Chapter IX

Questions concerning human settlements

Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

Convened by the United Nations General Assembly, Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements met in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976. The purpose of the Conference was to set out guidelines for national and international action to improve the living places of people throughout the world. It was attended by representatives of 132 Governments, four national liberation movements, 160 non-governmental organizations and a number of intergovernmental bodies.

The Conference was first proposed by the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden. Later that year, the General Assembly, accepting the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference, decided that a conference-exposition on human settlements should be held to serve as a practical means to exchange information about solutions to problems of human settlements. A Preparatory Committee held three sessions: the first in January and August 1975; the second and third in January and May 1976. The Committee reviewed the documentation for the Conference and the procedural arrangements.

Regional preparatory conferences and a series of expert meetings were also held during the year preceding the Conference.

In addition to the traditional reports and background papers, an audio-visual programme was devised to stimulate the exchange of information about human settlements problems. A total of 236 films and slide presentations were submitted by 123 nations. These presentations were shown during the Conference and plans were made to make them available for showings throughout the world.

Participating in the Conference were representatives of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, the Byelorussian SSR, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, the Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and of the following national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) also took part in the Conference: the African National Congress, the African National Council, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.


Representatives of the following specialized agencies participated: the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Meteorological Organization. Thirteen intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Cairo Demographic Centre, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commission of the European Communities, the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Council of Europe, the Islamic Conference Secretariat, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture and Sciences, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The officers of the Conference were: President, Barney Danson (Canada); Rapporteur-General, Adolf Ciborowski (Poland); Chairman of Committee I, the Reverend George K. Muhoho (Kenya); Chairman of Committee II, Homayoun Jaber Ansari (Iran); and Chairman of Committee III, Diego Arria (Venezuela). Also serving were 33 Vice-Presidents from the following States: Australia, Austria, Bolivia, the Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iraq, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, the Libyan Arab Republic, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, the USSR, Zaire and Zambia.

The plenary meetings of the Conference were devoted to a general debate in which 149 speakers described their experience in problems of human settlements and suggested the policies and programmes best suited to their solution. The substantive work was divided among three main committees. Committee I dealt with the draft declaration of principles and with programmes of international co-operation. Recommendations regarding national action were divided between Committee II, which examined settlement policies and strategies, settlement planning, and institutions and management, and Committee III, which dealt with shelter, infrastructure and services, land and public participation.

Simultaneously with the Conference, a non-governmental Forum was held at Vancouver. More than 5,000 participants from 90 countries took part in the discussions, which covered such topics as self-help and low-cost housing, land policy, participation, appropriate technology, nuclear energy and rural development.

The Conference was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, who said that the central theme of the Conference was concern for people—where and how they lived, the quality of their lives and the future for themselves and generations yet unborn.

The participants were welcomed by the Governor-General of Canada, Jules Léger, and the Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau. In his address, the Prime Minister emphasized the urgency of human settlements questions and noted that human settlements were linked so closely to existence itself, represented such a concrete and widespread reality, and were so complex and demanding, so racked with injustices and deficiencies, that the subject could not be approached with leisurely detachment.

On 11 June 1976, the Conference adopted a Declaration of Principles known as the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, a set of 64 recommendations for action by Governments intended to assure the basic requirements of human habitation—shelter, clean water, sanitation and a decent physical environment, and the opportunity for cultural growth and the development of the individual—and five resolutions.

The Declaration, proposed by the States belonging to the "Group of 77" developing countries, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 89 in favour to 15 against (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States), with 10 abstentions (Austria, Colombia, Fiji, Honduras, Japan, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland). A number of countries, including Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Fiji, the Netherlands on behalf of the countries belonging to the European Economic Community, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United States, in explaining their negative votes or abstentions, said they were unable to support the Declaration because of its implicit endorsement of General Assembly resolution 3379(XXX) of 10 November 1975, which characterized zionism as a form of racism. Others specified reservations or objections to references in the Declaration to a new international economic order and to what they considered to be political interjections—such as a preamble referring to involuntary migration, politically, racially and economically motivated, as a cause of unacceptable circumstances of life for vast numbers of people.

With two exceptions, the recommendations for national action submitted by the Committees were approved without vote. The two amended in ple-

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2 See Y.U.N., 1975, pp. 599-600, text of resolution 3379(XXX).
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The 55-paragraph Vancouver Declaration was composed of a preamble, and three sections setting forth opportunities and solutions, general principles and guidelines for action.

As factors aggravating the problem, the preamble cited: inequitable economic growth; social, economic, ecological and environmental deterioration; a world population growth, expected to double the population within 25 years; uncontrolled urbanization; rural backwardness and dispersion; and involuntary migration, politically, racially and economically motivated, relocation and expulsion of people from their national homelands.

