



UNITED
NATIONS

SPM/023/069C/1

26.01.87

HS



**Commission on
Human Settlements**

Distr.
GENERAL

HS/C/10/4
26 January 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Tenth (Commemorative) session
Nairobi
6-16 April 1987
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Activities of the United Nations Centre
for Human Settlements (Habitat)

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Report of the Executive Director

SUMMARY

This report reviews the significant activities and events in which the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has been involved since the ninth session of the Commission. Chapter I describes the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) during 1986, particularly the progress made in the implementation of the 1986-1987 work programme. Activities in research and development (including training), technical co-operation and human settlements information are described under headings corresponding to the eight subject areas according to which the programme of the biennium is structured. Chapter II describes decisions of the main legislative bodies of the United Nations pertaining to human settlements and the action taken by the Executive Director towards their implementation as well as action taken in response to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1986-1987 WORK PROGRAMME	1-51	2
II. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE MAIN LEGISLATIVE ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	52-86	11
III. CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND UNITS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	87	20

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1986-1987 WORK PROGRAMME

1. The 1986-1987 work programme, adopted by the Commission at its eighth session, was structured on the basis of eight subprogrammes, as set out in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. ^{1/} The work programme represented the second phase of implementation of that plan which was, in turn, based on the human settlements goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. ^{2/} The present report covers the progress made in the implementation of the work programme for UNCHS (Habitat) during its first year.

2. The implementation of the programme in 1986 was marked by the financial emergency of the United Nations which resulted in a freeze on recruitment and reductions in allotments in such areas as consultants, travel, publications, expert group meetings and general financial constraints in all areas of expenditure. Notwithstanding these constraints, the Executive Director continued to maintain the integrity of the work programme as approved by the Commission making interim adjustments but still aiming at the highest possible rate of delivery at the end of the 1986-1987 biennium. For example, performance in the priority area of technical co-operation was maintained at a high level.

3. The status of UNCHS (Habitat) technical co-operation activities is the subject of a separate document which is before the Commission at its present session (see Project Information Report 1987 (HS/C/10/INF.5)). The number of technical co-operation projects at the beginning and at the end of 1986 is given in the present report under each of the eight subprogrammes. By way of a summary, it may be noted that at the end of 1986 UNCHS (Habitat) had under execution 160 projects in 77 countries in Africa, Asia (including Western Asia and the Pacific) and Latin America (including the Caribbean) with an overall budget in excess of \$US 17 million for the year. This compares with 163 technical co-operation projects in 81 countries at the beginning of the biennium. During 1986, the approved budget for on-going technical co-operation projects had increased by nearly \$US 1.7 million. Of all the on-going 160 projects, well over one third are being executed in the least developed countries.

4. During the first year of the biennium, 58 technical co-operation projects were completed and 55 new projects started. UNCHS (Habitat) also prepared in close consultation with the governments concerned and the respective United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident co-ordinators, a large number of pipeline projects - 158 at the moment - which are awaiting funding for implementation in 77 countries, out of which 46 are for the least developed countries.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6).

^{2/} General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, section III M, paras. 159-160.

5. In addition to the technical co-operation projects, UNCHS (Habitat) is actively developing innovative approaches in its operational programmes to provide direct assistance to the developing countries. Recent examples of this include the joint project between UNCHS (Habitat), the World Bank and UNDP designed to strengthen the contribution which the towns and cities of developing countries might make towards national economic growth and social development, through the formulation of improved, integrated approaches to urban management policy and practices. The programme focuses on three key areas: land, municipal finance, and infrastructure maintenance and investment. It is being jointly executed by the World Bank and UNCHS (Habitat). The Division of Global and Interregional Projects (DGIP) of UNDP is providing the initial funding for the programme which will also be financed with inputs from various bilateral donors.

6. Another recent example is the programme being developed jointly by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Government of Finland in the area of shelter. It aims at formulating national housing strategies in selected countries, while at the same time developing innovative solutions and approaches which would be applicable, with necessary adaptations to other developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

A. Subprogramme 1: Policies and strategies

7. The objectives of subprogramme 1 are to analyse high-priority human settlements policy issues and to evaluate mechanisms for institutionalizing settlements policy formulation and implementation as part of national decision-making processes. Many developing countries continue to experience difficulty in formulating and implementing national settlements policies which would permit an efficient and equitable allocation of resources: both within the human settlements sector and between it and other economic and social sectors. The main reasons are lack of awareness of the factors affecting conditions and trends in human settlements, insufficient recognition of the economic and social benefits that would derive from an effective national settlements policy, lack of information on experience in implementing human settlements policies and uncertainty about implementation mechanisms.

8. The main activities under this subprogramme therefore revolved around the final preparation of the Global Report on Human Settlements which has now been submitted to the editors/printers for production. Other work initiated during 1986 included a study of the level and composition of investments in infrastructure and their relation to economic growth on a country-by-country basis; the report will be completed in 1987. Work has also begun on establishing a Human Settlements Statistical Data Base. This computerized data base system is designed to store, process, handle and produce world-wide statistical data on human settlements.

