judiciously;

33. Recommends further that there be an assessment of the effectiveness of existing United Nations programmes in the field of human settlements, with a view to ensuring that they conform to the priorities as stated above;

VII. Concerted action and co-ordination

34. Recommends that there must be a sustained and determined effort, on the part of all organizations most closely concerned with human settlements, both at regional and global levels, to concert their planned programmes and projects;

35. Recommends further that the existing mechanisms of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination must be strengthened to ensure that co-ordination in the field of human settlements is effective throughout the whole United Nations system;

VIII. Links with financial institutions

36. Recommends that the secretariats concerned with human settlements should establish close links with the principal financial institutions at the regional and global levels, especially with the regional development banks and the IBRD;

37. Recommends further that special links should be established between the United Nations Development Programme and the human settlements unit, at global, regional and national levels;

IX. Co-operation with organizations outside the United Nations system

38. Recommends that, at the global as well as the regional level, co-operation should be sought with universities, research and scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations, voluntary groups, etc., in order to make full use of their knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements. At the intergovernmental level this co-operation should be formalized. At the secretariat level it should be realized by the establishment of appropriate working relations;

X. Organization link

39. 1/ Recommends that the human settlements unit be integrated into:

(a) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, and its Director should report to the Under-Secretary-General of Economic Affairs;

or

(b) The United Nations Environment Programme, and its Director should report to the Executive Director of UNEP;

or

(c) See appendix.

40. Recommends further that the central secretariat be located in:

(a) (i) New York

or

(ii) Nairobi

or

(iii) Third city.

(b)

1/ Any decision which is taken on this section of the draft resolution will have certain implications on related parts of this resolution.

APPENDIX

Proposals relating to section X, paragraph 39, of
draft resolution A, annex

1. Suggested operative paragraphs proposed by Sri Lanka

1. Recommends that the proposed Office for Human Settlements be autonomous in character, subject to its functioning within the framework of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and maintaining working arrangements with specialized agencies of the United Nations also acting in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme further strengthening the regional commissions to act more effectively in the field of human settlements;

2. Recommends also that these proposals be brought into operation in 1977 after approval by the General Assembly this year and that the General Assembly periodically review the above institutional arrangements and decide on any changes if necessary.

2. Draft resolution submitted by the French delegation

It will be the responsibility of the United Nations General Assembly to determine the structures and means which will make it possible to exploit fully the substantial impact of the Vancouver Conference on Human Settlements.

At the moment, this Conference recommends the adoption of the following principles:

1. All the organizations of the United Nations system are concerned by the problems of human settlements and should redouble their efforts to give greater consideration to points where territorial development and the environment converge.

2. The following organizations, which are already working along these lines:

- the United Nations Environment Programme,
- the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,
- the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat,

should organize a close network of working relations.

3. These programmes, along with the means which are appropriate to them, should be implemented with careful attention being given to effective regional devolution. To this end, a report will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 1977.

4. In order to ensure that this policy is carried out at the intergovernmental level, an intergovernmental Council, with the same composition as the present Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, will deal alternately with:

- the environment one year, acting within the terms of reference of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,
- human settlements one year, acting within the terms of reference of the present Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, which will be discontinued.

5. Governments will be invited to make intellectual and material contributions to this effort and to assist the organizations in their work.

6. The international institutions of the United Nations system should rely as much as possible on non-governmental organizations and scientific and non-profit organizations which are capable of improving knowledge and facilitating concrete action. In particular, no time should be lost in emphasizing the development of mutual information systems, beginning with the national and regional levels.

3. Yugoslavia: proposals regarding attitudes on institutional arrangements in international co-operation

While deciding on institutional arrangements on international co-operation, the following should be taken into consideration:

1. Human settlements are an integral part of environment. This fact must be reflected in institutionalization of international co-operation. Environment without human settlements would inevitably be reduced to technical and ecological categories, and social, economic and cultural aspects would be neglected. Problems of human settlements cannot be given long-term solutions outside the context of environment which is the frame and prerequisite for their economic and natural reproduction.

2. Consequently, it is necessary to ensure such institutional solutions which will safeguard the integrity of environment and human settlements. It is necessary that all bodies and organizations in the United Nations system which are engaged in activities related to human settlements and environment maintain close co-operation, especially at regional levels.

3. Institutional solutions for human settlements should be dealt with and decided on within the framework of restructuring of the United Nations system with active participation of: the United Nations Environment Programme, the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, and the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation.

