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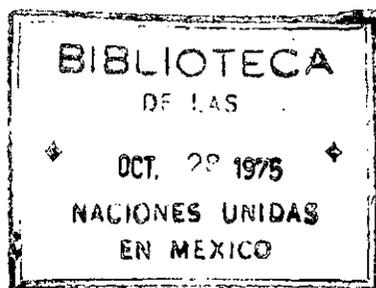
HABITAT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Vancouver, Canada, 31 May to 11 June 1976

REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Caracas, Venezuela, 30 June to 4 July 1975

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR



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INTRODUCTION

1. The rapid growth of the population in many large cities of the world, including some in Latin America, and the resultant aggravation of the shortage of schools, transport, housing, jobs and services, which has for some time been a matter of growing concern to governments throughout the world, and particularly those of developing countries, prompted the United Nations General Assembly to convene a Conference at the world level to consider the problems of human settlements. In late 1973 the General Assembly decided, in resolution 3128 (XXVIII), to accept the invitation of the Canadian Government to hold the Conference in the city of Vancouver from 31 May to 19 June 1976.
2. This will be the first world conference at which the organization of human society as a whole - in cities, towns or villages - and of all its component parts (social, physical, organizational, spiritual or cultural) will be considered and information exchanged on those solutions to the problems of human settlements that are compatible with preserving the environment.
3. The same resolution (3128 (XXVIII)) "Establishes a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements ... consisting of highly qualified representatives nominated by the Governments" of 56 States (9 of them from Latin America), "Requests the Secretary-General and the regional economic commissions, in collaboration with the Preparatory Committee, to take the necessary steps, as part of the preparations for the Conference, to bring to global attention the nature and relative importance of the problems of human settlements", and invites the specialized agencies to collaborate in that task.
4. Of particular importance in the process of preparing for the Conference are the regional Conferences. These as the Secretary-General of Habitat stated at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in January 1975, are specifically designed to enable participating

/countries to

countries to exchange views and information on the situation prevailing in their own countries with regard to the subject-matter of the Conference and jointly identify the main problems and subjects of regional or subregional interest in the light of individual national experience. They also afford an opportunity to lay the groundwork for regional agreement on approaches to topics relating to human settlements.

5. The regional conferences 1/ also give the countries concerned an opportunity to analyse, discuss and express their views on the documentation prepared by the Secretariat, individually or collectively, and to adopt on some items, tentative agreements or conclusions which might be submitted to delegations for final consideration and might lead to recommendations at the Vancouver Conference.

6. In short, the regional preparatory conferences are regarded as the most reliable means of disseminating information on Habitat issues to those who will ultimately have to take political decisions on the subject, to experts and to the general public.

7. It is against this background that the present regional conference was convened, in which the ECLA secretariat is co-operating with the Secretary-General of Habitat in the foregoing matters and for which the Government of Venezuela generously offered to act as host in Caracas.

1/ At Teheran, for Asia and the Pacific (14-19 June). At Cairo, for Africa (21-26 June).

Part I

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Duration of the Conference

8. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America was held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 30 June to 4 July 1975.

Attendance

9. The Conference was attended by representatives of 27 Member States of ECLA (Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Venezuela), by an observer for Poland, and by representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of other governmental and non-governmental organizations. (A complete list of participants appears in Annex IV.)

Opening ceremony

10. His Excellency Carlos Andrés Pérez, President of the Republic of Venezuela, attended the opening ceremony, held on the morning of 30 June. Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary-General of Habitat, thanked the Government of Venezuela for its generous hospitality and read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, welcoming delegations and wishing them every success in their work. (See Annex III.)

11. The President of the Republic of Venezuela delivered an address in which he stressed the importance of the action the United Nations was taking to draw attention to the crucial problem of human settlements, the "problem of mankind which is destroying itself".

12. He referred to the major nations' lack of understanding of the developing countries and to the problems of environmental conservation and stressed the need for the problems of human settlement to be

/considered within

considered within the context of the general problems of economic and social development. He said that it was regrettable that not all Latin American countries had become parties to the treaties concerning the non-proliferation on nuclear weapons, and expressed the view that the usual on nature had been a constant feature of what was termed "our development". (The full text of the President's statement is reproduced in Annex I.)

Election of officers

13. At the first plenary meeting of the Conference on 30 June 1975 after the opening ceremony, the participants elected the following officers:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>President:</u> | Diego Arria (Venezuela) |
| <u>Vice-Presidents:</u> | Virgilio Barco (Colombia), Levy Farah Balmaseda (Cuba), and Antonio Seaman (El Salvador) |
| <u>Rapporteur:</u> | Jesús Silva Herzog (Mexico) |

Programme of work

14. At the same meeting, the following provisional programme of work drawn up by the secretariat was adopted:

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Major issues requiring national action:
 - (a) Land as a resource;
 - (b) The development and attainment of meaningful standards in human settlements;
 - (c) The redistribution of resources and promotion of their innovative use;
 - (d) Management and development of appropriate institutions for human settlements through, inter alia, the development of human resources;
 - (e) The establishment of national human settlement policies and the development of plans at the national, regional and local levels.

/5. Proposals

5. Proposals for international co-operation and action:
 - (a) The role of international financial agencies in the development of human settlements;
 - (b) International co-operation

6. Other issues, and conclusions and recommendations

7. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

15. Through the ECLA secretariat participants received documents prepared for the Conference (list given in the final annex).

16. The Conference decided to consider all the items on the agenda at plenary meetings.

17. At the closing meeting the Conference considered the draft report of the Rapporteur and authorized the secretariat to put it into final form, incorporating the necessary editorial changes and any amendments and additions requested by delegations and approved by the plenary meeting, prior to distributing it to Governments.

Part II

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

18. In his opening statement, the President of the Conference referred to the conditions prevailing in most human settlements, in Venezuela as in the rest of Latin America and throughout the Third World, and to the striking contrasts which existed. He said that it was futile to persist in taking stock of poverty; he was convinced that it was at meetings such as Habitat that solutions could be found, through imagination and creative daring, which would help to improve on ever-worsening situation. (The full text of the statement by the President of the Conference is reproduced in Annex II.)

19. Next, the Secretary-General of Habitat explained the reasons which had led the General Assembly of the United Nations to set up the new organization which he headed and defined what was meant by human settlements. He described the situations created by massive rural migration towns, and stressed the need for political decisions at the national and international levels to deal with such conflict-ridden situations. (The full text of the statement by the Secretary-General of Habitat is reproduced in Annex III.)

20. The Canadian delegation gave details of the preparations being made for the World Conference at Vancouver. He said that the host Government was sure that practical measures would be adopted at that Conference to deal with the problems of human settlements.

21. The Director of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning submitted for the consideration of delegations interesting suggestions on the items under discussion.

1. Major issues requiring national action

Introduction

22. Since an increasing proportion of the population in most countries will in future live in urban centres, the quality of national life will increasingly tend to be the quality of urban life. At present the trend, is for urban life to be characterized, to a greater or lesser extent, by segregation by class and economic status, by the breakdown of the traditional way of life, by the use of a disproportionate volume of resources to provide transport, by the increasingly extensive transfer of savings and income from the poorest to the richest as a result of the rapid rise in land values, by traffic congestion, noise and pollution, the gradual deterioration of certain areas, city overspill and, in general, by inadequate housing.

23. Settlement programmes in the big towns should invariably be aimed at remedying all these shortcomings and inequities.

24. A policy of regionalization in each country could discourage the growth of the larger cities and such a policy should therefore be encouraged. However, it is doubtful whether such a policy alone could resolve the problem. For that reason it may prove essential also to disperse towns within metropolitan areas. In other words, new concepts and radical changes in urban design seem to be required.

25. The physical planning and the political, legal and administrative institutions used in the past have proved inadequate to resolve the new problems raised by the extraordinarily rapid growth of towns; they have been insufficient to overcome the above-mentioned shortcomings. Accordingly, present policies and institutions must, as a matter of urgency, be assessed in terms of their effectiveness in the prevailing situation.

26. Population growth, the rise in per capita income in relation to the fixed supply of land for urban use inevitably generates a massive and growing transfer of income and savings from the workers to the owners of land and housing, and in that way the low-income

/group is

group is cheated of part of the inherent economic advantages of urban life. Accordingly, reasearch must be undertaken immediately into the form of the structural changes required in order to prevent in future the continuation of such transfers of savings and income which are incompatible with distributive justice.

27. Proceeding from the premise that the basic objective of Habitat is to improve the quality of life for all people in human settlements, the adoption of clear national policies emerges as an indispensable requisite for carrying out effective and practical action in this field. Bearing this in mind, and with a view to encouraging the submission of recommendations on the topics being considered by the delegations, four experts provided general information on the subject.

28. The first expert began his statement by stressing the need to change the national development goal currently pursued in most Latin American countries which is primarily at the limited concept of economic growth. National development must be redirected towards programmes that are socially effective and appropriate. In connexion with such a new model for national development, the expert made the following specific proposals for action with national human settlements policies: (1) urban land reform; (2) self-government; (3) employment tax; and (4) development districts.

29. Another expert emphasized that the solution of human settlements problems is bound up with changing the development style and life style in such a way as to meet the basic needs of the population as a whole, to provide endogenous development based on autonomous decision-making and to establish harmony with the envoronment - in short - eco-development. He said that to copy mechanically the solutions applied in the industrialized countries could only aggravate the differences between the privileged minority and the poverty-stricken majority of the population. The future must not be a repetition of the past. The preceding thirty years had brought home the lesson that economic growth did not necessarily produce economic and social development. It was therefore necessary to redefine the modalities

/of growth,

of growth, bringing them into line with socio-economic and environmental objectives and taking into account three primary considerations: the identification and study of man's needs; the identification and use of resources; and the development of ecologically sound technologies and solutions so as to optimize the use of the resources of every eco-system.

30. Another expert discussed the quality of life, development and human settlements. In his opinion, the aim of development should revert to being the attainment of a state of affairs in which each and every inhabitant could satisfy, in a socially just way, his material and spiritual needs. He pointed out that the human, natural and technological resources of Latin America could meet the subsistence needs of the whole population, but that the satisfaction of the other needs of the population at the same time, demanded a progressive and absolute social and spatial distribution of power and knowledge. Spatial distribution would make for the proper channelling of rural-urban migration and thus avoid urban "macrocephaly". Similarly, solutions should be aimed at preserving ecological balance and be organized as part of integrated participatory planning.