By the section on opportunities and solutions, the Conference pointed out the need for increased activity by Governments and the international community aimed at mobilization of economic resources, institutional changes and international solidarity. Such a mobilization would include the adoption of bold, meaningful and effective human settlement policies and spatial planning strategies realistically adapted to local conditions, and the creation of more livable, attractive and efficient settlements which would recognize the heritage and culture of people and the special needs of disadvantaged groups, especially children, women and the infirm, in order to ensure the provision of health services, education, food and employment within a framework of social justice. Human settlements, it was noted, had to be seen as an instrument and object of development; the goals of settlement policies were inseparable from the goals of every sector of social and economic life, and the solutions to these problems of human settlements had therefore to be conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community.

The Conference then proclaimed a series of general principles, among which were the following.

The improvement of the quality of life of human beings was the first and most important objective of every human settlement policy; these policies must facilitate the rapid and continuous improvement in the quality of life of all people, beginning with the satisfaction of the basic needs of food, shelter, clean water, employment, health, education, training and social security, without any form of discrimination. Priority was to be given to the needs of the most disadvantaged people.

Human dignity and the exercise of free choice consistent with over-all public welfare were basic rights which must be assured in every society, and it was therefore the duty of all people and Governments to join the struggle against colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination referred to in the resolutions as adopted by the General Assembly.

The establishment of settlements in territories occupied by force was illegal and condemned by the international community; action remained to be taken against the establishment of such settlements.

The right of free movement and the right of each individual to choose the place of settlement within the domain of his own country should be recognized and safeguarded.

Every State had the sovereign right to choose its economic, political, social and cultural system, without interference, coercion or external threats, and the right to exercise full and permanent sovereignty over its wealth, natural resources and economic activities.

Land was one of the fundamental elements in human settlements and every State had the right to maintain under public control the use, possession, disposal and reservation of land; every State had the right to plan and regulate use of land in such a way that the growth of population centres, both urban and rural, was based on a comprehensive land-use plan.

Nations must avoid the pollution of the biosphere and the oceans and should join in the effort to end irrational exploitation of environmental resources. The waste and misuse of resources in war should be prevented.

All countries should make a commitment to promote disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, and part of the resources thus released should be used to achieve a better quality of life, particularly in the developing countries.

Also, all persons had the right and duty to participate in elaborating and implementing policies and programmes of their human settlements.

To achieve universal progress in the quality of life, a fair and balanced structure of the economic relations between States had to be promoted, and it was therefore essential to implement urgently the New International Economic Order, based on the Declaration and the Programme of Action approved by the General Assembly at its sixth (1974) special session and on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

The highest priority should be given to homeless persons displaced by natural or man-made catastrophes, and especially by the act of foreign aggression. In the latter case, all countries had the duty to cooperate to guarantee that the parties involved allowed the return of displaced persons to their homes to give

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1 See Y.U.N., 1974, pp. 324-32, resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing texts of Declaration and Programme of Action.

2 Ibid., pp. 402-7, resolution 3281(XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing text of Charter.
them the right to possess their properties without interference.

Historical settlements, monuments and other national heritage items were to be safeguarded against aggression or abuse by an occupying power.

Also, every State had the right to rule and exercise effective control over foreign investments, including the transnational corporations, which affected the human settlements programmes.

All countries were to create conditions making possible the full integration of women and youth in political, economic and social activities, particularly in relation to human settlement proposals, on the basis of equal rights.

Finally, international co-operation was a common duty of all States and necessary efforts therefore must be made to accelerate the development of developing countries.

In the section setting out guidelines for action, the Conference among other things stressed that national and international efforts should give priority to improving the rural habitat and to reducing the disparities between rural and urban areas. Human settlements policies and programmes, it stated, should strive for progressive minimum standards for an acceptable quality of life and it drew attention to the detrimental effects of transposing standards and criteria that could only be attained by a minority of the population. Governments should promote programmes that would assist local authorities to participate to a greater degree in national development.

Another guideline enunciated by the Conference stated that land was an essential element in the development of both urban and rural settlements; hence, because of its limited supply the use and tenure of land should be subject to public control through appropriate legislative measures, including agrarian reform, that would facilitate the transfer of economic resources to the agricultural sector and the promotion of the agro-industrial effort.

Also, access should be granted, on more favourable terms, to modern technology, which should be adapted, as necessary, to the specific economic, social and ecological conditions and to the different stages of development of the developing countries. International, technical and financial co-operation by the developed countries with the developing countries should be an integral part of any national economic and social development policy and should take into account, among other things, the changing roles of women. It should concentrate on key issues, promote the goals and objectives of national development, establish priorities among regions and areas of a country and be led by public-sector action.

Next, the Conference stipulated that a national policy on human settlements and the environment should be an integral part of any national economic and social development policy and should take into account, among other things, the changing roles of women. It should concentrate on key issues, promote the goals and objectives of national development, establish priorities among regions and areas of a country and be led by public-sector action.