Draft resolution B. Programmes for International Co-operation

HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, as well as the report of the Conference, a working paper on the financial implications of the alternative institutional arrangements proposed in document A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9 and Corr.1

Draft resolution C. Post-Habitat use of audio-visual material

HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Convinced that the audio-visual and other material prepared for HABITAT constitute an information resource of continuing value for the effective implementation of recommendations for national action, programmes of international co-operation and the realization of goals in the field of human settlements established by the Conference,

Recognizing that prompt and effective utilization of the information resource created for HABITAT is essential to derive maximum benefit from the considerable investment in this resource, particularly its audio-visual component;

Bearing in mind the possibility of evolving regional audio-visual centres associated with regional arrangements for training, education, research and information exchange,

Expressing its appreciation for the offer of the University of British Columbia to provide, for a period of up to five years, all of the necessary services and facilities for the storage, maintenance, distribution and augmentation of the audio-visual materials prepared for HABITAT,

Noting that the Decision 71 (iv) adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 9 April 1976 at its fourth session in Nairobi recommended that:

"HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements consider favourably the offer made by the Government of Canada regarding the post-Conference use and dissemination of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference",

1. Recommends that the General Assembly establish an audio-visual information centre on human settlements;
2. Invites all participants in HABITAT to transfer as appropriate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or his designated agents, the internegatives and international copyright of their audio-visual materials prepared for and made available to the Conference;
3. Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations authorize the Secretary-General of the United Nations to conclude an agreement with the University of British Columbia for the custody, reproduction, use and augmentation of the materials for a period of no more than five years;
4. Authorizes the Secretary-General of the United Nations to enter into a suitable interim agreement with the University of British Columbia for the temporary custody, care and management of the information material generated by HABITAT, pending a final decision of the General Assembly on this resolution.

Reservations submitted by Governments to draft
resolution A, annex

1. The representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations. They considered that paragraph 29 should be replaced by the following text:

"Recommends further that, at both the global and regional levels, human settlements activities and programmes should be appropriately organized within the following areas:

- (a) Identification of problems and possible solutions;
- (b) Formulation and application of policies;
- (c) Education and training;
- (d) Identification, development and use of appropriate technology and restriction of dangerous technologies;
- (e) Exchange of information, including audio-visual information;
- (f) Implementation machinery;
- (g) Assistance in the mobilization of resources at the national and international level;"

2. The representatives of Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations. They considered that paragraph 21 should include an additional paragraph so that it will read:

"Recommends further that the regional economic commissions consider the establishment of intergovernmental regional committees on human settlements, comprising all members, where such committees do not already exist. To that end, each region should consider the possibility of holding a regional meeting at the highest level to establish guidelines for action in the area, and transmit a report on the results of its work to the General Assembly at its thirty-first regular session."

3. The representatives of Chad and Gabon expressed support for the resolutions with the following reservations. They considered that the following should be added to the preamble:

"Noting the persistent worsening of unequal development between the advantaged countries and the developing countries".

They also considered that in part I a new paragraph should be added as follows:

"Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations should explicitly obtain from the advantaged countries a prior undertaking that they will contribute substantially to the improvement of human settlements in the developing countries. In concrete terms, this contribution could take the form of a transfer of resources on the financial, material and human levels".

4. The representatives of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations. They proposed an addition to paragraph 37 to read as follows:

"On deciding upon the location of the global secretariat, the General Assembly should take into consideration resolution 3004 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 in which the Assembly expresses its conviction that 'in order to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, in accordance with the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, the activities and headquarters or secretariats of United Nations bodies or agencies should be located having regard, inter alia, to equitable geographical distribution of such activities, headquarters or secretariats'."

5. The Cuban delegation reserves its position on part V since it feels that in accordance with the basic document prepared by the Secretariat (A/CONF.70/6), the human settlements programmes to be considered priority programmes at the world level should be those referred to in paragraph 31 and that the topics dealt with in paragraph 29 of this document should be considered priority questions to be identified at the regional, subregional and national levels.

/...

6. The French delegation wished to express the following reservations on document A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9 adopted by Committee I on 10 June for submission to the plenary:

(a) The French delegation feels that the document as a whole, and particularly the preamble, states a number of self-evident facts the enumeration of which weakens the scope of the text. It also regrets that the text refers to matters which are beyond the sphere of competence of the Conference and which are discussed in other forums. At this time, it recalls the reservations it has had to make with regard to these matters.

(b) With regard to institutional plans, the French delegation recalls that in its opinion, in the present circumstances, the existing organizations of the United Nations system should, without setting up any new bodies or recruiting any new staff, be able, through better liaison, to provide a new impetus to the study and progressive solution of the problems associated with human settlements.

(c) The French delegation is also unable to support drafts which group in single bodies staff which come both from organizations financed through obligatory contributions and from organizations financed through voluntary contributions. It fears that, if this were done, long-standing difficulties and confusion would result.