31. The fourth expert said that the problems of human settlements were well-known: what was needed was the decision to change. He said that the decision must be operative at both the national and international levels. In the latter case, the recently-established United Nations Fund for Human Settlements should reflect the priorities of the developing world. He also pointed out that the international organizations should acknowledge the priority given to human settlements by the Governments of the developing countries and reorganize their programmes in order to reflect those priorities. They should also consider the time factor in drawing up assistance programmes, since any delay resulted in a worsening of the conditions in human settlement.

(a) Land as a resource

32. In introducing this subject, the expert pointed out that awareness of the importance of land existed in the case of rural settlements, but that such awareness was less marked in the case of urban land. Accordingly, he considered that there were four crucial points which deserved detailed analysis: (a) the division of land, (b) the system of expropriation, (c) the regulation of land use, and (d) the appropriation of the unearned value increment.

33. During the discussions there was agreement among delegations that land as a resource was one of the basic elements of the human settlements problem and that the size of the land, its use and the rights associated with it determined the shape of those settlements and the possibility of subjecting them to planned management as part of overall national development. It was likewise pointed out that the scarcity of this resource, particularly in small and island countries, demanded the development and adaptation of new and imaginative policies in this sphere.

34. There was also a consensus among representatives on the need for integrated development planning in which the control of territorial space would form the basis for a system of interrelated activities at the local, regional and national levels. In this way the urban dichotomy would gradually disappear. In many statements reference was made to the need to revise urban-rural relationships in such a way as to consider both the need for agricultural supplies to cities and the settlement of more people in the rural areas in order to limit migration to the large cities.

35. Some delegations considered that the solution to the problem of rural settlement would be closely linked with planned agrarian reform. It was emphasized that the assessment of the value of land as a resource varied, the resource being considered directly productive in the case of rural land; its consumption for urban use therefore implied, in practice, the irrevocable loss of land for agricultural use, with the obvious consequences.

36. A number of delegations drew attention to the need for the State to intervene more actively in the regulation of urban areas, as the most reliable way of obviating the steep escalation of land prices. The price of land could not be left at the mercy of the supply and demand mechanism, since such a situation produced speculation which benefited the few at the expense of the majority.

37. One delegation argued that continuing high land prices were attributable not only to speculation but also to the fact that it was a scarce resource; another expressed the view that it would be desirable to promote more active participation by private enterprise in the planning of urban development.

38. Several delegations, when speaking of land as a resource, described the measures taken by their Governments to give land use a social dimension which would be to the advantage of the great mass of their people. Mentioned in this connexion were the application of progressive taxation on real estate and unutilized land, the forfeiting to the State of part or all of the unearned value increment, and the purchase of land by the public authorities at its real value, with a view to preventing speculation. In essence, a Latin American consensus was expressed to the effect that land ownership should fulfil a social function.

39. One delegation pointed out that the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States contained an article in which land as a resource formed part of the wider concept of "environment", and that the adoption of the provisions of the Charter would help to restructure international society within a framework of peace and justice.

40. Another delegation stated that in his country it had been found necessary, in order to cope with the problem of human settlements, to break off relations of economic and political dependence, and to change the relations between the means of production; that was the only way to make the full utilization of land, as a resource and as space, a reality.

41. The delegation of another country emphasized the importance of land as a resource and reported that his country found itself in an especially difficult situation in that part of its territory was, by virtue of treaties which had been imposed, not negotiated, under the authority, laws and control of a foreign Government, a situation which made normal national development and the development of human settlements in the said territory impossible.

(b) Development and attainment of meaningful minimum standards in human settlements

42. The regional expert began his introductory statement on minimum standards and norms by proposing three prerequisites for their establishment:

- (1) Determining the facts of the situation in question;
- (2) Maximum utilization of the community's own resource capacity; and
- (3) Integrated action by means of "populist" policies, i.e., the active "involvement" of the individual and his participation in analysing the situation, designing strategies and implementing them.

43. He went on to stress the need to conceive development as a basically endogenous process designed to prevent the loss of certain resources and to rationalize the capacity of the subject to make use of its own resources. With regard to the utilization of human resources capacity, he argued against paternalism, based as it was on the false assumption of a lack of organizational ability among the population. He also pointed out that it was unrealistic to expect the free transfer of knowledge to be free, since the cost to the community of absorbing exogenous ideas was high. In conclusion, he stated that the most effective course of action was one which made it possible to realize the potential of elements already present in the community.

/44. During

44. During the debate several delegations emphatically expressed the view that norms and standards should be regarded as questions proper to the individual country. While the need to lay down norms and standards as a frame of reference for human settlements policy was recognized, it was felt that norms should be determined on the basis of national life-styles and ecological conditions. The process of determining norms also required popular participation.

45. Some delegations spoke of the need for international norms as valuable reference points for national policies but expressed themselves in favour of a reassessment of international norms on the basis of various life-styles. There was some support for the idea that international organizations should accept national definitions and not try to impose standards alien to the way of life of individual countries. In fact, one delegation proposed that norms originating in the more developed countries should be rejected and drew attention to the impropriety of making international co-operation conditional on standards of efficiency in the traditional sense of the word.

46. On the subject of laying down minimum standards and norms, one delegation said that it was necessary to abandon productivity criteria in favour of the concept of "system productivity", defined as the ability of a society to enhance the general well-being of the population. The same delegation proposed that consideration should be given to criteria combining efficiency and equity. During the discussion the idea was also raised that it would be advisable to establish not only minimum standards but also "maximum rights" which would limit the abuse of increasingly scarce resources by certain minority groups of the population.

47. Two delegations drew attention to the need to relate standards and norms to the different types of human settlements and to the social groups of which they were composed. Standards should vary over time and according to the level of development reached. Rural settlements posed serious problems with regard to the provision of services because of the dispersion of the distribution in rural areas. In any action aimed at improving rural conditions due consideration had to be given to a policy of population concentration.

(c) The redistribution of resources and promotion of their innovative use

48. In his general introduction to the sub-item on resources the previous day, the international expert stressed the need to decide on the purpose for which resources were to be allocated and the type of resources required. He also referred to the need for such a change in life-style as would establish minimum standards involving income, employment and certain free services, in addition to the need to set limits to conspicuous consumption. He also referred to the theory of satisfaction, pointing out that the object was to satisfy human needs without causing ecological damage. He discussed some concepts concerning bio-energy, and noted that the larger economic surpluses are, the greater are the freedom and social effectiveness of investment. With regard to international co-operation, he recommended support for comparative studies and the exchanging of experience on the subject among Third World Countries.

49. Some delegations stressed the importance of considering the socio-economic situation of countries in connexion with resources and the definition of norms. Income distribution and other similar factors were of great importance in defining the living conditions of the great majority of the population.

50. One delegation requested all participants' support for the following declaration:

- (1) Every country has the right to own and exploit its natural resources;
- (2) Nations are free to determine their own minimum standards for the quality of life; and
- (3) Every country has the right to choose the type of social, economic and political organization which best suits its purpose.

51. Lastly, some delegations said that the exchange of experience and knowledge with regard to human settlements should be intensified.

(d) Management and development of appropriate institutions for human settlements through, inter alia, the development of human resources

52. Under this item special consideration was given to the problem of popular participation. The first expert who spoke on the subject said that popular participation was justified both from the ecological point of view and because of the impetus it gave to personal development. An efficient organization must be established to administer popular participation so that it would not be purely a matter of form but would have some substance.

53. Another expert, speaking on the subject of popular participation, felt that each of the countries in the region should incorporate popular participation in a strategy of an integrated development covering the local, regional and national levels. That, in turn, implied a need to establish and nurture a support system for popular participation with a view to:

- (a) Promoting participation in the exercise of power, either directly or with as little mediation as possible, by national majorities in the life of society; and
- (b) Guaranteeing to national majorities suitable standards of living in a participatory society in which the basic values were justice, freedom, and the solidarity of all men and women taking part in the process.

54. The expert also stressed that popular participation was a prerequisite for ensuring the irreversibility of the structural changes introduced in the process of integrated and balanced development of society. Lastly, he pointed out that there were a number of national programmes in the region and that it would be helpful to encourage an exchange of experience among the programmes and the methodologies employed in them, depending on the success achieved.

55. In the course of the debate it was agreed that popular participation in decisions concerning human settlements deserved special attention and that procedures for popular participation should be worked out in accordance with the specific conditions prevailing in the country concerned.

56. Several delegations described the efforts and programmes in the field of the administration and institutional development of human settlements under way in their countries with special emphasis on social development. In this connexion, one delegation outlined the background of the social and political changes being made by his country, which were aimed in the final analysis at improving the quality of life of the population. Another delegation stated that good results had been achieved in his country through the establishment of neighbourhood groups and block committees.

57. Delegations acknowledged that, as a rule, existing institutions in the countries of the region were too few and inadequate, and that duplication of effort was occurring, including wastage of the scarce resources available for the purpose. It was also agreed that better-trained professional staff and public officials were needed, and it was suggested that training centres should be set up in various parts of Latin America and that the United Nations system might provide technical and financial assistance to them.

(e) The establishment of national human settlement policies and the development of plans at the national, regional and local levels

58. The Secretary-General of Habitat commented briefly on the item, referring to the magnitude of the problems of human settlements and to the complexity of the issues involved. He stressed the need for the adoption of national human settlements policies and the need to replace the fragmentary and sectoral approach which still prevailed in most countries by integrated planning. It was essential, he said, to abandon the traditional approach of considering human settlements as by-products of economic development.

59. The first expert said that two politico-economic models could be identified. Both required the integration of human settlements in national development planning policies and choosing between them one of the major political decisions. The first model, based on maximizing the productive function, required means of identifying

/the social

the social costs attributable to the improper use of resources, so that the base resource could be integrated into effective overall planning. The second model would alter the structure of the productive function in order to maximize human welfare, but it required the establishment of new requirements for participation, education and leadership among the population.

60. Another expert in his analysis of the problem said that in most countries of the region there were many institutions dealing with policies, plans and programme implementation for human settlements, and that futile duplication of effort occurred. The financial resources available for such purposes were limited and needed not only to be substantially increased but to be provided for the most part, in the form of grants. If that was not understood and only remunerative investments were considered, it would be difficult to achieve significant progress in the matter of human settlements. In the formulation and implementation of policies, municipalities were the most dynamic unit, and they should be given the power and sufficient financial resources to carry out their work efficiently.