Another recommendation was that policies should aim to improve the condition of human settlements, particularly by promoting a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development among regions and by making such benefits and public services accessible to all groups. Public-sector investments, subsidies, and fiscal and legal in-
centives and disincentives were mentioned in this context.

Settlement planning
The section on settlement planning contained 16 recommendations that treated settlement planning in national, regional and local contexts, and dealt with such subjects as the availability of resources, urban improvement and expansion, reconstruction after disaster, new settlements, temporary settlements, and the settlements of mobile groups such as nomads and migrant workers. It was noted that plans must include clear goals and adequate policies, objectives and strategies, along with concrete programmes, and should promote and guide development rather than restrict or simply control it.

At the plenary meeting, a Cuban amendment to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 77 in favour to 8 against, with 20 abstentions. This amendment added a paragraph to the effect that settlement planning and implementation for the purpose of prolonging and consolidating occupation and subjugation in territories and lands acquired through coercion and intimidation must not be undertaken and must be condemned as a violation of United Nations principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Shelter, infrastructure and services
On the topic of shelter, infrastructure and services, the Conference approved 18 recommendations dealing with such questions as national housing policies, waste management and prevention of pollution, energy, water supply and social and recreational services. Infrastructure was defined as the networks designed to deliver or remove people, goods, energy or information, including transport and communications; this was distinguished from services such as education, health, culture, welfare, recreation and nutrition. The overriding objectives of settlement policies, it was noted, should be to make the facilities available to those who needed them, in the sequence in which they were needed and at a monetary or social cost they could afford.

The Conference proposed a comprehensive approach to shelter, infrastructure and services. Standards should be compatible with local resources, adaptable to local culture and established by government bodies. Efforts should be made to reduce dependence on foreign technologies and materials and to make use of available local resources and know-how in such a way as to generate employment and income. The Conference recommended reducing energy consumption and identifying and developing new sources of energy.

By another recommendation, the Conference proposed political, financial and technical support to the construction industry. Also, it suggested that national housing policies should aim at providing adequate shelter and services to the lower income groups, distributing available resources on the basis of greatest need.

Land
Eight recommendations in the section on land dealt with land as a basic component of human settlements and included suggestions on land ownership, conservation and reclamation, as well as other aspects of effective land management. Land, with its crucial role in human settlements, the Conference stated, could not be treated as an ordinary asset and the pattern of land use should be determined by the long-term interests of the community, especially since decisions on location of activities had a long-lasting effect on the pattern and structure of human settlements.

The first recommendation stated that land was a scarce resource whose management should be subject to public surveillance or control in the interest of the nation. Two amendments to this recommendation were adopted at the plenary meeting. The first added a paragraph by which the Conference stated that, in all occupied territories, changes in the demographic composition, or the transfer or uprooting of the native population, and the destruction of existing human settlements in these lands and/or the establishment of new settlements for intruders was inadmissible. Heritage and national identity were to be protected and any policies violating these principles were to be condemned.

This amendment was adopted by a roll-call vote of 69 to 8, with 26 abstentions. It was sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The second amendment added a paragraph by which the Conference stated that land was a natural resource fundamental to the economic, social and political development of peoples and therefore Governments must maintain full jurisdiction and exercise complete sovereignty over such land with a view to freely planning development of human settlements throughout the whole of the national territory. This resource was not to be the subject of restrictions imposed by foreign nations which enjoyed the benefits while restricting its rational use. This amendment, proposed by Panama, was adopted by consensus.

By another recommendation, the Conference, noting that agricultural land was prey to speculation and urban encroachment, stated that change in the use of land, particularly from agricultural to urban, should be subject to public control and regulation. Measures to that end might include direct
intervention, legal and fiscal controls, as well as zoning and land-use plans.

In relation to the economic value of land, the Conference recommended that the unearned increment resulting from rises in land values as a result of changes in land use, public investment or decision, or due to the general growth of the community, must be subject to appropriate recapture by public bodies (the community), unless the situation called for other additional measures such as new patterns of ownership or the general acquisition of land by public bodies.

Another recommendation declared that public ownership of land should be used to control areas of urban expansion and protection, to implement land reform, and to supply serviced land at price levels which could secure socially acceptable patterns of development.

The Conference recommended that past patterns of ownership rights should be transformed to match the changing needs of society. Special attention should be given to redefinition of legal ownership, separation of land ownership from development rights, and land rights of indigenous peoples.

Public participation

On the question of public participation, the Conference noted that a co-operative effort of the people and their Governments was a prerequisite for effective action on human settlements; as the magnitude and intractability of the problems were too great for Governments to act alone, citizens must be provided opportunities for direct involvement in the decisions that profoundly affected their lives.