(d) The French delegation feels that the document in question has not devoted sufficient attention to the benefits which the existing institutions could derive from more intensive co-operation with scientific and professional organizations and with various associations of towns and communities throughout the world.

7. The Belgian delegation shared the reservations expressed by the French delegation on the above-mentioned text.

8. The representatives of Grenada, India, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines expressed support for the resolution but considered that item 18 (c) ought to be omitted because:

(a) Item 14 (d) already set out the relationship between the intergovernmental body referred to in section II, paragraph 12; and

(b) The inclusion of 18 (c) was to be examined on the basis of a report from the Secretariat which was never received. The sponsors of this reservation believed that the foundation must be a vibrant organization able to function as a training institution and should not be subsumed within the bureaucracy of the intergovernmental institution.

9. The representatives of Grenada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago expressed reservations on section I, paragraph 1, and wished to see it rephrased as follows:

"International co-operation in the field of human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development with due regard being given to the effect of such development on the environment."

10. Grenada expressed reservations concerning paragraph 9, feeling that it was not necessary to qualify "least developed countries" by their inability to comply with existing criteria.

11. The delegation of Japan reserved its position on paragraph 20 because of the ambiguity of the nature of the proposed group of representatives, and its relationship to the Secretary-General and his responsibility as chief administrative officer of the United Nations and also in view of the general character of recommendations for the institutional and administrative structure referred to in this resolution, which would make it difficult to implement them in practice.

12. The representative of Kenya expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations. The delegation of Kenya joined in the consensus for lack of time to discuss various amendments made and to be made in the Committee. It would have preferred, among other amendments already proposed, submitted or to be submitted, that the following be considered for reasons given thereof:

(a) Paragraphs 5 and 6 should be combined as follows and the others renumbered accordingly:

"5. Technical co-operation should be made available to countries requesting assistance in policy formulation, management, institutional improvement, education, training and applied research relating to human settlements."

This was purely drafting for brevity.

(b) In paragraph 9, the last phrase in brackets, i.e. "particularly ... existing criteria." should be deleted.

Kenya considered that in environmental problems, the least advantaged countries and not the least developed countries should be concentrated on and given preference. After all, any least developed country with an environmental problem would be in the group of least advantaged country.

(c) In paragraph 12, the last phrase in brackets, i.e. "replacing ... and Planning", should be deleted.

Since the Committee decided not to take a decision on paragraphs 39 and 40, and to take the matter to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the phrase in brackets was prejudiced in favour of the Centre and should have been deleted so that the phrase could remain neutral.

(d) In paragraph 19, the phrase should be added: "related to human settlements" between the words "projects" and "on behalf".

This was only a clarification of what Kenya thought was meant in the document.

13. The representative of Kuwait expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations:

(a) Paragraph 1 should read as follows:

"International co-operation in the field of human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development and should be based on sound environmental considerations."

(b) Paragraph 3 should read as follows:

"In seeking development and environmental co-operation, countries should give due priority to human settlements."

(c) In paragraph 12 the last phrase between brackets should be deleted;

(d) Paragraph 19 (c) should read:

"To execute human settlements projects on behalf of UNDP." and

(e) In paragraph 30, the word "conjunction" should be replaced by the word "consultation".

14. The Latin American Group expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations. They proposed to delete paragraphs 30 and 31 and add a new paragraph 30 as follows:

"Recommends also that the formulation of programme and project priorities in each of the fields of activity mentioned in paragraph 29 above, should be carried out by each region in accordance with the needs and problems identified by it."

15. The representative of the Libyan Arab Republic expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations on chapter I, paragraph 4:

"The delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic believes that this document should be considered a strong corner-stone for international co-operation as sought by all peace-loving States. The text of paragraph 4 emphasized the necessity of co-operation and assistance on the part of institutions, without discrimination on the basis of the beliefs or system of Government of any State. The Libyan delegation feels however, that there is some vagueness in the paragraph which needs clarification, namely, that the institutions' assistance to any State should be subject to the following conditions: that the State pursues a peaceful policy, that it complies with the principles and the Charter of the United Nations and that it has not been condemned by the United Nations for aggression or racist policies. This would provide a means of pressure to ensure that such a State abides by United Nations resolutions. The Libyan delegation would therefore like the following sentence to be added at the end of paragraph 4 to make it clearer and more comprehensive and so that discrimination would not be confined to actions based

on colour, belief, religion and system of government, but also actions which indicate the non-adherence of States to the United Nations Charter and principles:

'with the exception of requests from countries that commit acts of aggression and types of racial discrimination which have been condemned in United Nations resolutions'."

16. The representative of New Zealand expressed support with the following reservations:

- (a) Paragraph 4 should be deleted;
- (b) In paragraph 23 the word "gradually" should be deleted.