9. In the area of national housing policy, a monograph was prepared on an innovative housing information system installed with UNCHS (Habitat) assistance within the National Planning Department and largest national public housing institution in Colombia.

10. Sixteen technical co-operation projects relating to national settlement policies and strategies were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these, 8 were completed during 1986 and 13 new ones were started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, 21 projects were on-going.

B. Subprogramme 2: Settlement planning

11. The objective of subprogramme 2 are to develop and promote the use of effective settlements planning methods and institutional structures and procedures for urban and rural areas. Planning for human settlements is not usually linked to national planning, but the physical pattern of the distribution of settlements is an important element in national development planning. Yet, even when settlement plans exist in developing countries, there are often difficulties in implementing them because responsible governmental agencies are isolated from national planning and decision-making bodies as well as from local communities which are the intended beneficiaries. The technical solutions proposed for the construction of settlements may also be inadequate because of lack of planning knowledge or scarcity of data. Furthermore, unrealistic assumptions may be made about the ability of the national economy and of the relevant governmental bodies and local communities to supply the levels and types of investment at the times and places required by the plan.

12. Under this subprogramme the editing and technical revising of a joint UNCHS/UNEP report, Environment Impact Assessment of Urban Development in the Valley of Mexico: Basic Methodology, was completed and the material submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for publication. In the area of rural settlement planning and development, a paper on "Spontaneous settlement formation in rural regions" has been produced and research activities initiated on follow-up demonstration projects.

13. Two other reports of note in the area of settlement planning have been prepared, one being a set of guidelines for regional planning as an effective means to link national development planning and human settlements planning, and the other on physical planning for refugee settlements based on UNCHS (Habitat) experience, which was presented at a seminar/workshop organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Research work has started in the preparation of a seminar on the role and position of subnational planning institutions, scheduled to take place at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in May 1987.

14. Twenty-nine technical co-operation projects relating to development plans for human settlements were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these 10 were completed, while 9 new projects started during 1986. Therefore, at the end of 1986, 28 projects were on-going.

C. Subprogramme 3: Shelter and community services

15. The overall objective of subprogramme 3 is to formulate support strategies and provide assistance to the promotion of the shelter and services sector as part of social and economic development. This is

mainly done through: (a) the design and implementation of pilot demonstration projects for the improvement of urban low-income settlements; (b) the evaluation of programmes which aim at consolidating the residential stability of low-income households in the central parts of large cities; (c) the development and implementation of community participation training programmes; (d) the assessment of the contribution of housing co-operatives to shelter development; and (e) an analysis of delivery community services to urban low-income settlements.

16. Under this subprogramme, continued support is given to the provision of technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation of four shelter demonstration projects in Sri Lanka. With the financial and technical assistance of the Government of the Netherlands, methodologies for community-based shelter and services improvement have been worked out which incorporate major elements of training and information. Past research on public-sector strategies for the rehabilitation of inner-city areas is now being complemented with an analysis of private sector interventions in improving the residential quality of central parts of large cities. The output will be a manual for the use of local authorities on methods of analysing the housing stock of inner-city areas.

17. The UNCHS (Habitat) community participation programme, which receives financial assistance from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), continued to develop a wide range of training materials on all aspects of community participation for low-income shelter development. This includes training modules, audio-visual material and extension material, for initial use and testing in non-formal training courses for middle-level staff and community leaders in Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zambia.

18. Thirty-two technical co-operation projects relating to shelter and community services were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these 12 were completed, while 14 new projects started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, 34 projects were on-going.

D. Subprogramme 4: Indigenous construction sector

19. The objectives of subprogramme 4 are to establish a network of organizations to promote the utilization of indigenous materials and technologies for human settlements construction by focusing on the technological, institutional, information and financial barriers to their application. In many developing countries, the extensive use in the construction industry of foreign-derived standards and codes leads to excessive dependence on imported materials, construction techniques and even labour. This inhibits efforts to identify and develop appropriate materials, designs and construction techniques compatible with available supplies of energy, labour and other resources, limits the volume and usefulness of construction activities, and makes the construction industry particularly vulnerable to disruptions caused by balance-of-payments deficits.

20. During 1986, three publications have been finalized, namely: (a) The Reformulation of Building Acts, Regulations and Codes in African Countries; (b) Planning of the Construction Industry with Emphasis on Indigenous Production Factors; and (c) The Use of Selected Indigenous Building Materials with Potential for Wide Application. Four manuals on earth construction and one each on pozzolanas and stone have been finalized. A report on earth construction technologies was prepared and presented to the League of Arab States Seminar on Use of Clay in Housing Construction held in Tunis in September 1986. In addition, a draft report on cyclone disaster mitigation and an outline for a compendium of local building materials and technologies have been prepared. Work is also in progress on several technical notes on local building materials as well as data sheets for indigenous construction techniques.