61. The third expert said that the problem of human settlements could be properly solved only within the framework of dynamic planning. In that respect, every community was an experiment in development and development was a process of social apprenticeship. In his opinion traditional deductive planning should be set aside in favour of an inductive type which took shape throughout the apprenticeship period.

62. During the discussion it was argued that if the integrated planning of human settlements at the national level was to be achieved together with the implementation of the respective programmes, a system of defining and limiting the functions of all the institutions working in that field would have to be devised and new agencies established to fill existing gaps. It was suggested that in some cases it might prove necessary to establish a central authority responsible for all stages of policy formulation and implementation, and that in other cases a suitable co-ordinating body might fulfil that function.

63. In the formulation of plans and programmes, particular importance should be given to the regionalization process. Similarly, the elimination of local disparities was regarded as essential.

64. Another aspect to which special attention was laid was the planning of urban centres using new technology corresponding to the real requirements of each, avoiding the application of machinery and techniques borrowed from the industrialized countries. It was becoming increasingly necessary to devise new ideas and technology suited to the specific conditions of the Latin American countries and designed to preserve and develop the indigenous values of the region.

65. One delegation said that the planning of human settlements should be based on the sovereign use of natural resources by the countries concerned and on their utilization and processing to meet the growing requirements of the vast working masses in terms of education, quality of life, housing, development of rural communities and improvement of political systems.

2. Proposal for international co-operation and action

66. The discussions showed that participants believed that international co-operation, at the regional and interregional levels, could play a decisive part in human settlement programmes. The United Nations system had an effective contribution to make in the form of technical assistance and the promotion of regional programmes.

67. It was felt that there was a pressing need to promote better co-operation among the developing countries of the Third World through an exchange of information and experience and through joint projects.

68. The representative of the World Bank described the actions and policies the Bank was carrying out in the field of human settlements. He stressed the value of self-help system, particularly in relation to the building of dwellings, social work and rural communities, since it at once created more employment and improved

/people's living

people's living conditions. He pointed out that restrictions on the financing of human settlements were often due not so much to the Bank's lack of funds as to the absence of specific requests from the Governments based on properly prepared projects of high social priority. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) likewise described the main human settlements programmes his organization had carried out in recent years, with particular reference to the financing of housing and sanitation projects.

69. A number of delegations made specific suggestions about how international co-operation in the field of human settlements could be improved; their suggestions appear among the recommendations in this report.

70. Finally, the representatives of the United Nations agencies and other institutions who participated as observers described the various measures they were undertaking in the field of human settlements and the projects they intended to implement in the near future.

71. There was consensus regarding the grave situation in the field of Human Settlements in the region, and in order to draw more attention to this very serious state of affairs the Conference decided that the recommendations adopted should take the form of a Declaration to be included as Part III of this report.

3. Other matters

72. The delegation of Panama submitted for the consideration of the Conference a draft resolution concerning the sovereign utilization of natural resources and the Panama Canal Zone, which was approved and appears in Part III of this report.

73. The United States delegate requested with respect to this decision that the following views of its delegation be recorded in the report of the Conference:

"My delegation regrets that it cannot support the draft resolution proposed by the delegation of the Republic of Panama and would abstain if the matter should come to a vote. In the view of my Government, this resolution goes beyond the Joint Statement of Principles agreed to by the Governments of Panama and the United States in February 1974. That Statement of Principles, upon which the Canal negotiations are based, recognizes the interest of both countries in the Canal. We would note our conviction that both countries are working towards a mutually satisfactory settlement. I should also note that both countries expressed this mutual interest most recently in a joint statement offered at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in May. I request that the record reflect the views of my delegation."

74. The delegation of Grenada stated, in connexion with the resolution put forward by the delegation of Panama on the sovereign utilization of resources and the Panama Canal Zone, that it wished to make it clear that although it had had to abstain from voting because of lack of instructions from its Government, the Government of Grenada supported the principle that every country should have sovereign authority over its natural resources.

75. The delegation of Nicaragua stated that it supported any motion designed to settle problems connected with the logical development of the human habitat. As regards the proposal put forward by Panama in connexion with the problem existing between two friendly countries, however, Nicaragua felt that such a problem should be settled by the respective Foreign Ministries of those countries.

Part III

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE DECLARATION OF CARACAS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The representatives of the Governments participating in the Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements, having come to the following conclusions:

- The magnitude and characteristics of the problem of human settlements and their future trends represent a challenge to all the countries of the world, and especially to the developing countries, which require priority attention. In certain cases, this situation calls for the adoption of economic, social and administrative structural changes to permit the formulation of national development plans and operational action aimed at securing the full and dignified existence of mankind in his environment;
- Unsuitable human settlements affect the essential objective of all economic and social development in that they affect man, the quality of his life, and that of his environment;
- The problems of human settlements must be considered within the overall picture of the economic and social development of peoples, and not an isolated basis. This development process is seriously affected by the unfair international trade relations, and this particularly affects the nature of human settlements, so that it is even more necessary to set up a new international economic order and achieve effective control of transnational enterprises;
- Land is the essential resource for both urban and rural human settlements. This makes it essential to recognize the need to consider land as a resource which should be subject to public control. Public ownership of the land is not an end

/in itself,

in itself, but it is the fundamental instrument for the achievement of the basic economic and social reforms designed to make possible the proper execution of national human settlement policies;

- The dramatic present situation and future prospects of human settlements call for the adoption of new land occupation ethics and a change in fundamental attitudes towards the growth of the cities. In essence, there is an urgent need to take measures to reduce the tremendous gap which exists between rural and urban areas as regards services and opportunities and to ensure the proper preservation of land for agricultural use;
- International co-operation in the field of human settlements must be very considerably expanded, both in its financial aspects and as regards technical assistance and the training of human resources. Furthermore, such co-operation should be provided on the basis of flexible operational criteria suited to the specific conditions of each country;
- The 1976 World Conference in Vancouver will represent a unique opportunity to exchange experience, solutions and political and social arrangements to facilitate the adoption by Governments of the decisions which are indispensable in order to face the challenge of man, his environment and his manner of life on this earth. Therefore, in view of the foregoing and bearing in mind that each country will apply measures in the manner considered most appropriate within the framework of its economic and social conditions, the representatives of the participating countries

RECOMMEND:

1. That the highest political, financial and social priority should be given to the question of human settlements.

/2. That

2. That the well-ordered and systematic growth of human settlements should be promoted so as to raise the social efficiency and quality of life of the peoples. While Governments should take the lead in this process, the peoples themselves should play an active and creative part in it.
3. That national policies of the following type should be established for the planning and ordering of human settlements:
 - (a) Such policies should be integrated with the economic and social development effort;
 - (b) They should cover, in a single co-ordinated approach, the whole range of sectoral policies affecting human settlements;
 - (c) They should include policies at the national, regional, metropolitan and municipal level, with clear assignment of fields of competence and resources.
4. That as a general principle, a bigger proportion of national income should be allocated to the improvement of human settlements. To this end, suitable measures should be taken for the promotion of savings (including systems of protection from the effects of inflation) and their mobilization towards the long-term financing of housing and urban and rural development.
5. That an essential objective of human habitat policies should be the correction of present shortcomings, the reduction of differences in styles of life, the conservation and proper distribution of scarce resources and the raising of the quality of human life in general.
6. That within the systems of present and future cities, the development and organization of intermediate population units with sufficient dynamism to counteract the attraction of the big cities should be promoted. In addition, the population distribution within the territory of each country should be kept in line with the possibilities of regional development; the flows of migrants from the country to the city should be regulated, taking into account freedom of movement; and the geographically dispersed part of the population should be grouped together in settlements which will enable them to obtain the benefits of development.

/7. That

7. That the full participation of the population in decisions directly and indirectly affecting the quality of their habitat should be encouraged.
8. That emphasis should be placed on the need to give land ownership a clear sense of social function and to reformulate the traditional concepts regarding landholding, creating when necessary new laws and new policies to facilitate the execution of real urban and rural reforms and changes which will permit Governments:
 - (a) To play an active role in the process of the incorporation of land into cities by determining suitable areas of expansion and layouts for urban areas; laying down a well-ordered rate for their growth; stamping out land speculation, and assigning land to the most suitable purposes from the social point of view.
 - (b) To preserve the agricultural land needed for the present and future food production needs of mankind.
9. That measures should be taken for the recovery by the State or by its public agencies of future increases in the price of land caused by its relative scarcity, the funds thus recovered being used for purposes of general social benefit.
10. That measures should be taken to ensure that the State has the capacity and right to acquire land for future public use at a price which should in no case be higher than that prevailing before the development plans for that land were announced.
11. That each country should set up public bodies at the highest political level, integrated into the system of economic and social planning, to be responsible for the preparation, promotion and co-ordination of national policies for urban and rural human settlements.
12. That an appraisal should be made of the desirability of establishing national funds for financing investments with sufficient capacity to collaborate with the decentralized public agencies responsible for executing national human settlement policies.

/13. That

13. That there should be an expansion of the capacity of the authorities of metropolitan areas to:
 - (a) Plan the economic, physical and social development of the areas under their jurisdiction on an integral basis within the framework, norms and guidelines of the national planning policy;
 - (b) To provide public services of a metropolitan nature, especially in such aspects as land use, water supply, environmental protection and transport and communications services;
 - (c) To co-ordinate the execution of programmes having metropolitan implications by the municipalities coming within their area;
 - (d) To co-ordinate the activities of national, federal or local bodies operating within their area.
14. That public corporations should be set up which can intervene in the land market, the execution and operation of public services, and the promotion of the measures needed to improve the habitat.
15. That a primary objective of human settlement policies should be attention to urban and rural marginal areas through the determination of strategies and the adoption of measures to guarantee full employment and the generation of income for the inhabitants. In the short term, dwellings should be made available which are well located with respect to the other activities, which have suitable services for all, and which are of a type in keeping with human dignity.
16. That the powers of decision-making and execution should be decentralized so as to increase the participation of communities and individuals in the planning and execution of programmes for the improvement of the habitat within a primarily humanistic concept.