In six recommendations it was stated, among other things, that public participation should be an indispensable element in planning strategies and in their formulation, implementation and management. Public participation was a right to be accorded to all segments of the population; it was a human right, a political duty and an instrument essential for national development.

Institutions and management

The final set of 10 recommendations dealt with institutions and management—the political, administrative and technical instruments which formulated or implemented settlement plans and policies. Covered were such questions as adaptation to changing circumstances, the use of human resources, financial arrangements, and settlement laws and regulations. The Conference observed that new institutions should be designed to promote new concepts and provide leadership in unfamiliar areas. Adequate representation of inhabitants should be ensured on principal policy-making bodies. Institutions dealing with human settlements should adapt to changing circumstances and they should be continuously reviewed and reorganized as necessary. Settlements should be improved by responsive and imaginative management of all resources.

Other Conference decisions

The Conference adopted six resolutions on the question of international co-operation in regard to human settlements.

By the first resolution, adopted by consensus, the Conference called for the creation of an intergovernmental body for human settlements, composed of not more than 58 States; its task would be to help countries and regions increase and improve their own efforts to solve settlements problems, to promote greater international co-operation for increasing the resources available to developing countries, and to strengthen co-operation among developing countries. The body would have among its main functions the development and promotion of policy objectives and priorities for United Nations programmes in this field, and the study of new issues, problems and solutions relating to settlements. It would also exercise over-all policy guidance for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The proposed body would report to the Economic and Social Council or to the General Assembly through the Council.

The Conference also called for the establishment of a secretariat to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and co-ordination within the United Nations system; the secretariat would comprise the posts and budgetary resources of certain specified existing units.

By the resolution, the Conference also recommended that the United Nations regional commissions establish intergovernmental regional committees on human settlements, that the secretariats dealing with human settlements establish close links with the principal financial institutions at the regional and global levels, and that co-operation should be sought with universities, research and scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations and voluntary groups, in order to make full use of their knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements.

The Conference did not take a decision on the section of the text before it dealing with the questions of the location or organizational link of the proposed human settlements unit—whether it should be integrated into the Secretariat Department of Economic and Social Affairs or into the United Nations Environment Programme. Reservations, proposals and amendments by various countries were appended to the resolution for transmittal to the General Assembly.

By a second resolution, the Conference asked the United Nations Secretary-General to submit to the 1976 session of the General Assembly a paper on the financial implications of alternative institu-
questions concerning human settlements

Another resolution adopted by consensus recommended the convening of regional meetings before the opening of the 1976 Assembly session in September to establish guidelines for co-ordinating within each region the action to be taken to deal with settlements problems.

By yet another resolution, the Conference recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for the custody, reproduction, use and augmentation of the audio-visual materials prepared for the Conference; this text was also adopted by consensus.

The Conference also adopted a resolution by which it recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to prepare and submit a report in 1977 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. By the preamble to this resolution, the Conference expressed concern that the Palestinian people had been forced to abandon their indigenous homeland and said it recognized the threat to international peace and security that would result from the wilful destruction of their cultural habitat.

This resolution, sponsored by Algeria and Egypt, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 73 in favour to 3 against (Israel, Paraguay, United States), with 42 abstentions.

The Conference also adopted a resolution welcoming the convening of the United Nations Water Conference in 1977 and urging that Governments support it, and another expressing thanks to the Government and people of Canada.

Documentary references

Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, Canada, 31 May-11 June 1976. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.76.IV.7. (Chapters I and XII: Declaration of principles; Chapters II and XIV: Recommendations for national action; Chapters III and XII: Recommendations (resolutions 1-5) for international co-operation; Chapter IV: Other resolutions (resolutions 6 and 7).)

Post-Conference action by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

The Economic and Social Council, on 5 August 1976, adopted a resolution (2040(LXI)) by which, among other things, it noted the report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and called upon the United Nations regional commissions and urged all other international organizations within the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to improve human settlements.

It recommended to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General be requested to convene, within the framework of the regional commissions, regional meetings to establish guidelines for the co-ordination of action to deal with human settlements and it recommended that the Assembly, in considering the report of the Habitat Conference, give special attention to the recommendations for international co-operation.

Resolution 2040(LXI) was adopted, without vote, on the recommendation of the Economic Committee, which approved the text without vote on 2 August. The text was sponsored by Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Sweden. Oral amendments by Italy and the USSR were accepted by the sponsors. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

On 16 December 1976, the General Assembly adopted six resolutions on questions arising from the Habitat Conference. By resolution 31/109, the Assembly took note of the report and decisions of the Conference. It urged all Member States to consider, on a priority basis, the recommendations for national action contained in the report, and called on regional commissions and other international organizations to take intensified action in support of national action, including exchanges of information and assistance, in the formulation and implementation of projects to improve human settlements. It also requested the Secretary-General to convene regional meetings to establish guidelines for the co-ordination of action to deal with human settlements and to report on the results in 1977, and took note of the reports on the regional meetings held within the Economic Commissions for Latin America and for Europe.