21. As a follow-up to the theme paper of the ninth session of the Commission on small-scale building materials production and as part of the 1986-1987 work programme, UNCHS (Habitat) is collaborating with the African Regional Organization for Standardization, the Commonwealth Science Council and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the purpose of organizing a workshop on standards and specifications for local building materials, scheduled for March 1987. It is envisaged that the workshop will lay the basis for a network of governmental and non-governmental organizations on promotion of appropriate technologies.

22. Eight technical co-operation projects related to the use of local building materials were in progress in the beginning of 1986. Of these, 4 were completed, while 7 new projects started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, 11 projects were on-going.

E. Subprogramme 5: Low-cost infrastructure

23. The objectives of subprogramme 5 are to promote the development of standards and technologies for the provision of economically efficient infrastructure. A lack of information on the interrelationships of infrastructure provision, overall settlements development and economic growth hinders efforts of governments in developing economically and technically feasible programmes for the installation of settlement infrastructure.

24. Among the outputs on low-cost infrastructure are: (a) reports on case studies on measures for energy-efficient shelter and infrastructure; (b) a report on energy-substitution in selected economic sectors in settlements; (c) a report on technological options in the domestic and transport energy sectors; and (d) a report on quality upgrading and energy saving in traditional brickmaking. A report has been prepared on energy consumption and energy-efficient technologies in the manufacture of building materials and an ad hoc expert group meeting was organized on energy in human settlements at Bangalore, India, from 16 to 19 June 1986. On the subject of transport, a report has been completed on the National Urban Development Strategy project in Indonesia.

25. A report has been prepared on the planning of refuse disposal services in low-income settlements, as have case studies on the provision, operation and maintenance of low-cost water supply, sanitation and waste

disposal facilities based on experience in Sri Lanka and Nepal. A rational method for the design of septic tanks for warm climates was developed and a technical manual on the design of shallow sewer systems was finalized for publication. A case study on the retrofitting of shallow sewer systems in low-income communities in Brazil is being prepared. A mission was undertaken to World Health Organization headquarters, Geneva, to participate in an expert group meeting on water supply and sanitation technologies. A paper on the planning and refuse disposal facilities in low-income communities in Karachi, Pakistan was prepared and presented at a conference on waste management organized by the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities in Cairo, Egypt.

26. Fourteen projects relating to the development of low-cost infrastructure for human settlements were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these 1 was completed during 1986, and no new projects were started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, 13 projects were on-going.

F. Subprogramme 6: Land

27. The overall objective of subprogramme 6 is the analysis of procedures and regulations for the formulation and implementation of land policies. This is done mainly through the collection and analysis of case studies on laws and administrative practices for the provision of land to urban and rural poor, and on the operation and maintenance of land-use register systems. The main output of this research activity - a manual on low-technology land registration techniques and plot allocation procedures - is intended for the use of local authorities as a practical tool and training method to improve their administrative capacity in surveying, land registration, land taxation and plot allocation. Also under this subprogramme, techniques of "land sharing" in central parts of cities are being evaluated with the purpose of outlining procedures for involving the private sector in low-income shelter development.

28. Six projects relating to the formulation and implementation of national land policies and land-control measures were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these, two were completed during 1986, while one new project was started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, five projects were on-going.

G. Subprogramme 7: Mobilization of financial resources for human settlements development

29. The overall objective of subprogramme 7 is to provide support to the development of effective human settlements finance systems. UNCHS (Habitat) has initiated research work in three areas: employment generation in low-income settlements, national finance systems, and the role of human settlements investment in economic development. Research is being carried out with the purpose of analysing and disseminating information on how the economic base of the target population can be strengthened, what role the housing finance system plays in mobilizing resources and how human settlements investments influence overall economic development. Progress so far consists of collecting available material, and identifying suitable cases for detailed studies. These case studies are expected to provide valuable

support to the development of mechanisms and institutional arrangements which can increase the availability of financial resources for human settlements programmes and their effective channeling to assist activities at local levels.

30. Eight projects related to the financing of human settlements were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these, three were completed during 1986, while one new project was started. Therefore, at the end of 1986, six projects were on-going.

H. Subprogramme 8: Institutions and management

31. The objectives of subprogramme 8 are to formulate guidelines and proposals for the introduction of appropriate legislative, institutional and management procedures for human settlements and to design, implement and evaluate training courses in human settlements management for national and local governmental officials. Many governments lack adequate institutional arrangements, managerial capabilities and data-management mechanisms for the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and projects for settlements development and operation. In order to overcome these deficiencies it is necessary to improve intersectoral co-ordination and provide appropriate trained manpower. At the international level, there is a lack of information programmes to support settlements institutions in developing countries and of interregional and regional mechanisms for the exchange of information.