/17. That

17. That national Governments should assume bigger responsibilities in promoting the updating of political, administrative and financial structures to enable cities to comply with minimum urbanization requirements. In addition, they should promote the rational utilization of scarce resources, further the establishment of basic norms, and provide financial and administrative support for local programmes.
18. That the conceptions of administrative institutions and of the existing legislation should be revised so as to make possible new designs of cities and guide their integral growth, to preserve the agricultural land in their zones of influence for agricultural and recreational use, and to protect the urban and suburban environment from contamination and deterioration.
19. That new forms of transport should be adopted which enable the use of private motorcars to be reduced so as to achieve better utilization of scarce resources and factors.
20. That a set of criteria and minimum standards regarding human settlements should be adopted, framed like a declaration of human rights. These specific criteria or minimum standards only have significance within the framework of the cultural, social, economic and ecological conditions of each people, and their determination is consequently the responsibility of each people, with the active participation of the local communities.
21. That special note should be taken of the harm that can be done by the transfer from developed countries of standards and criteria which are not adapted to the developing countries and can only be adopted by privileged minorities in the latter, so that their effect is to render still more acute the prevailing inequalities, waste of resources and cultural and ecological decay.

/22. That,

22. That, in addition to formulating minimum standards, maximum rights should also be fixed in the light of the cultural, social and ecological conditions of each people in order to avoid scarce resources being accumulated and consumed by a minority of the population and thus preventing satisfaction of the needs of the majorities.
23. That the programmes of international financial bodies should be oriented towards the development of national settlement policies having the necessary flexibility for the various uses of the funds provided under such programmes; similarly, advantage should be taken of the solutions which have proved successful in the various national programmes and care should be taken to see that such experiments are evaluated and their results disseminated so as to facilitate the spread of new technologies and their transfer from country to country.
24. That a especial United Nations Habitat Programme should be set up to carry out the work of promotion, co-ordination and technical assistance in matters connected with human settlements, giving priority to developing countries which request its aid. The headquarters of such a special programme should be located in one of the developing countries.
25. That a network of Latin American centres should be set up for training, technical assistance, scientific and technological research, and dissemination work on priority aspects of urban and human settlements. To this end, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should convene sub-regional meetings before the end of the year so that the system can immediately be put into operation.
26. That international financial co-operation should be expanded, with aid being concentrated on integrated human settlement programmes and projects which respect the sovereignty and ecological and cultural characteristics of the countries and regions concerned and stimulate the creation and utilization of the technology of the recipient countries themselves.

27. That action should be taken to promote the holding of national meetings on human settlements to arouse public awareness, among all nations and sectors of the community, of the complexity and urgency of the concept of inhabiting the earth with dignity.
28. That the United Nations Foundation for Habitat and Human Settlements should be put into operation and strengthened as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Foundation should play an active part in the 1976 Vancouver Conference if possible.
29. In view of all the foregoing, it is considered highly desirable that all countries should participate actively in the 1976 Vancouver Conference.

SOVEREIGN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE

The representatives of the Governments participating in the Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering

- That the sovereign utilization of natural resources, as a fundamental element for the economic, social and political development of peoples, is a principle recognized by the United Nations;
- That this principle is closely linked with the objectives of this Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements, specially as regards the utilization of land;
- That both the system of land ownership and the jurisdiction over land are aspects of special significance in the planning and development of human settlements,

Decide

1. To recognize that the political and administrative demarcation known as the Panama Canal Zone is one of the main obstacles to the normal development and expansion of the main human settlement of the Republic of Panama,

/2. To

2. To express their earnest hope that the negotiations being carried on between the Republic of Panama and the United States of America will culminate in a just and equitable solution which will permit the Republic of Panama to make full use of its sovereign rights over that part of its territory known as the Canal Zone and consequently carry out a national development policy which will redound to the benefit of the country's human settlements.

Annex I

STATEMENT MADE AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING BY HIS
EXCELLENCY CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Distinguished Secretary-General of Habitat, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of ECLA, distinguished delegates and observers, and fellow Latin Americans:

Venezuela is honoured to be host to this regional preparatory conference for the great world Conference on Human Settlements to be held at Vancouver, Canada, in May 1976. We believe this is one of the most important initiatives the United Nations has taken because its purpose is to make a frontal attack on a dramatic problem: that of mankind destroying itself. This sustained assault on nature, on human life itself, this unbridled selfishness of the great industrialized nations which in all their scientific and technological arrogance have overlooked the ultimate object of their actions: Man and the environment in which he works out his destiny, the earth.

We should be wasting our time and bolstering the illusory hopes of mankind if we regarded this as a technological problem or said that what we need is to exchange views about how best to solve the problem of cities and rural settlements, for today the quality of human life, and housing and city conditions are, gentlemen, basically a political problem. The issue involves all the problems which the world is now debating. The recent failure of the World Food Conference in Rome has dealt a severe blow to the hopes that had been held for the Vancouver Conference, because as long as the major nations selfishly refuse to acknowledge their responsibility towards the developing countries, towards the poor countries, no technology, no experimental approaches can possibly solve the problem of human settlements. We representatives of Latin American countries, meeting here, can identify our problems and affirm that they are common problems whose ultimate solution depends, not on our own decisions

but on international co-operation, founded on the very principle of solidarity and human brotherhood. As long as our peoples have no assurance of prices for our raw materials which are commensurate with costs of the manufactures and capital goods we need for orderly development, as long as we have no guarantee of adequate access to technologies, our countries will find the way ahead blocked, our cities and human settlements will not be able to develop within a planned framework, since plans require assured resources for their implementation. It is thus a political problem that will face us if we are to deal with the very serious situation prevailing in Latin America, which will be considered at the world level through the United Nations. We must also understand that environmental conservation is the foundation of and a prerequisite for the quality of life; and that defending the quality of life demands that science and technology and the discoveries of human intellect must give fundamental consideration to the dangers threatening mankind because of the proliferation of experiments which are subject to no world-wide control prohibiting and making subject to review by suitable international commissions the application of any technology resulting from scientific experiments.

Not only are we threatened by the pollution produced by vehicular traffic in our cities, by the use of chemicals in agriculture and by the operation of certain industrial plants, but the whole world is threatened by the use of nuclear power, even Latin America, happily a peaceful region which has never settled its differences and problems by resorting to war. It is unfortunate that not all Latin American countries have yet signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaties and that the powers which possess this infernal capacity have not yet agreed to halt nuclear testing and put an end to the worst threat to humanity discovered by men. All these problems are in our thoughts as we prepare to study at the regional level the problems of human settlements in Latin America.

The economic development of our countries, distorted and uncertain as a result of unjust international trade relationships is such as to prevent us from regulating or planning our growth. We have not tackled the population explosion affecting all our countries rationally; the question of whether, within population policy, family planning programmes should or should not be established is still being discussed in moral terms. We close our eyes to the stark reality facing us. We fail to make the connection between the poverty of the majority in each one of our countries or the sharp rise in all kinds of delinquency in our cities and the uncontrolled growth of our populations. We do not wish to accept that while the educated sectors of our populations plan their families in various ways, we deny the underprivileged the education, science and technology they need to prevent them breeding like animals and debasing man's mission on earth.

This is the problem which we must confront courageously and, I might say, with real moral awareness, because otherwise any measures we may take to improve our cities will be outpaced by the population explosion, by the unbridled growth of the worst-off sectors, the marginal classes of our countries. The human situation just described is paralleled by our treatment of nature. Transnational corporations ignore damage to ecology and the problems of pollution; the leaders of our countries and branches of the public and private sectors of our economies likewise pay no special heed to these problems, because - it seems - we are living our lives within the perspective of one generation, and feel no responsibility for the fate of our children or the future of our countries. The Venezuelan situation is no different from that in any other Latin American country. The assault on nature has been a constant feature of what we term our development. The exploitation of our renewable natural resources has meant the spoliation of nature and never the management of those resources. Until we establish a regional system for the management of renewable natural resources, the survival of all Latin Americans and, in particular, the welfare of future Latin Americans will be threatened.

There is no conservation ethic in our countries. We do not understand that it is a supranational obligation and that anything we do in any country, on land or water, will have an effect, beneficial or detrimental, on the other countries of the region, on the other inhabitants of the region and on the Earth itself. A conservation ethic is also essential to solve the problem of human settlements and, as I said earlier, pollution is the outcome of our abuse of our resources and of the way we have been treated by the industrialized countries and the transnational corporations. But apart from these general circumstances, unless we find a solution to the world agricultural problem, we shall not be able to conquer world hunger and neither shall we be able to organize human living on earth or the well-being and planning of our cities.

The urbanization phenomenon, the worst of the ills afflicting our peoples today, is the result of the rural exodus; it is the rural world's revenge on the city; it is the transformation of rural poverty into urban poverty. We in tropical countries have not developed a technology for tropical agriculture. We simply adapt the technologies of the temperate countries. There is still no world organization or world fund for agricultural research. We have not been able to set up an American agricultural research fund. The history of international relations is marked by proposals, ideas, and institutes without programmes or resources, but the decisions taken by the countries which were parties to these agreements lacked good faith and sincerity; we in the developing countries are the scapegoats for this deceit and international hypocrisy. The United Nations certainly deserves our respect and unreserved support, but this great forum of mankind is not sincerely supported by the individual decisions of the most responsible nations in the world, although they, too, are members of the Organization.

As I said earlier, the failure of the World Food Conference - which was supposed to deal, not with gifts, not with relief, not with humiliating food charity for poor nations, but with the creation of infrastructures which would enable each poor nation to produce

its own foodstuffs, to undertake its own agricultural development - has failed, and a world agreement on the subject has been further deferred. In our region agreements on establishing an adequate and efficient agricultural research structure for the development of our agriculture are making equally slow progress. The Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Science has met. On paper agreements have been concluded on remedying the situation. The United States Secretary of State made a speech in Houston and offered the Americas an agricultural research computing centre, together with funds for agricultural research in the region. The matter rested there, and it seems that the offer has already been forgotten because the political conditions that produced that announcement and the offer to Latin America have changed. We cannot continue to be subjected to these constant frustrations because there is a real danger that our peoples will fall into a distorting scepticism and into a political anarchy which will destroy every modern form of co-existence and progress among the peoples of our western world.

We in Venezuela are striving to correct the errors of the past, to draw lessons from them and to reinforce such success as we have been achieving over the years in some spheres of social justice and the welfare of our people. In our country the last 15 years, in particular, have been years of great achievement, but unfortunately not of achievements co-ordinated within a planning system which would enable us to say that we are advancing on the path to progress, which we take to be the well-being of all segments of our national community. In the report prepared by the Venezuelan delegation you will see how much enthusiasm, how much idealism and will, we have put into establishing a framework of laws for bringing about better distribution of wealth and balanced development of the country, by creating institutions and resources to cope with this extraordinary process of industrial concentration and economic concentration in 2 per cent of the national territory, where over 30 per cent of the country's population live. We know that it will be a difficult task and that

the application of these laws will require all the Government's energy, together with the goodwill of those interests which will undoubtedly be affected by these decisions of my Government.