Resolution 31/109 was adopted, without vote, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, which approved the text, also without vote, on 17 November on the proposal of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda and the United...
By the second resolution adopted—31/110—the Assembly, recalling the Conference’s resolution on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in occupied territories, requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the Assembly’s 1977 session a report on that subject. It requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and it urged all States to co-operate with him in this matter.

Resolution 31/110 was adopted by a recorded vote of 107 to 2, with 26 abstentions. The Second Committee approved the text on 17 November by a roll-call vote of 102 to 2, with 25 abstentions. The text was introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the States Members belonging to the "Group of 77." (For text of resolution and voting details, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

By another resolution—31/113—the Assembly requested Member States and the Secretary-General, when planning the implementation of the Habitat Conference recommendations, to bear in mind the measures that protected the decent living environment of the most vulnerable social groups, such as children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped, so that they might live in an environment that was equally accessible to all individuals.

This resolution was adopted without vote. The text was sponsored by Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela and was approved without vote by the Second Committee on 1 December. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

With the adoption of resolution 31/114, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to ensure that the international bodies responsible for implementing the relevant recommendations of the Habitat Conference studied the specific possibilities and effective conditions for collaboration between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned, and drew up programmes of collaboration with those organizations.

Resolution 31/114 was adopted without vote. The text was sponsored by Austria, Ecuador, Mali, the Niger, Portugal, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and the United Republic of Cameroon and was approved without vote by the Second Committee on 3 December. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

By a fifth resolution—31/115—the Assembly: decided to establish a United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements; invited all participants in the Habitat Conference to transfer to the Secretary-General the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference; invited Governments of Member States to make available to the Information Centre new or enriched audio-visual presentations prepared for their programmes of national action; and authorized the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement for the provision by the Canadian authorities of facilities and financial support to the Centre to carry out its responsibilities for custody, reproduction and international distribution, for the period up to March 1980, of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference.

This resolution was also adopted without vote. The Second Committee approved the text by consensus on 3 December, on the proposal of Canada. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The final resolution on this question adopted by the Assembly dealt with institutional arrangements. The Assembly decided to defer until its 1977 session a decision on the type of definitive intergovernmental body for human settlements and on the organizational link and location of the human settlements secretariat, when the guidelines from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System would be in hand. It requested the Economic and Social Council to devote the necessary time at the outset of its mid-1977 session to the examination of developments in human settlements and the follow-up to Habitat and to make concrete recommendations on the definitive institutional arrangements.

Also, it requested all the United Nations bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, to ensure that the recommendations of the Habitat Conference were taken into account in their respective programmes related to human settlements, and to make their consultative services and resources available for the implementation of national programmes of action in the field of human settlements.

The Assembly further requested UNDP, UNEP and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning to give all possible support to the regional commissions in the strengthening of regional co-operation in the field of human settlements, and asked the regional commissions to report to the Economic and Social Council on the results of such regional co-operation, including progress in the establish-
ment of governmental regional committees on human settlements.

This resolution—31/116—was adopted without vote. The text, proposed by the Vice-Chairman of the Second Committee after consultations, was approved, without vote, by that Committee on 6 December. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The Second Committee had four draft resolutions before it for its discussion of the institutional arrangements for international co-operation on human settlements. All were withdrawn following submission of the text proposed by the Vice-Chairman after consultations.

The first of these drafts was proposed by Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela. By this text, the Assembly among other things would have endorsed the recommendations of Habitat concerning the establishment of an intergovernmental body for human settlements. It would have asked the Economic and Social Council to dissolve the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning and to replace it with a 58-member Commission on Human Settlements. It would have established Habitat: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements as the Secretariat unit responsible for such activities, consolidating in it existing units. Further, it would have called for regional co-operation and for co-operation between the new Centre and UNEP; UNEP was to retain its staff resources devoted to human settlements.

The second draft was sponsored by Egypt and Kenya. By this text, the Assembly among other things would have: decided that the Governing Council of UNEP would be the global intergovernmental body for human settlements; invited the Economic and Social Council to abolish the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning; established a secretariat for human settlement activities within UNEP, consolidating in it existing units; and recommended regional co-operation.

The third draft was sponsored by Algeria, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. By this text, the Assembly among other things would have requested all bodies concerned to implement the recommendations of Habitat, requested the Economic and Social Council, UNEP and UNDP to consider the Conference’s recommendations on institutional arrangements and submit their views to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit concrete recommendations on the matter in 1977.