32. In the area of institutions and policy analysis, UNCHS (Habitat) has initiated research activities aimed at strengthening local government capacity to execute human settlements policies and programmes. As part of these activities, a seminar will be convened at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in May 1987. In addition, UNCHS (Habitat) is continuing its research programme on national human settlements institutional arrangements, and a report on guidelines for the establishment of national human settlements institutional arrangements will be prepared by the second half of 1987.

33. In the area of human settlements management, UNCHS (Habitat) is in the process of identifying intermediate cities and metropolitan areas to serve as case studies of urban management practice.

34. In June 1986, UNCHS (Habitat) sponsored a meeting of the Working Group on International Assistance Strategies to Human Settlements Training for Developing Countries which was attended by representatives of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, eight bilateral agencies and six non-governmental organizations. The meeting produced a series of recommendations addressing the role of UNCHS (Habitat) in training and co-ordination of training, as well as the roles of multilateral, bilateral and NGO training activities. The report of the meeting is being finalized for publication in 1987.

35. In June-July 1986, UNCHS (Habitat) co-sponsored a five week Training Course on Housing and Urban Development in Shanghai, China. Forty officials from public agencies, ministries and state corporations attended the course which was organized by EDI and hosted by Tongji University of Shanghai. A study tour was conducted in Hong Kong, during the last week of the course. The course will be repeated in 1987.

36. In January 1987, UNCHS (Habitat) and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUC) of Belgium conducted a two-week field workshop on housing in development for housing officials from East and Southern African countries. A follow-up course to the workshop will take place in Belgium in 1987.

37. UNCHS (Habitat) and EDI in collaboration with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration of Côte d'Ivoire and the Centre de Recherche Architecturale et Urbaine of the University of Abidjan organized a four-week course on urban finance and management. Senior level government officials from French-speaking West African countries attended the course. Particular areas covered were the mobilization and management of financial resources, expenditure control, intergovernmental transfers and the operation and maintenance.

38. Fifty technical co-operation projects relating to the development of human settlement institutions and management were in progress at the start of the biennium. Of these, 18 were completed, while 10 new projects started in 1986. Therefore, at the end of 1986 42 projects were on-going.

I. Other activities

1. Information

39. UNCHS (Habitat) continues to disseminate information on human settlements through its network of subsidiary offices. Three issues of UNCHS Habitat News were published in 1986 as planned, including Arabic, French and Spanish supplements and Non-Governmental Organization Notes. Technical bulletins on several topics were distributed in conjunction with the mailing of UNCHS Habitat News. A variety of monographs, information documents, posters, and audiovisual presentations was prepared. Feature articles on human settlements issues were distributed to newspapers and magazines throughout the world.

40. Significant progress continues to be made also in the area of information systems where several publications were produced in collaboration with human settlements related organizations around the world. These include: Habitat Directory of organizations in the field of human settlements, co-produced by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Information Centre for Building and Planning (IRB) in Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany; HABIRES, the ongoing research database; Habitat Awareness, a bulletin of literature in the field of human settlements; and the Trilingual Thesaurus in the Field of Human Settlements.

41. For the first observance of World HABITAT Day, which took place on Monday, 6 October 1986, 5000 English, 2000 French, 2000 Spanish and 1000 Arabic information kits were produced and distributed world-wide through the regional information offices and directly to mass media, National IYSH focal points, United Nations information centres, UNDP resident co-ordinators etc.

42. Reports and newspaper clippings received indicate that in many countries, national World HABITAT Day committees were designated and/or special programmes were undertaken to mark the day. Activities consisted mainly of: special messages from Heads of State, Heads of Government or

ministers responsible for human settlements; distribution of World HABITAT Day information kits and posters and display of photographic exhibitions supplied by UNCHS (Habitat); radio and television programmes; special exhibitions by the public and private sector of information material and products related to shelter and services; audio-visual presentations and film shows; newspaper feature articles and editorials; public awareness programmes including debates discussions, symposia and seminars and plays; work activities involving children and community groups, self-help organizations, public ceremonies and parades.

2. Monitoring and evaluation

43. Until the establishment of the post of an evaluation officer in the 1986-1987 biennium, monitoring and evaluation had to be carried out from the Office of the Executive Director on an ad hoc and part-time basis, despite the emphasis placed on the need for such evaluation by, inter alia, the Commission on Human Settlements and the General Assembly. However, as of January 1986, a full-time officer was assigned to this task and experience to date has amply justified the need for this post on a continuing basis.

44. During 1986 several internal evaluation exercises were carried out. These included: (a) evaluation of UNCHS (Habitat) ad hoc expert group meetings and an assessment of their cost-effectiveness; (b) development of a methodology for the evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the UNCHS (Habitat) training courses; and (c) a desk review and evaluation of one of the technical co-operation projects implemented by UNCHS (Habitat).