You will undoubtedly find in these Venezuelan laws many measures already taken in other countries of the region and others which may be adopted, however, until such time as we have a firm guarantee of receiving within a definite time the economic, scientific and technological resources we require, we cannot ensure the success of any planning aimed at improving the living conditions of our compatriots in the region.

I repeat, therefore, that this is a problem that we must consider as a whole, that we must look at as part of that decisive struggle which, fortunately, has united all of us in the region irrespective of ideology, so that today people from every Latin American mainland or island country will be using the same language when they speak to the developed world stupidly and criminally responsible as it is for the tragedy afflicting mankind, which will inevitably engulf the developed countries, too, in the approaching world disaster. We, however, are strong and optimistic enough to believe that we can avert this disaster and that what now appear to be unfavourable omens can be transformed into great opportunities for mankind's well-being, because within this imbalance which the whole world is experiencing the creative strength of mankind, good faith and goodwill can in themselves form an instrument of extraordinary power and bring about a radical change in relations among men and so create the new international economic order now a doctrine of the United Nations although still not accepted by the major countries. Latin American faith was hurt when a great statesman affirmed that there was no reason to change the old order, which had given such good results and produced so many benefits, because he was thinking only of the benefits and advantages that that old order had brought to the rich countries. These were transitory advantages and benefits, because today those great nations are suffering the consequences of selfishness, for today interdependence is not the dependence of the majority

oppressed and manipulated by the minority. Interdependence today is a world reality, it is the foundation of peace, it results from the fact that decision-making no longer rests with a single sector of humanity, that decisions today must be shared by large and small, rich and poor. This truly interdependent world demands a change in the developed world's thinking and requires it to take into account our way of life, our way of thinking, and, above all, the misery in which two thirds of humanity live out their lives.

Distinguished delegates, it is my custom to speak in my country as frankly as I am speaking today to my Latin American compatriots and to representatives of the United Nations and the developed world. We shall press this policy in equally frank language because we sincerely believe that confrontation will never be the product of frankness, that confrontation has invariably been the product of international sophistry and hypocrisy, that if we speak in clear terms and speak the truth in pursuit of international harmony, we shall then find the way open to this generous, open world of well-being which is the ideal of all mankind and we shall be able to solve even those deep-rooted and distressing problems we see in all our great cities and in all our rural areas. You are here today in one of the richest and most beautiful cities in Latin America, but this great city is surrounded by a wide festering belt holding a million human beings. You are in a country which is making a huge effort to overcome underdevelopment and to deal honestly with the problem of the distribution of wealth and the achievement of social justice, in a country which is striving to restore its natural wealth in order to defend it from aggression and to impose a conservation policy. Nevertheless, in spite of this new policy, this is a country in which thousands of our people leave the rural areas every day and come to build their shacks on the edge of some large city; this is the situation of which each one of you can undoubtedly cite an example from his own country. In order to remedy this injustice, in order to fulfil our mandate as leaders of poor nations, we must

redouble our efforts towards Latin American solidarity and pursue our plans together, because otherwise our weakness will make it impossible to overcome the obstacles and will delay the day when the rich industrialized countries understand and accept our message. Moreover, Latin America cannot ignore the universal problem of mankind, and we therefore accept responsibility for common approaches, co-existence and brotherhood within the Third World, since we belong to it and the common fate of the developing world will be the fate of each of our countries.

In conclusion, in inaugurating this United Nations regional conference on human settlements, let me quote the words of the great and good Robert Oppenheimer:

"We shall not have an easy life: it will be a struggle to learn how to participate in the life of our cities and to take an interest in the life of the world, to cultivate our personal sense of beauty and remain capable of perceiving in it everything that is most strange to us, to protect the flowers of our gardens against the winds which whip the surface and a land without frontiers, but such is Man's estate."

This is the message of universal brotherhood that we must bear in mind at our meetings.

Annex II

STATEMENT BY MR. DIEGO ARRIA, GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL
DISTRICT OF CARACAS, PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS: HABITAT

I am very pleased to welcome you to Caracas, which you have honoured by choosing it as the site for this important Conference. I also thank you for the resolution you have adopted to have the statement made by the President of Venezuela at the opening meeting issued as an official document of the Conference and for my election as President, which I interpret as a recognition of my country's willingness to serve the interests of your needy populations. I shall take this opportunity to make some observations on the theme of this Conference, about which I have been exchanging impressions with some of you during the months of preparation, especially at the Dubrovnik meeting held recently under the auspices of the secretariat of Habitat.

This meeting is of special importance because we intend to analyse from a technical viewpoint - but at the level of political decision-making - matters of particular concern to our countries, and not only to discuss in conventional fashion technical documents which will later appear in books and publications of undoubted interest but are no substitute for those long-deferred decisions which our countries must now take.

As the Secretary-General of Habitat has pointed out, we have an unrivalled opportunity to go to Vancouver next year with a common definite position representing the concerns and hopes of Latin America. This Conference also gives us the opportunity to meet excellent technical experts who have studied this problem and have been invited by the Secretary-General of the Conference to stimulate discussion on the individual items of the agenda. The presence of

so many of you in Caracas will undoubtedly help to create greater awareness in this country of the real tragic implications of inhuman settlements in the majority of our cities and throughout Latin America.

I wish to express publically my country's appreciation of the work performed by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Enrique Peñalosa and the United Nations staff who are assisting him. I feel he has done magnificent work in enabling us to meet in Caracas, and this work will continue among all countries during the coming months so that our joint effort may be genuinely effective at the Vancouver Conference, when our purpose will be necessary to make an impact on the conscience of mankind and so to bring justice to the deprived populations of our countries.

The President of Venezuela said this morning that we are in a city with a "festering belt" or approximately 180,000 dwellings or shacks around the metropolitan area of Caracas: areas without adequate services, areas in distress, just like many isolated villages in rural areas which are still without minimum services. But it is not our intention to use meetings of this type to take stock of the poverty unjustly afflicting the inhabitants of the marginal areas of our cities. Problems of urban development are sufficiently complex in themselves without our joining those who use poverty as a political instrument for their own ends or those who utilize discontent in their own interests - which are not necessarily connected with the interests of the deprived - or those who deny that the society we are all building in our own countries, with its favourable and unfavourable aspects, has anything good in it. These are the people we might call "drawing-room pessimists", people who, when they speak of marginal settlements in public or to the media, feel obliged to put on a sorrowful expression, but who are the first to benefit from the advantages offered by these societies that we are building.

What I mean by that is that we cannot join the chorus of "drawing-room pessimists" just when the world is learning to cope with the most complex problems it has ever known. I think it would be irresponsible for us to join the pessimists' ranks and to accept

that situation is irremediable and that we cannot halt the trend toward injustice. I also believe that to do so would be failing to recognize and, worse still, undervaluing the courage and tenacity of the deprived people of our hills and gullies, who ardently hope to become part of a more just society than that deplored by the "pessimists".

We should be deluding ourselves if we failed to recognize existing problems. But we cannot adopt a defeatist attitude, because that would be irresponsible. If the human settlements crisis was irremediable, we should not be here today.

Absolutely nothing can be built with hatred. In Venezuela we do not resign ourselves to such situations. On the contrary, we believe that poverty is not divinely decreed, but is merely the product of injustice and mankind's inability to redefine priorities and co-ordinate its efforts. We are convinced that we must promote international awareness in order to achieve a better understanding of the tragedy of poverty in its proper context. We do not believe that poverty can be tackled if imagination is lacking, resources are lacking or feeling is lacking. No, we must tackle it with boundless enthusiasm, optimism and confidence. Many of these problems which seem, and indeed are, difficult must be approached constructively. We hope that this Conference will give serious consideration to the proposals made in recent months on the introduction of a new ethic designed to populate the land and cities of our region in greater dignity. This new ethic implies reorganizing priorities, increasing and rationalizing investment; it will promote greater care, sympathy and imagination in considering the problems of the poorest groups. The imagination and talent of most professional people dealing with the urban problem has been concentrated on the rich, opulent city/districts rather than on solving the problems of the poor. It is as if we bring to bear on the problems of poverty a poorer talent, a lesser sense of responsibility and a smaller measure of sensitivity.

In connexion with this new ethic which we are proposing to this Conference, the question of "minimum standards" arises. Whenever the problem of the marginal groups is mentioned, the question of "minimum standards" comes up. I think that they include 200 litres of water a day, and 60 square metres of built-on space per family. We talk about "minimum standards", but never about maximum rights: in point of fact, if we want to chart a new course in a changing world, we shall have to cope sensibly and responsibly with laying down maximum rights for the minority instead of merely stating "minimum standards" to be imposed on the majority.

Faced with an issue such as land, a limited and valuable resource, as is water, we cannot allow some sectors to own as much land as they want and to use all the water they choose, their only limit being their economic capacity. Man has been obliged to limit his freedom for the sake of the well-being of the community; for example, we have accepted a speed limit on motorways. But we have not learned to limit our use of more fundamental things such as food, air, water and the ownership of land. We must accept that the freedom of others depends on our willingness to restrict our own freedom. As President of this Conference, I hope that these issues will be discussed by you, together with the ownership, control and use of land in cities - this vital space is shrinking dangerously, to such a point that there is almost nowhere in the central districts of the major cities of Latin America to bury the dead.

I think it would be interesting to consider our true needs, the needs of Latin Americans not simply needs which are a reflection of other cultures and customs, so that we might redirect and define our real minimum needs and give our feeling of solidarity with the rest of the world a universal dimension. The Vancouver Conference will be a good example of what it means to make a sense of solidarity universal in scope, because it will be an exchange of experience on how we have experienced, witnessed and coped with the problem of settlements in Latin America. It is a fact that water gets scarcer

and more costly every day, that air is becoming more polluted, that available agricultural land is shrinking appallingly, that there is insufficient food, that hydrocarbons as a source of energy are being exhausted, that the earth seems to be getting smaller and smaller while our population rises steadily.

