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ECLA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

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/Introduction

Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976 marks a change in approach to the problems and solutions traditionally linked to urban development and housing. The previous fragmentary and partial approach, in which too much attention was paid to housing, building and urban planning, has been replaced by an integral view, in which these matters are considered to be part and parcel of the overall socio-economic development process. From this perspective, habitat cannot be dealt with in isolation from the factors which affect the activities designed to raise the quality of human life. Thus, the Vancouver recommendations and Plan of Action lay emphasis on the fact that the problems of habitat, as a physical expression of social processes, can be resolved only in the context of national development aims.

These recommendations are directed primarily towards the developing countries, since in them policies relating expressly to human settlements as regards both physical planning and improvement of the habitat have to be formulated in conditions of critical poverty and under the pressure of extremely fast demographic growth and urban development. In these circumstances, it is necessary to make an effort to replace policies of a more traditional nature and to create new instruments of implementation. It is basically a matter of producing goods and services, using different approaches to organization and financing.

This effort, which calls for political imagination, economic rationality and adequate technological capacity, will not be easy, nor can its objectives be attained in the short term, since new conceptual instruments and greater preparation of institutions and personnel are required in order to tap underutilized natural resources, human skills and cultural attributes.

The restructuring of human settlement policies, the revision of the institutional apparatus which supports the management of human settlements and the training of the agents who take part in the process constitutes an enterprise which concerns all the countries of the region and which ECLA cannot neglect. The Commission's contribution cannot, however, be merely academic but must be part of a process involving research, consciousness-raising and exchange of experience. If the solutions are to be effective in the conditions which now obtain in Latin America, they must be imaginative and innovative and must be aimed at the promotion of and search for realistic answers which emerge as a result of methodological thinking and the availability of concrete information rather than because of the importation of technologies developed in other socio-cultural contexts.

The design and application of new strategies for dealing with the crisis in the quality of the human habitat is something which depends on the relative importance that each government attaches to the human settlements situation and also on the pressure of internal public opinion. The United Nations has recognized the seriousness and universality of the problem, and in 1976 it convened the Vancouver Conference, at which the countries of the world unanimously agreed that the human settlements situation could be improved only through innovative policies designed and applied in close contact with the most comprehensive national socio-economic development efforts.

/Within Latin

Within Latin America, this effort is the responsibility, first, of the countries themselves, from which ECLA has received specific mandates which reflect particular concern for the training of human resources, research and technical co-operation and in which the secretariat has been requested to make an effort in a field of knowledge which is relatively new, at least in the form in which it has been presented since Vancouver.

In the Vancouver Plan of Action, it is implicitly recognized that there is need for comprehensive conceptual and institutional changes in this connection. Traditionally, the problems relating to the habitat have been dealt with piecemeal in Latin America, in isolation from the development strategies, and in general they have tackled from the perspective of government low-cost housing programmes and programmes for the provision of drinking water and sanitation services. Twenty years of experience have shown that this kind of policy has little effect on the quality of the human habitat, which has continued to deteriorate in spite of the fact that governments have concentrated a considerable share of their investment on these items and that during the past few decades the less privileged sectors have benefited from a substantial flow of external resources.

For this reason it seems urgent to review the problems relating to the habitat, to reorient national human settlements policies and to reorganize the administrative and local management apparatus. To this end, what is basically needed is mas training of human resources, since these tasks call for new skills in relating general concepts to the national dimension, with a view to formulating and applying new settlements policies and improving the quality of the built-up environment; in institutionally reorganizing management machinery and procedures; and in formulating and implementing innovative programmes and projects as alternatives to the traditional ones.

With regard to training, it may be pointed out that a number of countries of the region show a sometimes rather pronounced tendency to establish political and administrative systems or schemes based on innovative concepts not only of the role of local governments and their relationship to the central government, but also of the participation of the community in all phases of the decision-making process which affect it, the role of technology, and the use of resources and non-traditional ways and means of financing.