The fourth draft text was sponsored by Australia, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. By this text, the Assembly would have deferred to its 1977 session any decision on the type of intergovernmental body to be established until the guidelines from the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring were in hand. In the interim, the Economic and Social Council would have been given responsibility for monitoring human settlements activities and a Centre for Human Settlements would have been established at United Nations Headquarters by consolidating the programmes and resources of existing Secretariat units. Further, it would have asked the Secretary-General to establish an interagency co-ordination sub-committee on human settlements under the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and would have decided that in 1977 it would consolidate under a single administrative structure all relevant activities. Finally, the Assembly would have called for regional co-operation and would have requested the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring to convey to the mid-1977 session of the Economic and Social Council any conclusions it had reached on the matter.

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E/AC.6/L.589. Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, Sweden: draft resolution, as orally amended by Italy, by USSR and sponsors, approved without vote by Economic Committee on 2 August 1976, meeting 780.


Resolution 2040(LXII), as recommended by Economic Committee, E/5884, adopted without vote by Council on 5 August 1976, meeting 2032.

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that solutions to human settlements problems around the world are urgently required,

Bearing in mind the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974, and the importance for the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade of improving human settlements around the world as a major component in improving the quality of life.

Noting that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was convened at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976:
(a) To stimulate innovation, serve as a means for the exchange of experience, and ensure the widest possible dissemination of new ideas and technologies in the field of human settlements,

(b) To formulate and make recommendations for an international programme in this field which will assist Governments,

(c) To stimulate interest in developing appropriate financial systems and institutions for human settlements among those making financial resources available and those in a position to use such resources.

Considering that the most appropriate and effective action for dealing with human settlements problems is action at the national level, but that national action will require assistance and co-operation between and among all States,


2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government and people of Canada for making possible the holding of the Conference and for their generous hospitality;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Conference for the effective preparation and organization of the Conference;

4. Calls upon the United Nations regional commissions, and urges all other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, to take intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to improve human settlements;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General of the United Nations be requested to convene, within the framework of the regional commissions, regional meetings to establish guidelines for the co-ordination, within each region, of action to be taken in order to deal with human settlements, and to report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations;

6. Recommends that the General Assembly, in considering the report of the Conference, give special attention to the recommendations for international co-operation, taking note of the opinions expressed on this matter at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council.

General Assembly—31st session


Resolution 31/109, as recommended by Second Committee, A/31/415, adopted without vote by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101.

The General Assembly,
Considering that solutions to human settlements problems around the world are urgently required,

Bearing in mind the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the importance for the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade of improving human settlements around the world as a major component in improving the quality of life,

Noting that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976:
(a) To stimulate innovation, serve as a means for the exchange of experience and ensure the widest possible dissemination of new ideas and technologies in the field of human settlements,
(b) To formulate and make recommendations for an international programme in this field which will assist Governments,
(c) To stimulate interest in developing appropriate financial systems and institutions for human settlements among those making financial resources available and those in a position to use such resources, considering that the most appropriate and effective action for dealing with human settlements problems is action at the national level, but that such action will require assistance and co-operation between and among all States,


2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government and people of Canada for making possible the holding of the Conference and for their generous hospitality;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Conference for the effective preparation and organization of the Conference;

4. Calls upon the United Nations regional commissions, and urges all other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, to take intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to improve human settlements;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General of the United Nations be requested to convene, within the framework of the regional commissions, regional meetings to establish guidelines for the co-ordination, within each region, of action to be taken in order to deal with human settlements, and to report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations;

6. Recommends that the General Assembly, in considering the report of the Conference, give special attention to the recommendations for international co-operation, taking note of the opinions expressed on this matter at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council.
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design, implementation and evaluation of projects to improve human settlements;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to convene regional meetings, as appropriate, within the framework of the regional commissions, to establish guidelines for the co-ordination, within each region, of action to be taken in order to deal with human settlements and to report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations no later than at the thirty-second session.
8. Takes note of the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting reports on the regional meetings already held within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Europe.

A/C.2/31/L.13. Pakistan (on behalf of States Members belonging to "Group of 77"): draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 17 November 1976, meeting 45, by roll-call vote of 102 to 2, with 25 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia
Against: Israel, United States

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

A/31/415. Report of Second Committee (on UNEP), draft resolution III.

Resolution 31/110, as recommended by Second Committee, A/31/415, adopted by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101, by recorded vote of 107 to 2, with 26 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Central African Empire, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia
Against: Israel, United States

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

The General Assembly,
Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, and the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,
Recalling also resolution 3 of the Conference on living conditions of the Palestinians in occupied territories, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2020(LX) of 4 August 1976,
Recalling further the recommendation adopted at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held at Teheran from 14 to 19 June 1975,
1. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories;
2. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;
3. Urges all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in this matter.

A/C.2/31/L.33. Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela: draft resolution, approved without vote by Second Committee on 1 December 1976, meeting 58.

A/31/415. Report of Second Committee (on UNEP), draft resolution VI.

Resolution 31/113, as recommended by Second Committee, A/31/415, adopted without vote by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101.