We must feel some disquiet when we observe that the food/population equation is at breaking point and has, in fact, already been breached dangerously in most Third World countries. Unless we recognize that the efforts we are making in agriculture are simply a way of gaining time and unless we deal responsibly with the crucial problem of overpopulation, as the President of Venezuela said, we shall be creating problems much more serious than those we have in 1975 and unlike any mankind has never known.

Most of your cities are facing the same problem as ours: how to avoid the premature phasing-out of Latin American man, afflicted by distress and injustice and by the indignified way in which he is settled on our Earth. Latin American man is suffering from what we might call the effects of: the transfer of values from a richer society to a poorer and neglected society. We are constantly seeking answers for people with lower incomes, but answers based on our own criteria of values - life-style and way of enjoining life and on the values and real needs of the people in our marginal areas. The greatest frustration people experience is the feeling that they are on the sidelines in a world of intensive mass communications and have no opportunity of taking an active part in decision-making. To that end we must set up machinery for dialogue and thus initiate citizen participation. A better future for all will depend on how successful we are in achieving this objective.

In the year 2000, just 25 years from now, the population of Latin America will have almost doubled and we shall be facing tremendous problems of population, food and urban development - the very issues you will be discussing in the coming days. The Conference agenda includes such issues as speculation in city land, which has

caused the marginal areas to expand; land speculation goes hand in hand with the building of motorways and has permitted the process of urban development to enrich small groups of people, a development for which there is no social justification whatsoever. We cannot allow the zoning regulations in our major cities to continue being the instrument producing this type of situation. We must halt the tendency to enrich a few at the expense of the entire city.

It is also incumbent on us to consider the problem of human settlements in isolated rural areas where it is expensive to provide services and where, if we do not set urban development in motion, in other words, provide services and opportunities, we shall not be able to check the current trend towards a rural take-over of our cities.

I am very optimistic about our cities and our regions potential for dealing with many of the problems we face with creative daring and real prospects of success. The presence of so many talented, responsible and sensitive people here is the best proof, the best way of showing the professional mourners of others' poverty - who in fact create nothing - that we are earnestly pursuing a new society, a society in which the only real unit of measurement will be the human dimension. We have faith, we have a vocation, we have the resources and we have the technology. All we need now, is through Conferences like this one and the coming Vancouver meeting, to find machinery which will enable all of us to tackle the problems more efficiently. Similarly, we have to find a way of influencing the co-operation systems of the international organizations so that they may gradually adapt themselves to our own conditions and not to the conditions imagined by their offices. We are not obliged to extend into the future the failures of the past, but in order to achieve our object, we shall obviously have to work out new ways of living in order to improve the present situation. It will be essential among other things, to give citizens their rightful place within their environment.

I should like to quote a European sociologist who reflects the optimism that I should like to see inspiring this Conference, not crocodile tears but a constructive outlook, not defeatism but confidence in what we can do; he said: "Men grow when they are inspired by noble ideal or when they contemplate wide horizons and there is no more beautiful and dangerous venture than the renewal of modern man". I invite you, distinguished delegates, to undertake this venture. Let us help to populate our earth with dignity and justice.

Annex III

STATEMENT MADE BY MR. ENRIQUE PEÑALOSA, SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT), ON 30 JUNE 1975 AT THE REGIONAL
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

I should like, first of all, to congratulate those representatives who have been unanimously elected officers of the Conference. Their quality augurs well for the success of this afternoon's work. I shall begin, as I did at the opening ceremony, by thanking the people and Government of Venezuela for the welcome extended to us. I should like, on behalf of the United Nations, to reiterate our thanks for the generous, spontaneous and enthusiastic way in which the Venezuelan Government has welcomed the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America, but it would be unfair not to make special mention of Mr. Diego Arria. As soon as he heard that we were looking for a host country for this Conference, he gave us his enthusiastic co-operation, and the facilities and arrangements we have here today are due largely to his dynamism and decisiveness. I thank him sincerely.

My thanks also go to you all and to the Governments you represent for your presence here. I know that you are all extremely busy people with difficult official duties in your own countries, and your attending this Conference is a clear indication of the importance which the Governments of the Americas attach to the preparations for Habitat. I also thank the intergovernmental bodies represented here, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America, which has co-operated with the secretariat in organizing Conference, the Regional Office of the United Nations Development Programme, and the representatives of the non-governmental organizations.

What are human settlements and what are their problems? You probably often have to answer this question, and it is not easy to do so, because human settlements may be two or three huts lost in the vastness of mountain or plain, with all the problems of isolation, loneliness and a total absence of the minimum services of civilization. Human settlements may be small towns without schools, hospitals, clean water, recreation and, in many cases, without jobs; they may be medium-sized towns, many of them decaying, with housing and land problems, watching their leaders or most capable people leave, drawn by the opportunities offered by the big cities. Human settlements may be large metropolises which double their population every 8 or 10 years, are experiencing the tremendous problem of land speculation which gives rise to slums, watching their centres deteriorate, seeing their streets used to move not only people but vehicles as well, their children with nowhere to play because the space is needed for car parks, people having to live cut off in small apartments surrounded by motorways designed for vehicles and not for human beings; seeing how, little by little, road deaths come to rank fourth and then third among causes of death, how the time spent travelling between home and work steadily increases for everyone, how the air is being polluted, how the whole environment is deteriorating; noting that many green belts exist but are owned by a few who carefully fence them in and that many sites with public utilities stand vacant, while many more are built on and lack utilities. All these are human settlements and the list covers some of the problems they are facing. Some people believe that the problems of the cities would be solved if no more people were admitted. As a famous United States professor said, they would disappear if we decided that most of our fellow-citizens should remain illiterate, backward, hopeless and isolated in their rustic villages for the rest of their lives. Many of the problems we have to cope with today could be solved in this way, but I should like to ask: is this possible and, more important, is it just?

We may not even need to ask the question because most of our countrymen living in lonely rural areas have already made an irrevocable choice by deciding to emigrate from their hopeless rural isolation. Such migration must be one of the basic natural human rights. If I may, I should like to read you a few paragraphs of a speech I made ten days ago to the Executive Board of FAO:

"Urbanization is the natural and necessary complement to development. Migration is detrimental when it is unplanned, unorganized and directed exclusively towards large cities and, in many cases, to a single city, as happens in many countries of the developing world where large urban conglomerations are a tradition. But, as I have just said: ... to migrate from hopeless rural isolation must be a natural and available human right. Depending on the structure and vitality of the society in which the migrant moves, we might think about ensuring that such migration will be beneficial.

Migration on its present massive scale is the product of social imbalance which has become disproportionate in this century. Increasingly, political and economic power has been seized by the major cities; economic investment has been concentrated there in the name of economies of scale and markets; social investment has followed the same pattern, partly in order to create a European life-style for the elitist classes and partly in order to buy political protection. In any case, the end result has been the steady impoverishment of the remaining regions of the country concerned.

We are now dealing with an indefensible system of dual societies in which one fifth of the population, at most, enjoys a life-style similar to and in some cases better than that of the middle classes of Europe and North America, and the rest of the population lives in intolerable conditions which are constantly deteriorating, not only in relative terms but often in absolute terms. The disparities in the daily life-styles of rich and poor, between town and country, are much more marked today than at the turn of the century. It might be said that in many regions of the world, despite economic miracles and heavy investment in physical, human and financial resources, the rural masses have a lower standard of living today than fifty years ago.

This is ethically unacceptable and politically indefensible and, in any case, it is patently not working. The same forces which are causing rural deterioration and have given rise to human migration in the past can neither check migration nor mitigate its effects. Town and country are strangling each other."

Distinguished delegates, I should like to discuss some of our problems, some of the problems of Latin America, the region of the world where the human settlements situation is most critical, but where the challenge is most exciting, and perilous. Would that we could all take the right decisions before it is too late. The existence, the problems and characteristics of the human settlements crisis are relatively new in our continent. When the conquistadores came, we numbered 25 million; 300 years later, when the spanish left, we still numbered 25 million and we took 100 years, until the turn of the century, to reach 50 million, and at that time less than 5 per cent of the Latin American population lived in urban centres; with the growth of population and the change in city life-styles which made them so very attractive, by 1950 40 per cent of the population of Latin America was living in urban centres, totalling about 130 to 140 million people. By the end of this century, Latin America will have between 550 and 600 million people and we shall be the most urbanized region on earth; 9 out of 10 Latin Americans will live in urban centres and, more important, 250 million Latin Americans will live in only 30 cities.

Sao Paulo, at the current growth rate, may have as many as 40 million inhabitants and within ten years Mexico City could have a bigger population than New York. This is happening now and it is going to make for changes in the social, economic and political organization of our regions - of that there can be no doubt. For better or worse, this is the great challenge we are all facing, and the outcome depends on the decisions we take or do not take. Clearly, a major cause of the problem is population growth, a phenomenon which is not going to change in the short term, and which is a Latin American phenomenon; the population explosion is peculiar to the developing world and Latin America is the part of the world in which the population is growing fastest.

Unfortunately the fact is that so far we have had no success: on the contrary, the quality of life and, living conditions in our towns are worse now than they were 10 years ago, worse than they were 20 years ago, and instead of improving, we constantly deteriorate. The argument of a lack of resources is often put forward, but I beg to differ: it is not the lack of resources: in the last 30 years, Latin America has seen a steady rise in per capita income, and yet year after year there are more Latin Americans with no housing, no services, no transport, and our cities are growing worse. It is not a problem of growth; it is not a problem of more resources. We can forecast that, in per capita terms, growth will continue and that by the end of the century, even on the basis of pessimistic projections, Latin America will have a per capita income similar to that of the Soviet Union today, i.e., the gross product of Latin America at the end of the century will be double the gross product of the Soviet Union today. But the experience of recent decades has shown that the growth of per capita product will not solve our problems.

These were some of the considerations that many of you had in mind at Stockholm when you adopted a resolution at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972, recommending that the United Nations General Assembly should convene a world conference on Human Settlements for the purpose of finding new solutions, new tools, new approaches to the problem and indeed, a new philosophy, in the conviction that those so far tried had been unsuccessful. It was these same considerations that you had in mind when in December 1973 you adopted a resolution convening the World Conference on Human Settlements in June 1976 at Vancouver, having accepted the generous invitation of the Canadian Government.