In short, these countries are trying to establish articulated systems of intervention in the field of human settlements which, within the special framework of each political system, are designed to bring central goverment objectives, policies and projects into line with local interests so as to improve the environment and living conditions of the territorial communities and promote community participation. This harmonization and merger of interests is possible partly because of the division and specialization of the spheres where political decisions are adopted, resulting from prolonged societal processes in which professionals in the various fields of knowledge play an important role as agents of change.

Within this framework, the preparation of the agents for efficient and simultaneous social action aimed at introducing innovations must be integrated into

/flexible training

flexible training systems with clear and realistic objectives. Basically, it is sought to apply training systems to achieve change rather than to maintain the status quo.

A. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: POLICIES AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROCESS

1. Human settlements policies

In those ECLA documents in which the position taken by the secretariat in respect of human settlements is presented, human settlement (in the singular) is defined as the act of occupying, organizing, equipping and utilizing space, or territory. Human settlements (in the plural) result from settlement processes inasmuch as they give rise to differentiated forms of habitat and consist not only in the built-up areas but in the entire territory whose activity is polarized around them. These territorial complexes constitute habitats characterized by a particular way of dealing with the natural environment and the countryside, i.e. by a certain kind of occupation, organization, equipment and use of the space.

Of all the ways of interpreting the urban phenomenon, the most suggestive may well be the concept of the city as a centre in which flows of natural and economic resources, population and information conjoin and interact. In this view, the city is a centre for decision-making and innovation in respect of all economic relations. It is of course also a centre for the production of goods and services where wealth and human skills are concentrated. As such, it constitutes, first and foremost, a power centre on which depend a number of secondary production and consumption units delimiting an economic space.

For this reason, some very important questions, which may be classified in two broad categories, have a bearing on human settlements. The first relates to the spatial repercussions of economic growth and social development, which constitute the territorial component of national development. The second concerns the quality of the habitat as a concrete and synthesizing factor in social well-being. National human settlements policies must therefore recognize the two categories in order to be able to devise effective means of intervention. Many contemporary human settlements problems can be attributed to the fact that the decision-making mechanisms belonging to each of these categories are not interrelated.

It is obvious that the human settlements situation is closely linked to the socio-economic situation of the region. The settlement pattern and the quality of the environment are by-products of the style of development, the ways and means of production utilized, the agents of intervention, the kind of goals produced and their destination, and so forth. However, this relationship is not absolutely determinative. Significant variations are observed in the quality of the habitat in societies which have had a similar economic history and, on the other hand, certain material characteristics are seen to persist in situations where profound changes have taken place in the social, economic and political macro-structures concerned.

/In any

In any case, human settlements cannot be regarded as a passive consequence of socio-economic development but are in fact one of its most important elements and therefore constitute a specific topic for analysis and an important field for political decisions. In default of any social intent in connection with the habitat and of the political will to improve the environment economic growth alone can cause human settlements to deteriorate, as has already been noted. In this connection, human settlements policies should be interpreted as being means of deliberate intervention in the various processes which this phenomenon involves, by virtue of which, and by using the power and operational capacity of the State, the said processes can be oriented towards the attainment of established, socially accepted and democratically shared objectives.

In view of the fact that human settlement and habitat control are two distinct categories of activity, in which intervention is possible, these human settlements policies must be thought of as instruments designed both to alter the course of the processes which determine what is generally known as "the spatial distribution of the population" and to control the quality of the environment. In the first of these roles, the policies should be oriented towards rationalization of the occupation, organization, equipment and use of the national territory (physical planning) on the basis of a given development policy, whereas in their second role they should be aimed at improving the quality of the habitat and in particular that of the various categories of human settlements. Policies in the first category are national policies based on considerations relating to socio-economic development, and those in the second category are local policies. To co-ordinate the two spheres, it is necessary to introduce substantial changes in human settlements administration, as regards both State organization and the participation of the population.

In this regard, it is necessary to draw attention to the importance which ECLA attaches to local governments and especially to their role in the promotion and execution of development projects and in the formulation of plans and programmes designed to satisfy the habitat, social service and infrastructure needs of the community. Here the municipal government's role is to articulate national policies with local policies and government action with popular part participation.