45. In November 1986, the Secretary-General introduced a new system of self-evaluation of activities by programme managers in order to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the effectiveness of the Organization's activities in achieving established objectives as well as their relevance and impact. The Central Evaluation Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, which is responsible for the development and implementation of the new system, as an integral part of the general policy-making and management process of the United Nations, selected UNCHS (Habitat) subprogramme 4 on the development of the indigenous construction sector as the first subprogramme to be self-evaluated by UNCHS (Habitat). This self-evaluation will be completed in 1987.

3. Human settlements data management

46. Since the ninth session of the Commission, UNCHS (Habitat) has provided special advisory assistance in the field of data management, upon request, to the following countries: Burma, Housing Department, Ministry of Construction; Malaysia, Ministry of Housing and Local Government; Maldives, Office of Physical Planning and Design; Oman, Ministry of Housing; and Turkey, Ministry of Public Works and Settlements. In the case of Malaysia, Maldives and Turkey the missions resulted in the preparation of specific project documents for further assistance in this field. Furthermore, in August 1986 a successful micro-computer training workshop was held in Bangkok in co-operation with the Asian Institute of Technology.

47. Activities on software development in 1986 included the release for distribution of Urban Data Management Software (UDMS), version 5.2. In preparation for release in 1987 are: Housing Finance Software (HFS), revised version, incorporating savings as well as loan-account management; Land suitability assessment programme (GRID 86), version 1.0; UNCHS Support to Service Identification and Location Package (SILP); and Notes on the use of microcomputer-based transportation software for human settlements in developing countries (Software Notes).

48. Available software relevant to human settlements planning and management was identified and publicized through the Habitat Microcomputer Users Directory which encompasses over 500 individuals and agencies. A regular UNCHS Habitat News column entitled "Macro Micro" was initiated advising on practical applications of microcomputers in human settlements data management.

49. Internal training and development was continued with training of UNCHS (Habitat) staff in microcomputer application.

4. Special technical advisory services

50. The demand for special advisory services has increased significantly reflecting the changing nature of the technical advisory needs of developing countries from long-term resident experts towards short-term highly specialized advisers. Resources available for this type of service fell short of actual demand, even though these services were limited to only a few specific subjects and were provided for a maximum of four weeks per country. In quantitative terms, the number of missions undertaken during 1986 was 40.

5. Sectoral support

51. UNDP continued to provide modest resources to UNCHS (Habitat) under the sectoral support programme. The resources were used for preparatory missions and project documents were prepared and submitted to donor agencies for funding. The demand for sectoral support missions far exceeded the available resources and UNDP has tentatively agreed to increase the funding for 1987.

II. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE MAIN LEGISLATIVE ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

52. A brief summary is provided below of the resolutions and decisions pertaining to human settlements that were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during 1986 that were of direct relevance to the Commission on Human Settlements and UNCHS (Habitat). An account of matters arising out of other resolutions and decisions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are of relevance to the work of the Commission, can be found in document HS/C/10/8/Add.2. Also reported on are the actions taken by the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) on the implementation of various decisions and resolutions adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. The full text of these decisions and resolutions may be found in document HS/C/10/CRP.1.

A. Economic and Social Council - second regular session of 1986

53. The Executive Director addressed the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 1986 at its second regular session of 1986 held in Geneva during which he introduced for the Council's consideration the agenda item on "International co-operation in the field of human settlements". The following four reports were before the Council under this item: report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its ninth session; 3/ report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people; 4/ report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; 5/ and a statement submitted by the International Union of Local Authorities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category 1, with the Council. 6/

54. In his statement to the Council, the Executive Director focused on the human settlements prospects for the coming decades, noting especially the ominous implications for such prospects of the converging impacts of rapid urbanization and continuing population growth in the developing countries. Two statistics were pertinent in that context. First, the present world population of about 4.8 billion was projected to increase by 1.3 billion by the year 2000 and by a further 1.3 billion by the year 2015, and of this additional 2.6 billion, 2.4 billion, or nearly 93 per cent, will have been added to the population of developing countries. Secondly, and with regard to urbanization trends, he noted that while the total population of developing countries will grow at approximately 1.85 per cent per annum up to the year 2000, the urban population will grow at about twice that rate, with the consequence that by that year, nearly 2.0 billion people will be living in the cities of developing countries. Furthermore, the large cities in the developing countries will expand even more rapidly and, indeed if present trends continue, there will be 22 cities with populations in excess of 10 million by the turn of the century, all but a few of them in the developing countries. In short, 10 years after Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the efforts at human settlements development initiated by it, it was clear that the problems of inadequate shelter were even further away from solution. It was, therefore, the Executive Director's contention that a new approach must be sought, and a human settlements agenda elaborated for the coming decades.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session Supplement No. 8 (A/41/8).

4/ A/41/415-E/1986/104.

5/ E/1986/103.

6/ E/1986/NGO/3.

/...