Why are you here today? Undoubtedly because you still believe in the soundness of the reasons which prompted you to vote in favour of the resolution I have mentioned in December 1973, and the preparatory work carried out so far in your countries confirms this. You have appointed people to co-ordinate the participation of each of your countries in the preparatory process; you have set up national

preparatory committees. Many of you participated as members or observers in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in May last year and in January of this year in New York. You have prepared national reports on the human settlements policies and programmes of your countries and are in the process of preparing the audio-visual presentations which you will bring to Vancouver as an objective illustration of your experience and the solutions you have found that may be helpful to many other countries. The basic purpose of this meeting is the issue which, in New York last January, you regarded as fundamental, namely, that you should have an opportunity to influence the agenda and the documentation to be used at Vancouver and, consequently, the recommendations that will be adopted there. I believe that that was a wise decision, because that Conference should first and foremost be a very useful exercise for all those who have the responsibility for adopting measures and political decisions in their own countries, and it is therefore you who must decide what you want Vancouver to produce for use subsequently in your own countries. Clearly, our meeting will provide forum for an exchange of experience about developments in the matter of human settlements in the Latin American countries and on to the way in which individual countries are carrying out the preparatory work for the Conference. I believe that this exchange of information will prove most helpful when you return to your countries to continue this work.

With the permission of the Chair I should like to outline very briefly some of the characteristics of this meeting. We think that many of them are novel. In the world of international organizations it is not an easy matter to leave the beaten track or depart from custom, but we have decided to take this risk, primarily because of the recommendations and the support we received from the delegations that were in New York last January. Of course this gathering, like the Vancouver Conference, is a political gathering in the sense that we make no claim that the discussions this week will deal with highly specialized or technical topics. In accordance with your decision, what will be discussed are the topics that you

feel should be included in the agenda or in the documentation, and that is a political decision. I am therefore very gratified to see in this conference room today those representatives of all the Latin American countries who have responsibility for decision-making at home. As I have said, this is a political Conference, like the one that will be held in Vancouver. Throughout the world in the more than 80 countries I have visited in the past 12 months I have been preaching that what we need to solve the problem of human settlements is not technical formulas, which we already have; it will indeed be one of the great advantages of the audio-visual programme that it will demonstrate through films and slides the successful experience gained in many spheres in many parts of the world. What we need are political decisions at both the international and the national levels. Two ingredients are necessary in a political decision: the will of the political leaders and the support of public opinion. In this connexion I appeal to the representatives of the information media throughout Latin America, for it is they who have the responsibility for shaping an enlightened public opinion on human settlements problems and particularly on their urgency.

Of course, another of the characteristics of this meeting is that the secretariat has no desire to force anything on you. This is why, despite the large number of documents we have brought here, we do not intend to discuss any of them. You have probably attended many other meetings and conferences where your time was spent discussing specific proposals submitted by the secretariat. This will not be the case here; we want to listen and will confine ourselves to referries to a short document of eight or nine pages, document A/CONF.70/RPC.1, which might be called an annotated agenda, and only in order to introduce the discussion of the items. In it you will find, for example, the item on land which, as the President of the Conference has said, is one of the crucial topics, possibly the most crucial one arising in connexion with human settlements. It is a fact that land speculators in Latin America have accumulated and concentrated wealth to a greater degree than any other social

group over the last few decades, without doing anything for it. I would say that they have been the major planners of urban development in Latin America. This has been reflected in the fact that many Latin American settlements now occupy the best agricultural land we have, and it is in short supply. It is the land problem that has given rise to the unplanned, tumultuous and shanty-towns that are typical of all our cities. We hope that the discussion of this item will cover such controversial topics as land ownership in urban and suburban areas, in particular public versus private ownership, and the restrictions which must be imposed on private ownership if it is not to constitute a major obstacle to proper planning and construction of settlements. Another item on the agenda is the one on minimum standards, which, as the President of the Conference pointed out, relates to life-styles. The life-styles of the Latin American middle class cannot continue, because even in the industrialized countries present life-styles are not going to last much longer, let alone in our part of the world where all our resources have been exploited so that a minority may enjoy the life-style of the North American or European middle classes. We must deal with such subjects as the innovative use of resources and the question of transport. With regard to urban transport, we do not necessarily have to continue imitating the United States model of major motorways and underground trains. Why can't we develop our own model? Why must we assume that every family has to have a car and that those who have none must travel by underground train? This issue is, of course, closely connected with the structures of cities: are we going to continue copying the structure of North American cities which assumes that everyone has a car and that fuel will be available almost free, as has been the case until recently, or will we change the structure of our cities so as to avoid the need for cars wherever possible? We will also have to discuss, as is indicated in the short document I referred to and in the agenda you have adopted, the management of and institutional arrangements for human settlements. With very few exceptions, the situation in this sphere is chaotic in

all our countries: functions relating to human settlements are divided among a host of institutions, and in most cases policies at the national, regional and local levels clearly conflict with each other. Lastly, we shall obviously have to talk about national policies, since the solution for the whole problem lies primarily in the establishment of clear objectives - what the individual country wants with regard to human settlements - and their close connexion with the economic development planning systems. You will be discussing these and many other issues this week. We have deliberately not brought any material on the Declaration of Principles that we hope will emerge in Vancouver or on the subject of international co-operation. In both cases we are convening two intergovernmental groups of experts representing all members of the United Nations which will meet in Geneva during the last week of September. However, the agenda you have adopted includes an item on the human settlements activities of international financial institutions, and the representatives of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have prepared documents for you and will lead off the discussion on the item on Thursday morning. The Regional Conferences for Africa and Asia in Teheran and Cairo expressed their views on what they want to be accomplished at Vancouver with regard to international action and what recommendations they want made at Vancouver with regard to institutional functions and arrangements at the level of the international community. It would be very helpful to us to have your recommendations too on these matters.

In short, we hope that the discussions will be directed, as far as possible, to producing recommendations and conclusions. You agreed and recommended in January that we would not have general national presentations, but rather discussions on each of the substantive items so that our meetings would be more productive and effective.

Precisely 11 months from now, also at 10 o'clock on a Monday morning, we shall be opening the Conference on Human Settlements, and I hope that all of you will be there. Today we are entering what we might call the final stage of the preparations for Vancouver. We have little time left and much to do. All your countries, we in the secretariat, all of us bear the great responsibility of ensuring that this Conference will not be another source of frustration, but a great source of hope for all the inhabitants of the earth. If we succeed, our children and grandchildren will thank us; if not, you may be sure that they will reproach us.

Annex IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Member countries of the Commission

ARGENTINA

Representative: Julio Aurelio Amoedo, Ambassador to Venezuela

Members of Delegation: Héctor Echechuri, Carlos Mendicochea,
Armando L. Maddoni

BARBADOS

Representative: Valerie Mc Comie, Ambassador to Venezuela

Member of Delegation: Berenice Johnson

BOLIVIA

Representative: Carlos Calvimontes, Deputy Minister of Housing

Members of Delegation: Hugo Inchausti, Raúl Otermin,
Oscar von Borries

BRAZIL

Representative: Marcos C. de Azambuja, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Members of Delegation: Paulo Enrique Tupper, Jorge Guilherme
Francisconi, Alfredo Gastal

CANADA

Representative: Jim W. MacNeill, Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs

Members of Delegation: C.J. Van Tighem, H.W. Richardson, G.A. Yeates,
C. Servant, John J. Scott

COLOMBIA

Representative: Senator Virgilio Barco, Ambassador Extraordinary

Members of Delegation: Lauchlin Currie, Luis Fernando de Guzmán,
Darío Valenzuela, Samuel Vieco

COSTA RICA

Representative: Omar Aguilar

Members of Delegation: Alvaro Hernández, Eladio Jara

CUBA

Representative: Levy Farah Balmaseda, Minister of Public Building and
Agricultural Construction

Members of Delegation: Norberto Hernández Curbelo, Nisia Abigail
Aguero Benítez, Franck Ortiz Rodríguez,
René Saldrigas Pinckney, Levin Felipe
Rodríguez Padrón, Cosme Ordoñez Carcelles,
Osmundo Machado Ventura, Humberto García Vicent,
Raudol Rafael Ruiz Aguilera, Ramiro León Torras,
Serafín Evaristo Pérez Mijares, Selma Díaz Llera,
Manuel Davis Carballos, Otto Andrés Vilches
Piñeiro, Lesvia Sardiñas Prat, Fernando José
Salina González Mendive, Mario Escalona Reguera,
Armando Pascual García, Rolando Rubio Mayano

CHILE

Representative: Professor Francisco Otava Von Riesenfelder, Catholic
University of Chile

Member of Delegation: Adolfo Carafí Melero

ECUADOR

Representative: Isidro de Ycaza Plaza, Ambassador to Venezuela

Members of Delegation: Raúl Paredes, Eduardo Franco, Cristian Córdova,
Ezequiel Vela, Virgilio Poveda, Gladys Andrade,
Jorge Mejía, Enrique Arcos

EL SALVADOR

Representative: Antonio Seaman, Minister of Public Works and Co-ordinator of the National Urban Housing Commission

Members of Delegation: Eduardo Cromeyer, José Salvador Chorro, Benjamín Luna, José Gilberto Martínez

UNITED STATES

Representative: Harry W. Shlaudeman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Venezuela

Member of Delegation: John L. Mills

GRENADA

Representative: Fabian A. Redhead

GUATEMALA

Representative: Alfredo Obiols Gómez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Members of Delegation: Carlos Enrique de la Cerda, Orlando Marroquin, Teófilo Abularach, Julio Dougherty Liekens, Pedro Murillo Delgado, Héctor Manuel Rivera Echeverría

GUYANA

Representative: Professor Leslie Cummings, University of Guyana

Members of Delegation: Winston Philips, Joseph Hinckson

HAITI

Representative: Ernst Remy, Ambassador to Venezuela

Member of Delegation: Louis Jadotte

HONDURAS

Representative: Virgilio Madrid Solis

Member of Delegation: Herman Allan Padgett

JAMAICA

Representative: Ansel Mahabir

Member of Delegation: Sam Hillary

MEXICO

Representative: Jesús Silva-Herzog, Director-General, Institute of the National Workers' Housing Fund

Members of Delegation: Roberto Ríos Elizondo, Antonio Suárez McAuliffe, Fernando Rivera Alvarez, Valentín Samaniego, Vicente Medel Martínez, Leonides Guadarrama, Julio García Coll, Jorge Velasco O.