2. Main characteristics of the human settlements process

In the documents prepared by the ECLA secretariat, attention is drawn to metropolitan concentration of the population and to makeshift settlements as being the two main characteristics of the human settlement process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Metropolitan concentration is possibly the most salient feature of human settlement in the region. It has intensified notably since the 1950s, and in the period 1950-1980, the percentage of the region's population living in settlements of over one million inhabitants grew from 9.6% to 29%. If present trends continue, it is possible that by the year 2000, 220 million people, or 37% of the region's population at that time, will live in cities of over one million inhabitants.

/Furthermore, nearly

Furthermore, nearly half the region's manufacturing production capacity is concentrated in the Latin American metropolises, and over one-third of its industrial output is generated in three of them. Similarly, the majority of the jobs available, and certainly those which are the most important from the monetary point of view, are to be found in this category of settlements. In any country's metropolises, average incomes are higher than in the rest of the country. Thus, metropolitan concentrations provide the best options from the point of view of employment, education and general progress for much of a country's population.

The attractive features of a metropolis are, however, not always what they seem. Although the fact that wage levels are higher constitutes an advantage, in practice it is offset by the even higher level of the cost of living. Insufficient access to possibilities for personal development are to a large extent accompanied by social alienation, the loss of identity and a steady deterioration in the quality of life.

It is important to note that this deterioration is attributable not so much to poverty as to certain accumulation processes, and certainly to the structure of consumption which results from a life style postulated as the archetype for the mayority of the population. Thus there are a number of factors which help to perpetuate social and economic inequality and environmental deterioration in the metropolitan areas of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

From this point of view the metropolis might be seen as an obstacle to economic and social development; however, it must be borne in mind that neither the population's expression of its basic needs nor the conflicts stemming from failure to satisfy them are a result of the metropolitinization process, nor are they part and parcel of large population concentrations. Strickly speaking, what happens is that these agglomerations call attention to the inequality inherent in socio-economic structures while at the same time providing means of manifesting pressure to change them.

Rural dispersion is the other side of the coin of metropolitan concentration and to some extent is responsible for it.

The Latin American region as a whole is still predominantly rural. The population living in settlements of less than 1 000 inhabitants represents 36% of the total population, while at least another 16% lives in towns of fewer than 20 000 inhabitants -the lower limit of the population defined, by a very broad consensus, as urban.

This situation is creating conditions appropriate for the continued existence of small hamlets or villages, which are practically stagnant economically, and, as a counterpart, for the channelling of the more dynamic sectors of the agricultural economy towards the cities and metropolises through complex trade and services networks.

So long as there is no change in the percentage of rural population, the characteristics of agricultural development and the tendency for investment and income to be concentrated, the rural population will keep up a settlement system

/characterized by

characterized by dispersion, and its present living conditions will not vary significantly. There is consequently no reason to expect a reversal of the present situation, and what is most likely to happen is that the migratory flows to the big urban centres will remain at their present magnitude.

Makeshift settlement in urban areas will therefore tend to continue and may very possibly become relatively more prevalent as the mode of settlement of millions of migrants and also, increasingly, of the urban proletariat, which because of its limited and sporadic income, cannot find housing on the traditional market.

This phenomenon has gradually spiralled since the 1940s, as shown by the fact that at present over half the population of a number of metropolises in the region lives in makeshift settlements and that in some smaller cities the corresponding percentage is even higher. It has also been estimated that in Latin America as a whole makeshift settlements account for close to 60% of the urban dwellings constructed in the region each year.

In one of the documents prepared by the secretariat for the Latin American Seminar on Human Settlements and Development in Andean Ecosystems (Mendoza, Argentina, 9 to 12 November 1983), makeshift settlement is said to be one of the survival tactics adopted by the marginal population as a means of subsisting.

In this perspective, makeshift settlement acquired an extremely important connotation as one of the most dynamic elements in the intense cultural change now taking place in those of the region's urban centres which are growing most rapidly.

B. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT SINCE THE NINETEENTH SESSION

During the past eight years, the Latin American and Caribbean countries have dealt with the question of human settlements on the following nine occasions, four of them being regional meetings or conferences devoted exclusively to this topic:

1. Preparatory Regional Conference on Human Settlements for Latin America (Caracas, Venezuela, 1975);

2. Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, Canada; 1976);

3. Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements convened by ECLA at the request of the Government of Mexico (Mexico, 1976);

4. Seventeenth session of ECLA (Guatemala City, Guatemala; 1977). On this occasion resolution 378 (XVII) on regional co-operation in the field of human settlements was adopted;

/5. Latin

5. Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Human Settlements Financing and Management, sponsored by the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (Mexico City, Mexico; 1978);

6. Eighteenth session of ECLA (La Paz, Bolivia; 1979). On this occasion resolution 407 (XVIII) was adopted, in which it was decided that regional co-operation in the field of human settlements should be examined by committees especially established for the purpose at the sessions of ECLA;

7. Latin American Conference on Human Settlements (Mexico City, Mexico; 1979);

8. Third session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS);

9. Nineteenth session of ECLA (Montevideo, Uruguay; 1981).

At these meetings important agreements were reached reflecting the interest of the countries of the region in human settlements.

In September 1976, at the Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements (the first of the regional meetings to be held after Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, May and June 1976)), the needs for assistance and the priorities of the region were articulated. Consideration was also given for the first time to the creation of an intergovernmental body, as recommended at the Vancouver Conference.

In 1977, during the seventeenth session of ECLA, the member countries approved resolution 378 (XVII), in which the secretariat of the Commission was asked to initiate a regional human settlements programme in which priority would be given to research, training of human resources and information.

At the eighteenth session of ECLA, held in 1981, the member countries adopted resolution 407 (XVIII), in which provision was made for the creation of human settlements committees which would meet every two years on the occasion of the regular session of the Commission. At the same meeting it was also agreed to convene a Latin American conference on human settlements, which was held in Mexico City in November of the same year. At this conference the Regional Human Settlements Programme was adopted and its terms of reference expanded, and the Executive Secretary was requested to create an administrative unit which would be responsible for the duties specified in General Assembly resolution 32/162.

1. Regional human settlements programme

For the implementation of this programme in 1982 and 1983, the secretariat had at its disposal resources from the regular budget (two posts) and extrabudgetary resources (36 man-months), thanks to which a number of activities -mainly training and diffusion, and research and technical co-operation- were carried out.

These activities included, in the fields mentioned above, analysis not only of the traditional criteria of technology selection but also of the nature and economic and social scope of appropriate technologies and their application to building human settlements and to the provision of habitat and infrastructure services

/Efforts were

Efforts were also directed (in close connection with the activities just mentioned and with such matters as community participation, the role of local governments and municipal planning, to which reference is made below) towards the study of the theoretical and methodological aspects of the preparation, evaluation and execution of locally-managed projects, under either popular or municipal initiative.

Other activities were directed towards the study of the metropolitinization phenomenon and the way in which it interrelates with the processes of social change, especially with regard to the formulation of methodological and institutional frameworks for the planning and the management of big cities and for horizontal co-operation among metropolitan areas in the region.

At the same time attention was devoted to all the subjects relating to the role of local governments in the promotion and management of municipal development and to decentralization, community participation and the prospects for planning in this socio-spatial area.

To this end, consideration was given to current practices and to alternative proposals more in keeping with the region's real situation, and envisaging the use of resources not widely employed so far. Specifically, activities were initiated in this field which were aimed at increasing knowledge on makeshift settlements, on the social, economic and spatial processes which give rise to them and on their role in the solution to the problems they present for both local governments and the affected communities themselves.

Finally, many of the tasks performed were directed towards the preparation of a study updating the analysis of existing information on the structure and dynamics of human settlements in the region and on how their main critical areas should be described. In co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, studies were also prepared on access to land in urban areas and the region's installed capacity for training in subjects relating to human settlements.