Action taken by the Economic and Social Council

(a) On the report of the Commission on Human Settlements

55. In its decision 1986/163 of 21 July 1986, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its ninth session and of the recommendations contained therein and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its forty-first session the adoption of the draft resolutions on the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (Commission resolution 9/1) and on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (Commission resolution 9/2) as recommended by the Commission.

(b) On the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

56. In its decision 1986/162 of 21 July 1986, the Council, recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolution 9/2 of 16 May 1986, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a comprehensive report on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, including recommendations for an agenda for human settlements for the coming decade, taking full account of the views of Member States and the deliberations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its tenth session to be held in 1987, the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission.

B. General Assembly - forty-first session

57. Because of the decision of the General Assembly in 1984 to adopt a biennial cycle of work, the agenda item on "International co-operation in the field of human settlements" was not considered by the forty-first session of the General Assembly, as an item by itself, but as part of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Action taken by the General Assembly

(a) On the report of the Commission on Human Settlements

58. In its resolution 41/189 of 8 December 1986 entitled "Tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements" the General Assembly decided that for the duration of the tenth session no distinction shall be drawn in the application of the rules of procedure between States members of the Commission and other participating States and for that purpose suspended for the duration of the session the operation of rule 56 of the Commission's rules of procedure.

(b) On the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

59. In its resolution 41/190 of 8 December 1986 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, 7/ urged Governments to demonstrate renewed political

commitment to the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged by taking significant measures before 1987, including providing access to land and ensuring security of tenure in squatter settlements, adapting codes and regulations to the needs of the people, facilitating community participation, improving access to credit and loans and promoting local and affordable building materials; also urged governments: (a) to prepare or review shelter strategies, taking into consideration the options set out in the documentation for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; and (b) to prepare a programme to implement projects geared to their chosen shelter strategies; requested Governments to submit detailed reports on their activities in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to UNCHS (Habitat) as soon as possible, giving special attention to measures that will improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged during 1987 and to their strategy to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor by the year 2000; requested all governments, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and financial institutions to review their policies and raise the priority of shelter and settlements improvement programmes; appealed to all governments to make or increase voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and to all other international agencies and financial institutions to provide effective financial and other support to the programme of the Year; and decided to devote at least two plenary meetings at its forty-second session in 1987 to issues related to shelter in observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

(c) On the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

60. In its decision 41/181 of 8 December 1986, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people. 8/

C. Commission on Human Settlements - ninth session

1. Resolution 9/1: Tenth (Commemorative) session of the Commission on Human Settlements

61. This matter was referred to the General Assembly for action as recommended by the Commission (see paragraph 58 above).

2. Resolution 9/2: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

62. This matter was referred to the General Assembly for action, as recommended by the Commission (see paragraph 59 above).

3. Resolution 9/3: Regional co-operation in human settlements and housing in Latin America and the Caribbean

63. In addition to on-going technical co-operation project and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean which showed a steady growth in 1986, UNCHS (Habitat) continued to be represented in that region through the

outposted staff members at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Under the Memorandum of Understanding between ECLAC and UNCHS (Habitat), these outpost staff members function as an integral part of the Joint ECLAC/UNCHS Human Settlements Unit. UNCHS (Habitat) continued to maintain its Information Office in Mexico City to disseminate human settlements information throughout the region.

64. As regards the use of national currencies, all technical co-operation projects that are funded by UNDP and executed by UNCHS (Habitat) make use of government contributions in kind; national currencies may be contributed in the form of a "Government Cash Contribution", as for instance in UNCHS (Habitat) executed projects. Technical co-operation projects also make use of national currency contributions via the technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) modality; in 1986, for example, a low-cost housing consultant was fielded to the Dominican Republic with Brazil as a TCDC donor country; a follow-up consultancy mission under the same arrangement is being undertaken; and preparations are underway for TCDC arrangements linking Colombia with Brazil and Costa Rica under this cited project.

65. As regards planning of human settlements in areas prone to natural disasters, following preparatory assistance provided by UNCHS (Habitat), a project has been approved for UNDP financing. Entitled "Revitalization of Historic City Centre - Mexico City", this project aims at establishing regulations and procedures for urban planning and construction designs taking into consideration mitigation of seismic risk. In Bolivia, a project on "Rehabilitation of Settlements in Lake Titicaca" was developed in October 1986 to assist in rehabilitation of settlements and services, and planning so as to mitigate against future flood damage, around Lake Titicaca where more than 5,000 houses were affected by floods which occurred during October 1985 and April 1986. More recently, UNCHS (Habitat) has offered technical assistance to El Salvador and a preparatory assistance mission, similar to the one fielded to Mexico, was planned at the time of writing.