The General Assembly,
Bearing in mind that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in its recommendations A.4, B.3, B.12, C.4, C.14, C.15 and E.4, called for specific measures to be taken to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society,
Considering that human settlement policies are inseparable from the goals of the social and economic sectors, and that consequently solutions to the problems of such settlements must be conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community,
1. Requests Member States and the Secretary-General, when planning the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to bear in mind the measures that protect the decent living environment of the most vulnerable social groups, such as children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped, so that they may live in an environment which is equally accessible to all individuals;
2. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the measures taken and the results obtained.
Resolution 31/114, as recommended by Second Committee, A/C.2/31/L.415, adopted without vote by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101.

The General Assembly,
Recalling the results of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,
Aware of the importance and global nature of the phenomenon of urbanization,
Noting that uncontrolled urbanization is one of the causes of the deterioration in living conditions in human settlements,
Stressing the need for harmonization of intergovernmental action and intercommunal action with regard to human settlements,
Recognizing the role that the competent non-governmental organizations can play in solving the problems facing local communities,
Noting that non-governmental organizations such as the United Towns Organization and the International Union of Local Authorities, which are in consultative status, in category I, with the Economic and Social Council, have offered their collaboration with the United Nations in the field of human settlements,
Recalling its resolution 2861(XVI) of 20 December 1971 concerning world-wide intercommunal co-operation, which stressed the role played in that sphere by the United Towns Organization,
Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1738(LIV) of 4 May 1973 on international co-operation between municipalities,
1. Invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the international bodies responsible for implementing the relevant recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements:
   (a) Study the specific possibilities and effective conditions for collaboration between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned;
   (b) Draw up with those organizations programmes of collaboration;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session on the evolution of those programmes.

A/C.2/31/L.64. Canada: draft resolution, as orally amended by sponsor, approved by consensus by Second Committee on 3 December 1976, meeting 59.
A/31/415. Report of Second Committee (on UNEP), draft resolution VII.

Resolution 31/115, as recommended by Second Committee, A/31/415, adopted without vote by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101.

The General Assembly,
Noting resolution 5 of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements on post-Conference use of audio-visual material,
Expressing its appreciation for the support and assistance in preparing the audio-visual material for the Conference provided by national and international organizations, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme,
Convinced that the audio-visual and related material prepared for the Conference constitutes an information resource of continuing value for the effective implementation of recommendations for national action, programmes for 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 the Conference is essential if maximum benefit is to be derived from the considerable investment in that 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 also for the undertaking by Canadian authorities regarding the post-Conference use and dissemination of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference,
1. Decides to establish a United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements;
2. Invites all participants in Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to transfer, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General or his designated agents the intellectual and international copyright of their audio-visual material prepared for and made available to the Conference, including material prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Invites Governments of Member States, as an important part of a programme for augmenting the audio-visual material on human settlements, to make available to the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements new or enriched audio-visual presentations prepared for their programmes of national action;
4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the appropriate Canadian authorities for the latter to provide the facilities and financial support to the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements to carry out the Centre's responsibilities for the custody, reproduction and international distribution, for the period up to March 1980, of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference, to ensure the widest possible use of the material by Governments and interested bodies, and calls for a review of the agreement in 1979.
A/C.2/31/L.22. Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela: draft resolution.
A/C.2/31/L.22/Rev.1. Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela: revised draft resolution.
A/C.2/31/L.26. Algeria, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.
A/C.2/31/L.32 and Rev.1. Administrative and financial implications of 8-power draft resolution, A/C.2/31/L.22, and 11-power revised draft resolution, A/C.2/31/L.22/Rev.1, respectively. Statement and revised statement by Secretary-General.
A/C.2/31/L.41. Australia, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom: draft resolution.
A/C.2/31/L.70. Draft resolution, proposed by Vice-Chairman of Second Committee on basis of informal consultations, approved without vote by Second Committee on 6 December 1976, meeting 60.
A/31/415. Report of Second Committee (on UNEP), draft resolution IX.
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Resolution 31/116, as recommended by Second Committee, A/31/415, adopted without vote by Assembly on 16 December 1976, meeting 101.