The main activities carried out included the following:

a) Preparation and conduct of three seminar-workshops on appropriate technologies for human settlements (Lima, 1981; São Paulo, 1982 and Bogotá, 1983). These workshops, each of which was held in co-operation with national institutions, lasted for approximately 15 days each, and were attended by close to 60 professionals. A set of documents referred to below, was prepared for them;

b) Ad hoc consultative meetings of experts in municipal planning methodologies organized by ECLA in conjunction with the Municipality of Cali and held at Cali in August 1983. Two documents were prepared: "Planificación Municipal de los Asentamientos Humanos" and "Perspectivas para la Planificación Municipal en América Latina";

c) International Seminar on Urban Development, held in Lima, in October 1982, in co-operation with the Centre for Information on Pre-Investment (CIP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Peru. A document entitled "Contexto y caracterización de los proyectos de gestión local" was prepared;

/d) Seminar

d) Seminar on Makeshift Settlements, organized in conjunction with the College of Architects of Chile, Santiago, October 1983. A document entitled "Notas Introductorias al Estudio de los Asentamientos Precarios" was prepared;

e) Preparation, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, of three studies entitled "Planificación de los asentamientos humanos en América Latina y el Caribe: Teorías y Metodologías" (E/CEPAL/L.288); "Access of the poor to the land in the big cities of Latin America", which was issued under an UNCHS symbol, and "Latin American survey on training in the field of human resources: An analysis of the present situation and prospects for a regional programme of action", also issued under an UNCHS symbol.

A list of documents issued under the Human Settlements Programme follows below:

a) Un marco metodológico para la planificación de los asentamientos humanos en América Latina (CEPAL/MEX/AH/83);

b) Planificación de los asentamientos humanos en América Latina y el Caribe: Teorías y Metodologías (E/CEPAL/L.288);

c) Tecnologías para los asentamientos humanos: un marco conceptual (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.2);

d) Urbanization, urban growth and concentration in the settlement process in Latin America: A general overview (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.9);

e) Dinámica y estructura del proceso de asentamiento humano en América Latina y el Caribe: Principales áreas críticas (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.13);

f) Perspectivas para la planificación municipal en América Latina (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.12);

g) Selección de tecnologías apropiadas para los asentamientos humanos: Una guía metodológica (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.3);

h) Ecodiseño en el habitat tropical (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.4);

i) Bioclima y confort térmico (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.5);

j) Ecodiseño de asentamientos humanos en zonas cálidas (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.6);

k) Tecnologías apropiadas para saneamiento básico (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.7);

l) Desarrollo, medio ambiente y generación de tecnologías apropiadas (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.8);

m) Formación y capacitación en materia de asentamientos humanos, análisis de la situación actual y propuestas para un programa de acción regional (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.11);

/n) Contexto

n) Contexto y caracterización de los proyectos de gestión local (E/CEPAL/MEX/SEM.6/L.10);

o) Latin American survey on human settlements training. Issued with an UNCHS symbol;

p) Dinámica y estructura del proceso de asentamiento humano en América Latina y el Caribe. Principales areas críticas (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.13);

q) Bases para la formación de un mecanismo permanente de cooperación e intercambio entre autoridades metropolitanas de América Latina y el Caribe (E/CEPAL/SEM.6/R.3);

r) Access of the poor to the land in the big cities of Latin America. Issued with a UNCHS symbol;

Between mid-1981 and the end of 1983 the following seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences were held:

a) Seminars on appropriate technologies for human settlements (Lima (1981), São Paulo (1982) and Bogotá (1983));

b) Participation in the preparation and holding of the seminars on innovative proposals for human settlements financing and administration (San José, Costa Rica, November 1981), sponsored by the Colegio de México and the Inter-American Development Bank;

c) Organization and conduct of the International Seminar on Urban Development, in conjunction with the Centre for Information on Pre-Investment (CIP), IDB and COFIDE of Peru (Lima, October 1982);

d) ECLA Seminar on Latin American Metropolises (Curitiba, Brazil, November 1982);

e) Participation in the seminar entitled Decentralization and Urban Development Spheres of Competence, Decision-making and Participation, organized by the Colegio de México in January 1983;

f) Participation in a meeting of mayors of the capital cities of the countries signatories of the Andean Pact (Caracas, Venezuela, January 1983);

g) Preparation and conduct of Ad hoc Consultative Meeting of Experts on Municipal Planning Methodologies (Cali, Colombia, 1-5 August 1983);

h) Organization and conduct, in conjunction with the College of Architects of Chile, of a Seminar on Makeshift Settlements (Santiago, Chile, 17-19 October 1983);

i) Participation in a seminar on programming of the training activities of local governments in Latin America, organized in conjunction with the Latin American Chapter of the International Union of Local Authorities (Quito, Ecuador, October 1983);