66. With respect to natural disasters, UNCHS (Habitat) has undertaken a number of activities in this region. For example, in co-operation with the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands, it prepared a project on "Rehabilitation and Disaster Mitigation Programme following Hurricane Kate". Another project, the "Inter-Caribbean Shelter Project", is an inter-island project and its implementation is scheduled to start in 1987. Five countries (Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) will jointly participate in this project which will help plan and programme for the construction of low-income houses with indigenous building materials, designed so as to withstand seasonal hurricanes. Also a preparatory assistance mission was fielded by UNCHS (Habitat) in order to assess the technical co-operation requirements after the major earthquake that hit Mexico City in 1985; one of the results of the mission was the holding of a Workshop on Structural Improvement of Low-Income Housing financed by UNDP and organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in conjunction with Fondo Nacional de Habitaciones Populares, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia and Centro Internacional de Estudios para la Conservación y Reconstrucción de los Bienes Culturales.

4. Resolution 9/4: Establishment of a regional training centre for human settlements activities

67. In order to accelerate and finalize the steps needed for establishing a specialized regional training centre for human settlements activities at Amman, Jordan, and to prepare a comprehensive programme for training courses to be held at such a centre, UNCHS (Habitat) undertook the following:

(a) Prepared and submitted a project document for "Training in Urban Finance and Management for Arab States" (RAB/86/020) for approval by the regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP. The project document involves, *inter alia*, the organization and delivery of courses and policy seminars on urban finance and management of urban projects and workshops on computer applications. When approved, this comprehensive programme will provide an opportunity for training staff and managers to familiarize themselves with the institutional administrative, substantive and financial arrangements required for the organization and delivery of short-term training courses, seminars and workshops.

(b) Prepared terms of reference and contracted consultants to draft and field-test a methodology to assess training needs. A first fact-finding mission was undertaken in November 1986 and follow-up survey missions to Arab States are scheduled for mid-1987. The long-term objective of developing the methodology is to enable the staff of the regional training centre and other training institutions on a continuing basis to identify human settlements training needs and to prepare training programmes to respond to those needs. The results of the surveys will allow UNCHS (Habitat) and the host governments to establish a pilot training programme for the first few years of operation of the proposed centre.

(c) Prepared terms of reference and contracted a consultant to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a specialized regional training centre for human settlements in Amman. The study will identify, *inter alia*, the staffing and physical requirements, recurrent budget and proposed networking arrangements for the proposed training centre. The study is expected to be completed by mid-1987.

5. Resolution 9/5: The work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) between sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

68. Efforts have continued to strengthen the mechanism by which governments are kept regularly informed of the on-going activities of UNCHS (Habitat) and particularly of the implementation of the decisions of the Commission. In addition to quantitative and qualitative improvements in the output of the Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division, periodic meetings are held between the Executive Director and Permanent Representatives to UNCHS (Habitat) and other Embassy focal points in Nairobi, to review progress in carrying out the work of UNCHS (Habitat).

6. Resolution 9/6: Assistance to the Namibian people

69. UNCHS (Habitat) has, within the context of the Namibia Nationhood Programme, prepared a report entitled "Development Strategies for the Housing and Construction Sectors of Independent Namibia". This report

has been presented at two meetings held in Lusaka, Zambia, in March and July 1985, respectively under the auspices of the United Nations Institute for Namibia. At the July meeting, an international seminar which included representatives of the South West African People's Organization's Central Committee, the report was extensively reviewed and approved for inclusion in the "Comprehensive Study of the Development of Namibia". It will form the basis for those chapters in the study which will focus on policy recommendations for spatial, urban and regional planning, the housing sector and the construction and building materials industries. The Comprehensive Study is currently under preparation and will constitute the blueprint for action once Namibia achieves independence.

70. During the course of 1986, and as a follow-up to the above-mentioned report, UNCHS (Habitat) has made provision for five fellowships to be awarded to qualified Namibians for training in areas related to the construction industry. UNCHS (Habitat) has also indicated its willingness to examine requests for follow-up activities linked to the Comprehensive Study for the Namibia Nationhood Programme.

71. Finally, UNCHS (Habitat), considering that its technical co-operation programme may assist in improving the conditions of Namibian refugee settlements, participated in discussions in Luanda, Angola, in October 1986. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the needs facing Namibian refugee settlements, particularly in terms of infrastructure and physical rehabilitation and upgrading. UNCHS (Habitat) has expressed its willingness to examine any request for technical assistance in these areas, subject to funding by UNDP.

7. Resolution 9/7: Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa

72. During 1986, discussions were held with the representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) in Nairobi and a project: "Assistance to self-help communities development in Masimbu and Dakawa" was redrafted with a view to submitting it to UNDP for approval and funding.

73. Discussions were also held on a possible project to be financed by the German Democratic Republic with technical assistance from UNCHS (Habitat). This project concerns the promotion of construction methods in low-cost housing for the African National Congress Development Centres in the United Republic of Tanzania. A meeting was convened in the German Democratic Republic to which ANC and UNCHS (Habitat) representatives were invited. The project proposal was revised so as to include elements for improving shelter conditions in the ANC refugee camps, activities for producing local building materials for development of small-scale fabricated components for the construction of low-cost housing, and for training.