NICARAGUA

Representative: Iván Osorio Peters, Deputy Minister of Town Planning

Members of Delegation: Julio Ospina Ramírez, Mario Martínez

NETHERLANDS

Representative: Richard Beaujon

PANAMA

Representative: Abel Rodríguez C., Deputy Minister of Housing

Members of Delegation: Antonio A. de León, Astevia C. de Angeloni, Ana H. de Pitty, Iván Estribí, Reinaldo A. Decerega

PERU

Representative: Jorge Pérez Garreaud, Counsellor, Embassy of Peru in Venezuela

UNITED KINGDOM

Representative: J.L. Taylor, United Kingdom Ambassador to Venezuela

Members of Delegation: J.A. Snellgrove, C.M.P. Wilkes, J. Drew

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representative: Oscar Correa, Chief, Housing Section, Planning Office

Member of Delegation: Guillermo Caram

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative: Frank Barsotti, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development

Members of Delegation: Kenneth Snaggs, Lakshmi Shivaprasad, Amryl Harper, Cecil Stanley, Jerome Jones

VENEZUELA

Representative: Diego Arria, Governor, Caracas Federal District, and President, Centro Simón Bolívar

Members of Delegation: Saúl Shwartz, Orlando Elbitar, Nelson Douaihi, Ernesto Fuenmayor, Oswaldo Valencia, César Quintana, Samuel Benchimol, Leopoldo Martínez Olavarría, América Faillece, Gonzalo Sánchez, Alfredo Roffé, Oscar Bracho, Alfredo Cilento, Jorge Azpurua, Rosa Aguilera, Enrique Hernández

2. Observers from other member countries of the United Nations

POLAND

Representative: Zygmunt Fabjasiski

3. United Nations specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Eduardo Troncoso

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Rodrigo Santa Cruz, Santiago Varas

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Franca Helg

World Health Organization (WHO)

Vicente M. Witt

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Donald A. Strombom, Rafael A. Sison, Michael Bamberger

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Jacques Branchon, Alfredo Julio de Haro

4. Other United Nations agencies

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Federico Joffre, John Joseph Donohue, Cecilia Muñoz de Castillo

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Miguel Albornoz, Manuel Arroyo

5. Intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)

Rubens de Mattos Pereira, Edwing R. Harvey

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Alfred C. Wolf, Luis Ratinoff

Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA)

José Emilio Araujo, Alberto Franco

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations (CIME)

Jorge Mora, Ibrahim Mayz

6. Non-governmental organizations

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Manuel Peñalver

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Cruz Alejandro Villegas Sequedo

World Confederation of Labour (WCL)

Marcelo Nicolás Luvecce Massera

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Luis C. Leite

World Assembly of Youth (WAY)

Carlos Antonio Carrasco, Rosa D. Lacayo, Horacio Argüello C.

Category B

Muslim World League

M. Sawfat Sakaamini

International Bahai Community

Raúl Pavón

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

Ana Lucina García Maldonado

League of Red Cross Societies

María Eugenia de Alvarez

The Lutheran World Federation

Hansruedi Peplinski

Asociación Mundial de Vivienda Rural

Arturo Luis Berti, José Enrique Arrarás, Eduardo Pérez Alfonzo,
Orlando Orozco, Raúl Uzcátegui, Marisela Steiger, Leandro Quintana,
Arturo R. Ortiz

7. Other non-governmental organizations

Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM)

Josse Van der Rest

International Organization of Experts (ORDINEX)

Lorenzo Di Rugiero

8. Register

Sierra Club U.S.A.

Cecilia de Blohm

9. Specially invited participants

José Luis Aceves Martínez
G. Fitz G. Ford
Luther Bourne
Francisco Szekely
Enrique Brown
Jaime Lerner
Mario Testa
Fernando Hurtado
Juan Pablo Terra
Diego Robles
Mario Trinidad
Albert Harth Deneke
Ignacy Sachs
John Friedman
Ramiro Cardona
Carlos Mallman
Gloria Knight

10. United Nations Secretariat

HABITAT

Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary-General, HABITAT
Benjamin Reif
Leonora Kracht
Nicholas Raymond
Liese Doret

Centre for Housing, Building and Planning

Paul Mwaluko, Director
Wilson Garces

UNEP

Alfonso Santa Cruz, Regional Representative for Latin America
Eric Carlson

ECLA

Jorge Viteri, Director, Executive Office
Eduardo Neira
Max Nolff
Luis Carlos Sánchez

11. Specially invited journalists */

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Eduardo Barbosa | Estado de Sao Paulo | Brazil |
| Jorge Tellez | El Espectador | Colombia |
| Jaime Soto | Contrapunto | Colombia |
| Vicente Pérez | Televisión Nacional | Chile |
| Justín Barrios | Producciones Barrios Gómez | Mexico |
| Franklin Castrellón | La Estrella | Panama |
| Emilio Delboy | La Crónica | Peru |
| Winthrop Carty | Times of the Americas | United States |
| Luis Lazo | Prensa Latina | Cuba |

*/ These journalists participated in the Encounter on HABITAT jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Vancouver Conference and the United Nations Centre for Economic and Social Information (CESI).

Annex V

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS: HABITAT

| <u>Symbol</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A/CONF.70/RPC/1 | Major themes requiring national action Note by the Secretary General |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/2 | Progress Report Report of the Secretary General |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/3 | Extracts from intering national reports illustrating major themes requiring national action Note by the Secretary General |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/4 | Housing: World Bank Sector Policy Paper |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/5 | Urbanization: World Bank Sectoral Working Paper |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/6 | Urban Transport. World Bank. Sector Policy Paper |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/8 | BIRF Position Papers Note by the Secretary General |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/8/Add.1 | Addendum World Bank Sites and Services Projects |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/9 | Urban slums and squatter settlements in the Third World Note by the Secretary General |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/1 Laughlin Currie | Some Basic Issues |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/3 Wilfred Owen | Transportation and Human Settlements |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/4 Juan Pablo Terra | Critical problems of human settlements in Latin America |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/7 Omar Hernández | The challenge of the rising aspirations of rural populations |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/9 (Spanish only) | J. Bourgois Pichat | Las estructuras demográficas y el hábitat en los asentamientos humanos |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/11 | Joan Cals and Antoni Casahuga | Advantages and disadvantages of tourism |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/14 (Spanish only) | C. Santos de Morais | Capacidad de la tierra para retener la población rural |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/15 | | Contribution by the Holy See |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/18 | B. Modise | Urban land policies and land-use measures |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/19 | C.A. Doxiadis | Action for human settlements |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/20 | John D. Hergert | The supply and pricing of public utilities for social and economic development |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/21 | S. Angel and S. Benjamin | Expanding the perception of the housing problem in developing countries |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/22 | Otto H. Koenings Gerger | The absorption of newcomers in the cities of developing countries |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/BP/28 | Luis Ratinoff | Habitat in the operations of the Interamerican Development Bank |
| A/CONF.70/NR/8 (Spanish only) | Bolivia | Informe Nacional |
| A/CONF.70/NR/9/Rev.1 (Spanish only) | Argentina | Documento nacional sobre asentamientos humanos. Versión preliminar revisada |
| A/CONF.70/NR/21 | Jamaica | National Report |
| A/CONF.70/RPC/NR/22 (Spanish only) | Peru | Informe preliminar, política nacional de asentamientos humanos |
| A/CONF.70/NR/26 (Spanish only) | Venezuela | Versión preliminar del Informe Nacional sobre los asentamientos humanos en Venezuela |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| A/CONF.70/NR/32 (Spanish only) | Nicaragua | Informe Nacional |
| A/CONF.70/NR/40 (Spanish only) | Cuba | Informe Nacional |
| A/CONF.70/NR/48 (Spanish only) | Uruguay | Informe Nacional |
| A/CONF.70/NR/49 (Spanish only) | Costa Rica | Informe Nacional |
| A/CONF.70/NR/51 (Spanish only) | Chile | Informe Nacional |
| (Spanish only) | Panamá | Informe Nacional |
| " " | Mexico | Anteproyecto para plan de acción sobre asentamientos humanos |
| " " | Guatemala | Informe Nacional |
| " " | Honduras | Informe Nacional |
| " " | Dominican Republic | Pre-Informe Nacional |
| " " | Brazil | Relatorio Nacional |
| " " | El Salvador | Informe Nacional Preliminar |
| " " | FAO | El hábitat rural |
| ST/CEPAL/Conf.55/L.1 | ECLA | Provisional Agenda |
| ST/CEPAL/Conf.55/L.2 | ECLA | The Latin American Habitat |
| ST/CEPAL/Conf.55/L.3 (Spanish only) | ECLA | Temario y organización de los trabajos de la Conferencia |
| ST/CEPAL/Conf.55/L.4 (Spanish only) | ECLA | Elementos para una estrategia del hábitat humano |
| ST/CEPAL/Conf.55/L.5 | ECLA | Report of the Rapporteur |

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial statements. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income.

The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the accounting cycle. It outlines the ten steps involved in the process, from identifying the accounting entity to preparing financial statements. Each step is explained in detail, with examples provided to illustrate the concepts.

The third part of the document discusses the various types of accounts used in accounting. It categorizes accounts into assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expense accounts. It explains how each type of account is used and how they interact with each other in the accounting process.

The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of the double-entry system. It explains how every transaction is recorded in two accounts, one as a debit and one as a credit, to ensure that the accounting equation remains balanced. It provides examples of how to record a transaction using the double-entry system.

The fifth part of the document discusses the various methods used to record transactions. It compares the cash method and the accrual method, highlighting the differences between them and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

The sixth part of the document discusses the importance of adjusting entries. It explains how adjusting entries are used to ensure that the financial statements accurately reflect the economic activities of the business. It provides examples of how to record adjusting entries for depreciation, amortization, and accrued expenses.

The seventh part of the document discusses the various types of financial statements. It explains the purpose of each statement, including the balance sheet, income statement, statement of retained earnings, and statement of cash flows. It provides examples of how to prepare each of these statements.

The eighth part of the document discusses the importance of internal controls. It explains how internal controls are used to prevent and detect errors and fraud in the accounting process. It provides examples of various internal control procedures, such as segregation of duties and authorization of transactions.

The ninth part of the document discusses the various methods used to value inventory. It compares the FIFO method, the LIFO method, and the weighted average method, highlighting the differences between them and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

The tenth part of the document discusses the various methods used to value fixed assets. It compares the straight-line method, the declining balance method, and the sum-of-the-years-digits method, highlighting the differences between them and their respective advantages and disadvantages.