



In harmony with its human principles, Iraq is looking forward to achieve development and stability for the International Community and will always endeavour to achieve this goal through equitable international cooperation.

In this connection, provision of housing for people in Iraq and Arab Homeland in general was and still is a strategic target complemented by Iraq readiness to cooperate within its capacity to serve peace and liberty-loving nations of the world.

Iraq has participated enthusiastically in all activities and preparatory committees for the Vancouver Conference in Canada, 31st. May to 11th. June 1976 and will send a highly qualified delegation, in which all departments concerned with human settlements are represented, to take part in the discussions of the conference, and to benefit from the experiences of other countries.

In order to stress our concern, we, the Revolutionary Government in Iraq, will forward as much as can be done within our capacities to serve the principles and targets of the Habitat Conference.

Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr
President of the Republic of Iraq

Focus on solutions

In compliance with Habitat's aim of concentrating on solutions rather than on problems, Iraq's National Report gives details of all the actions taken to improve human settlements, to provide incentives, and to establish the necessary controls.



Three Films for Vancouver

Three films have been prepared for the Conference. Two, in black & white, are on Urban Settlements and Rural Settlements respectively. The third, in colour, shows the exciting experiment of settling the nomads who roam the desert, searching for oases with water and pasture, living in a closely knit society dominated by kinship relations.



Habitat Secretariat

A national committee headed by the Ministry of Planning and including members of other concerned Ministries has been convened to ensure that Iraq can both offer the best of its own experience & also benefit from the experience of other countries.

The address of the committee is:
Habitat Secretariat
Regional Planning Department,
Ministry of Planning,
Baghdad - IRAQ.



Habitat



The United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Vancouver Canada
31st May to 11th June, 1976

How Habitat affects Iraq

Iraq is at present experiencing both rapid population growth and rapid industrialization. All the extra growth of population has been concentrated in the towns. Since 1957 the rural population has stayed still at about 4 millions, while the urban population has increased from 2½ millions to over 7 millions.

The Trebling of the urban population in less than 20 years has posed tremendous problems and challenges. Iraq has given high priority to providing low cost but sound housing to the workers who have immigrated to the towns, especially Baghdad. As a result, new townships of modern housing have completely replaced the conglomerations of insanitary reed shacks which used to disfigure the capital.

Other problems remain to be solved-how to protect the urban environment from the growing menaces of pollution, traffic congestion, noise....? how to maintain a prosperous agricultural sector that will retain part of the population in modern and attractive rural settlements.....? whether to deal with the continuing accomodation shortage in the towns by vertical expansion.....?

Iraq hopes at Habitat to contribute its own useful experience in dealing with urban slums, to report on its experiments in rural settlements, and to gain ideas and techniques from others in meeting the challenges that face it.

Progress through planning

A massive development effort with an emphasis on industrialization necessarily entails urbanization. However, Iraq is planning to avoid the undesirable consequences of uncontrolled town growth. Policies are being worked out to promote optimum spatial development. There are three poles of development at Baghdad, Basrah and Mosul. In the past, Baghdad metropolitan region has seen by far the most rapid growth; it is planned to put some limits on this growth by stimulating other small and medium sized towns uniformly dispersed within the country. The main axes of traffic are being planned to avoid the metropolitan regions.

At the same time it is planned to preserve good agricultural land from urban expansion. A rural settlement policy for developing modern housing and improved social amenities goes hand in hand with a policy of developing co-operative and collective farms aiming at improved incomes for far-

mers. Nomadic herd owners are being encouraged to settle in residential communities where water & grazing are provided.

Tourist villages and recreational facilities are being built in the scenic mountains of the north.

Popular Participation

Planning legislation allows for people to express their views and appeals on the physical Master Plans of their towns which will be amended accordingly before final approval.



Short term measures

While these long term policies are being worked out, urgent measures are also being taken to deal with the acute shortage of adequate housing. The investment programme of 1974.5 included an extra allocation of ID 65 millions for 15 000 housing units in the governorates. Approval has been given for the construction of 22 000 new dwelling units in Baghdad, in ten new housing quarters. This project is expected to take three years and to cost more than ID 150 millions.



Materials and design

A Building Research Centre and the Engineering Colleges of Iraqi Universities are leading research studies into improved materials, methods and designs.

Four plants have recently been constructed to produce pre-fabricated units for housing, and the capacity of the brick and cement industries has been greatly increased.