74. With regard to the provision of assistance to the Frontline States in the framework of UNCHS (Habitat) assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in Africa, UNDP invited UNCHS (Habitat) to participate in an interagency identification mission together with the World Food Programme, to Angola. During this mission, it was decided that within the on-going large-scale project "Reconstruction of the South Provinces", UNCHS (Habitat), together with the International Labour Office, would

prepare recommendations in the subject areas of their mandates during a project identification mission which is scheduled to be undertaken in 1987.

75. As regards assistance to other Frontline States, UNCHS (Habitat) is currently executing 14 projects in these States: in Botswana (1), Lesotho (2), Mozambique (1), Swaziland (2), the United Republic of Tanzania (4), Zambia (1), and Zimbabwe (3). Further projects have been prepared which can be implemented as soon as funds become available. These projects are in Botswana (1), Lesotho (3), Mozambique (1), Swaziland (2), the United Republic of Tanzania (3), Zambia (2), and Zimbabwe (3).

76. Action has been taken regarding paragraph 6 of this resolution, concerning the possible participation by more than one observer of each national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations at the tenth session of the Commission.

8. Resolution 9/8: The role of community participation in human settlements work

77. During 1986, measures were taken to increase the technical capacity of UNCHS (Habitat) to deal with community participation in a practical way and to develop guidelines and material for non-formal training in support of community-level action, particularly for community leaders, community development staff and community residents. Furthermore, the Executive Director brought this resolution to the attention of governments as well as international and bilateral aid agencies, drawing their attention to the emerging practical experience of UNCHS (Habitat) with promoting and supporting community participation in low-income settlements development. UNCHS (Habitat) support and assistance were offered for projects and programmes as part of a system of community participation and non-government sector action which should lead to active forms of public-private partnerships in planning, implementation and management of human settlements development.

9. Resolution 9/9: Participation of women in the solution of human settlements problems

78. See document HS/C/10/10/3, paragraph 63.

10. Resolution 9/10: Small-scale production of building materials and components

79. As indicated in paragraphs 19 to 22 of this report, UNCHS (Habitat) continued its activities in the implementation of this resolution and, as requested, a detailed report on the subject will be submitted to the Commission at its session in 1989.

11. Resolution 9/11: Activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories

80. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution, the Executive Director wrote to several potential donor countries, financial institutions and relevant United Nations organizations drawing their attention to the 27 specific project proposals contained in his report to the Commission

at its ninth session 9/ and requesting them to give favourable consideration to financing the implementation of any of them. In his letter, the Executive Director also offered to provide the technical expertise that might be required for the implementation of any of the project proposals. The Executive Director engaged the services of an expert consultant to prepare a separate report on the implementation of paragraph 7 of this resolution. This report is contained in document HS/C/10/3/Add.3.

12. Resolution 9/12: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless: guidelines for a selective approach

81. See documents HS/C/10/3 and HS/C/10/3/Add.2.

13. Resolution 9/13: Relationship between the objectives and tasks of the International Year of Peace and those of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

82. As outlined in the note on the contribution of the Commission to the International Year of Peace, 10/ the maintenance of peace depends significantly on reducing inequalities through economic and social development programmes focused especially on the needs of the poor and disadvantaged. UNCHS (Habitat) has continued to promote and highlight the objectives of the International Year of Peace, through fostering the implementation of the programme of activities for IYSH, the dissemination of relevant information, and through making contributions to relevant meetings and statements such as the joint statement on the International Year of Peace of the Heads of Organizations within the United Nations System.

14. Resolution 9/14: Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development

83. As requested by the Commission in paragraph 2 of this resolution, the resolution, together with the annex, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986. For the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, at its forty-first session, as well as the follow-up action required, see document HS/C/10/CRP.1.

15. Resolution 9/15. Cross-organizational programme analysis

84. As requested by the Commission in paragraph 4 of this resolution, the text of the resolution was transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session. For the decisions of that session and their implications see document HS/C/10/8. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 4 of the resolution and at the request of the Commission in its resolution 8/17 of 9 May 1985, a report has been prepared on human settlements activities within the United Nations system. The report is before the Commission in document HS/C/10/8.

9/ HS/C/9/6/Add.4.

10/ HS/C/9/9/Add.2.

16. Resolution 9/16: Venue of sessions of the Commission
on Human Settlements

85. This resolution does not require action on the part of the Executive Director.

17. Decision 9/17: Photographic and documentary exhibitions
on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for
the Homeless

86. Guidelines for photographic and documentary exhibitions have been issued.

III. CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
AND UNITS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

87. Co-operation and collaboration with organizations within the United Nations system is an important part of the UNCHS (Habitat) mandate and activities laid down by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/162. An account of the highlights of such co-operation is given in document HS/C/10/8. An account of the co-operation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP is given in document HS/C/10/8/Add.1.

- - - - -