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in particular the annex to Conference resolution 1 on programmes for international co-operation,
Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2040(LXII) of 5 August 1976,
Recognizing that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Systems of the United Nations System is considering proposals that would have implications for institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,
Considering that the most appropriate and effective action for dealing with human settlements problems is action at the national level, but that action is also required at the regional and global levels with a view to improving the quality of life for all peoples, particularly in the developing countries,
Recognizing also that the momentum of the Conference must be maintained through further action and decisions within the United Nations system,
Considering also that co-operation in the field of human settlements is one of the important means of fostering the goals of over-all social and economic development,
Taking into account that further consideration is required with respect to definitive institutional arrangements for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

I

Recommendations for international co-operation

1. Takes into account the paragraphs agreed to by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as contained in the preamble and in sections I to IX of the annex to Conference resolution 1, with due respect to the footnote to section X of that annex;
2. Decides to defer until its thirty-second session the decision on the type of definitive intergovernmental body for human settlements and on the organizational link and location of the human settlements secretariat, when the guidelines from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Systems of the United Nations System will be in hand, the financial implications of alternative institutional arrangements will be worked out and studied in greater depth, and the regional consultations will have been completed;

II

Intergovernmental body for human settlements

1. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Systems of the United Nations System to make available to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session any conclusions it has reached in the light of its over-all responsibilities which might have implications for institutional arrangements for human settlements;
2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to devote the necessary time at the outset of its sixty-third session to the examination of the developments in human settlements and the follow-up to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements;
3. Recommends that those meetings of the Economic and Social Council should be at the expert or highest appropriate level and with the active participation of all interested delegations and that the Council at its organizational session for 1977 should arrange the necessary modalities to this end;
4. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, as part of its agenda, to consider the report of the Secretary-General referred to in section III, paragraph 1, below, together with the views of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the regional commissions, with a view to taking action on the recommendations of the Conference regarding institutional arrangements, bearing in mind the terms of reference contained in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the annex to Conference resolution 1;
5. Further requests the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session concrete recommendations on definitive institutional arrangements for human settlements within the United Nations;
6. Decides to take action on those recommendations, at the latest at its thirty-second session, taking into account the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee;

III

Secretariat arrangements

1. Requests the Secretary-General, as an interim arrangement, to ensure, through the appropriate machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the co-ordination of the work of the all United Nations bodies concerned with respect to their activities in the human settlements field and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session on the progress made;
2. Requests that, since definitive arrangements for human settlements are yet to be decided upon, the Secretary-General should take appropriate measures to ensure effective preparations for the discussions on human settlements questions at the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the contributions made by the relevant components of the United Nations system as represented in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;
3. Requests all the United Nations bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, to ensure that the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements are taken into account in their respective programmes related to human settlements and within their respective terms of reference, and to make their consultative services and resources available, as appropriate, for the implementation of national programmes of action and in strengthening regional co-operation in the field of human settlements;

IV

Regional commissions

Requests, in this regard, the United Nations bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, to give all possible support to the regional commissions in the strengthening of regional co-operation in the field of human settlements and further requests the regional commissions to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session on the results of regional co-operation in human settlements, including the progress made in the establishment of governmental regional committees on human settlements.

The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

At its 1976 session, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) considered a progress report of the UNEP Executive Director on the programme of operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The Governing Council approved
general procedures to govern the operations of the Foundation and decided to defer until 1977 a decision on setting a target for voluntary contributions.

The procedures approved concerned: the objectives of the Foundation (to assist in strengthening national environmental programmes relating to human settlements, particularly in developing countries); the organs (a Governing Council, Executive Director, Administrator and Advisory Board); the resources (an allocation of $4 million over a four-year period from the Environment Fund, voluntary contributions to be pledged by Governments, United Nations and other international bodies and private sources, and participation in the United Nations Development Programme as an executing agency); programme activities; projects (operational or of a research, technical assistance, training or demonstrational character, trust funds, reports and co-operation with other bodies).

Later in the year, when the General Assembly’s Second (Economic and Financial) Committee considered the report of UNEP, the Philippines submitted a draft resolution concerning the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. By this text, the Assembly would have affirmed the significant role of the Foundation in promoting the implementation of the objectives and recommendations of the 1976 Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. It would have invited the Foundation to promote regional co-operation for the improvement of human settlements, invited non-governmental organizations and financial and other institutions to collaborate with the Foundation in order to facilitate the expansion of its activities, and urged Governments, especially those of developed countries, to support the Foundation on a voluntary basis.

Following discussion, the Second Committee decided, on the proposal of the Philippines, to recommend to the Assembly that it transmit to the Economic and Social Council, for consideration at its mid-1977 session, the Philippine draft resolution. The Philippines accepted an oral proposal by the United Kingdom, included in the decision, to transmit the relevant parts of the Second Committee’s report along with the draft resolution.

The Second Committee’s decision was taken on 7 December 1976. The Assembly adopted the text as its decision 31/411 A on 16 December.

See also page 556, for decisions concerning the criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements.

### Documentary references

General Assembly—31st session
Second Committee, meetings 19-27, 57, 60, 61.
Plenary meeting 101.


A/31/25, Report of Governing Council of UNEP on work of its 4th session, Nairobi, 30 March–14 April 1976, Chapter V and Annex I (decision 72(IV)).

A/C.2/31/L.19 and Rev.1.2, Philippines: draft resolution and revisions.


A/31/415, Report of Second Committee (on UNEP), draft decision 1.