17. The representative of Pakistan expressed support for the resolution but wished to note that the relevant sections in chapters I to IX would be appropriately changed, based on the decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on chapter X. Pakistan also considered that the seventh preambular paragraph and subparagraph (c) of the thirteenth preambular paragraph should be replaced by relevant paragraphs from the Declaration of Principles.

18. The delegation of Papua New Guinea supported the above document with the reservation that the following words be deleted from the text:

Chapter II, paragraph 12:

"replacing the existing Committee for Housing, Building and Planning".

19. The representative of the Philippines expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations:

(a) Part II, paragraph 10 should read:

"1. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme shall also serve as the intergovernmental body for human settlements, which will be renamed the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment and (Human) Settlements Programme (UNESP);".

(b) Part II, paragraph 11, the first two lines should read:

"2. Recommends further that, in addition to the mandate of the Governing Council as set out in General Assembly resolution _____, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment and (Human) Settlements Programme shall have the following objectives:".

(c) Part II, paragraphs 12 and 13 should be included as presently worded and in paragraph 12, the words in brackets should be included.

(d) Part II, a new paragraph after paragraph 13 should be inserted:

"Recommends that consideration be given to the possibility of rotating meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment and (Human) Settlements Programme in the regions".

(e) Part III, paragraph 15, the following new sentence should be added at the end of the paragraph:

"Such nomination shall be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly;".

(f) Part III, paragraph 16 (c) should be deleted.

(g) Part III, new paragraphs 18 and 19 should be inserted as follows:

"17. The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as established under General Assembly resolution _____ shall maintain its separate identity, but shall establish close links with the Human Settlements Programme and with the principal financial institutions at the regional and global levels, especially with the regional development banks and the IBRD. The Foundation shall be headed by a Director-General with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General who shall be nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;".

"18. Recommends further that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should establish special links with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, both at global and regional levels;"

(h) Part III, paragraph 18 (c) the words: "The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation" should be included.

(i) Part IV, paragraph 26 the words in brackets "voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation" should be included.

(j) Part III, new paragraphs 21 and 22 should not be included as indicated in annex II of A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9.

20. The representative of Portugal expressed his support for the resolution with the following reservations:

(a) Part I, paragraph 7

Add at the end of the paragraph: "and other basic public facilities".

(b) Eleventh preambular paragraph

Add the word "co-ordination" as follows: "prompt consolidation, strengthening and co-ordination".

(c) Part IV, paragraph 25

Delete the word "voluntary" before "contributions" in the fourth line of the paragraph.

(d) Part X, paragraph 39

~~Amend~~ the paragraph as follows:

"Recommends further that the central secretariat of the human settlements unit ~~should be located~~ in a town which would suit the objectives of this unit, in view of the global activities and the need for co-ordination within the ~~framework~~ of the United Nations."

21. The representative of Senegal expressed his support for the resolution with the following reservations:

/...

Substantive comments on parts II and III of document A/CONF.70/C.1/L.9

Part II

Use the United Nations agencies which already exist in order to avoid duplication and the proliferation of new organizations in the United Nations system and also to take account of the shortage of finances.

In view of these considerations, there is no need to set up a new global intergovernmental body as proposed in part II. The goals of this body should remain within the competence of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Part III

The establishment of the human settlements secretariat proposed in part III should be based on a restructuring and strengthening of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning.

The Executive Director who would be in charge of such a secretariat should not have the rank of Assistant Secretary-General or Under-Secretary-General.

The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation should remain under UNEP.

22. The representative of Uganda expressed his support for the resolution with the following reservations:

"In the report reflect the fact that Uganda proposed an amendment to the whole of section X which would replace its mention of specific linkage and location decisions with the idea that this section to be headed 'Geographical and administrative linkages' should contain only broad definitions of criteria to enable the General Assembly to decide on location and linkage suitability.

"However, since the core group had received several other submissions on criteria, it decided to include Uganda's amendments in a new subparagraph (b) of paragraph 40 of section X."

23. The representative of Uganda expressed support for the resolution with the following reservations:

(a) In paragraph 21 "comprising all members ... exist" should be replaced with "after appropriate consultations with member Governments."

(b) Subparagraph (e) should be restated as follows:

"To establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with the specialized agencies."

24. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed support for the resolution with reservations on the following paragraphs:

- (a) seventh preambular paragraph;
- (b) thirteenth preambular paragraph, subparagraph (c);
- (c) paragraph 9 on the form of wording in square brackets;
- (d) paragraph 12; the United Kingdom considered that the wording in square brackets should be included;
- (e) paragraph 17; position reserved on rank of [Executive] Director; and
- (f) paragraph 20.