/j) Preparation

j) Preparation and conduct of the Consultative Meeting on Environmental Training for Human Settlements, in conjunction with UNEP (Regional Office for Latin America) and CIFCA (Buenos Aires, December 1983).

In 1982 and 1983 the following technical assistance activities were carried out:

a) Advisory services, in collaboration with UNICEF, to the Government of Nicaragua in connection with the creation of a training unit in the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (1982);

b) Advisory assistance to the Department of Urban Development and Ecology of Mexico in preparation of a project for the implementation of a Latin American training programme in human settlements (1982 and 1983);

c) Technical assistance for the Government of Haiti in redefining its urban development planning mechanism and instruments (1982);

d) Assistance to the Government of Bolivia in the preparation of the basic outline for the formulation of a national human settlements policy (1983);

e) Assistance to the Government of Brazil in the preparation of a training system for State and municipal officials in the field of human settlements (1984);

f) Assistance to the Municipality of Las Condes in Santiago, Chile, in the preparation of a communal diagnosis and a communal development plan (1984).

C. REGIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME, 1986-1987

The programme on Human Settlements for the years 1986-1987 includes training, information activities, technical co-operation and research in the areas of planning, urban poverty and makeshift settlements, and technologies for building habitat and providing services.

As a result of the experience gained through the different activities undertaken by ECLA in the region and of seminars of experts, meetings of government representatives, both at the political and at the technical levels, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the most important task to be developed in the region is the training of professionals, middle-level technicians and grass-root personnel, in matters related to factual analysis, the design of policies and projects and their execution and management in the field of human settlements.

Hence, high priority will be given to activities designed to train technical personnel and grass-root community leaders through seminars, workshops and intensive courses held in collaboration with government and international agencies, community organizations and universities of the countries of the region.

/The knowledge

The knowledge and experience accumulated through research and technical co-operation, as well as the work of gathering and disseminating information, will help provide the substantive support needed for training activities.

The programme comprises four subprogrammes:

a) The first subprogramme, dealing with human settlements and development planning and with appropriate technologies for habitat building and for the provision of services is subdivided in three programme elements: i) the interrelationships between economic and social development styles and the process of metropolitinization; development styles as determinants of the social and spatial organization of the city; the planning and management of metropolitan areas; ii) local planning methodologies and community participation; design, implementation and evaluation of economic and social programmes and projects at the municipal level; local and central government interrelationships; iii) promotion of research and horizontal co-operation in the field of appropriate technology for habitat building and for the provision of services; organization of seminars and workshops on specific subjects related to appropriate technology research and implementation.

b) The second subprogramme (training) constitutes a system of three interrelated groups of activities: i) training of middle-level cadres; ii) training of professional practitioners, and iii) training of trainers. The objective is to contribute to the education, training and updating of knowledge of professionals and technical personnel who serve in national or local government agencies, work as university professors or are pursuing studies in disciplines related to human settlements.

c) The third subprogramme is focused on the analysis of the social, economic and cultural determinants and consequences of urban makeshift settlements in the region, and on the study of the organizational and technical ways in which their inhabitants tackle the problem of satisfying their housing and related services needs and develop subsistence strategies. Emphasis will be given to the search of alternative options for policy formulation and action in this field. This subprogramme, which is not included in the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1984-1989, has been designed in response to the General Assembly resolution that designated the year 1987 as the year of shelter for the homeless and asked for contributions for the work to be undertaken in this connection.

d) The objective of the last subprogramme is to provide, within the framework of available data, periodic information on the changes occurring in the structure of the system of human settlements in the countries of the region and on some indicators relating to the quality of life and the environment in these settlements.