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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD
OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS*

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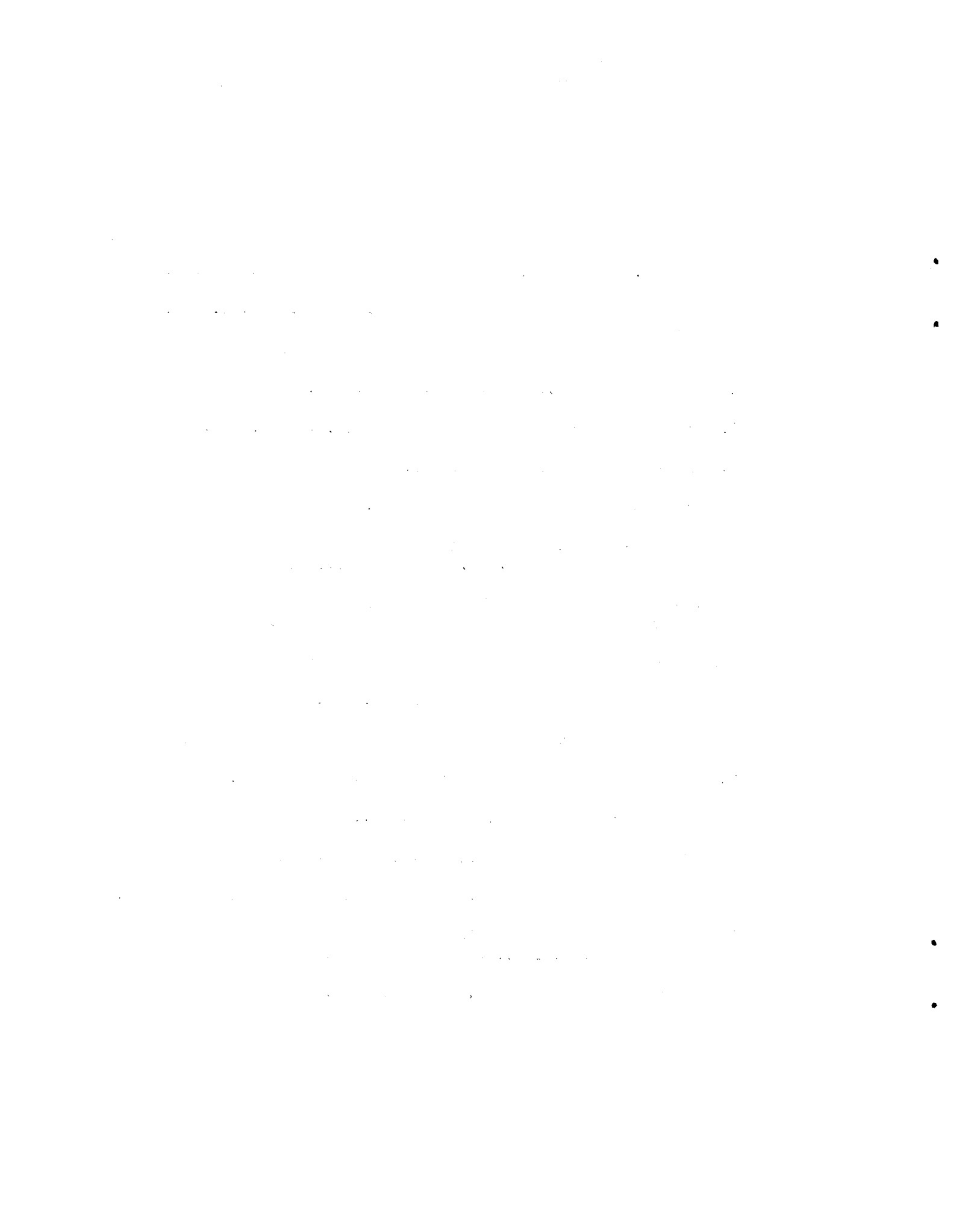
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/INTRODUCTION



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INTRODUCTION

International co-operation is one of the salient aspects of the contemporary development policies of Governments and international organizations, since it expresses a basic principle of solidarity among nations and provides the practical means for attenuating the inequalities among countries deriving from their various degrees of development and accumulation of wealth.

Generally speaking, international co-operation encompasses different forms of relations among countries and with bilateral and multinational organizations. The latter provide technical assistance and on occasions, financing, which in the case of human settlements, is obtained principally through loans for the constructions of housing and infrastructure projects, although it has also been allocated to support public or private financing machinery for housing.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, international co-operation in the field of human settlements has a long history. As will be seen further on, the United Nations System and various regional and subregional organizations, such as the organization of American States (OAS) and, more recently, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), have provided technical assistance for this activity. In addition, financial organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and other subregional institutions have contributed to financing numerous housing and infrastructure projects.

Nevertheless, international financial aid for the habitat has been quantitatively less than that earmarked for economic sectors such as industry or foreign trade. Actually, despite the fact that the over-all volume of financial resources transferred to the region for housing and infrastructure projects in the past decades reached a figure close to 2 500 million dollars, it did not amount to a significant percentage of the total financial support received during that time.

Even so, international co-operation is exceptionally important in providing alternatives for occupying, organizing, habilitating and utilizing space for human settlements. In this sense, it can constitute a valuable complementary factor to national human settlement policies.

External aid has provided a significant amount of know-how to the region that has contributed to configuring the habitat within patterns similar to those of the developed countries. The explosive population growth and the importance of ecological factors in the region nevertheless demand solutions different from those traditionally offered.

This fact points to the need for recognizing the changing nature of co-operation and of conceiving the policies that orient it as a variable ensemble of guide lines to be adapted to the continuous demands and changes in the requirements of receiving countries and also to the conditions of the offering institutions and countries.

It will not only be necessary for co-operation to be directed toward serving the common interests of the countries of the region, thereby supplementing their human settlements policies, but expertise and financial resources will have to be increased as well. Actually, external co-operation has contracted in recent years both relatively and quantitatively speaking, as may be observed, for example in IDB loans for urban and rural developments, which have gradually diminished since the end of the last decade.

In order to make a real contribution to Latin America's development, any increase in international financial co-operation and any qualitative change in its nature must be accompanied by the formulation of regional cooperation policies. There is no doubt that in so far as the countries of the region identify their common interests and the type of assistance they require, in addition to evaluating their own capacities for using external know-how and resources, they will be in a better position to negotiate with bilateral and multilateral sources of assistance for the co-operation they require and the best means of obtaining it.

Co-operation among the countries of the region is probably the best means of expanding exchanges with foreign countries. Thus, for example, the knowledge required for improving the habitat must not only be provided by the industrialized countries, but should also be sought among developing countries in similar economic and environmental situations. The Latin American countries have accumulated experience

/and capacities

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and capacities to provide assistance and transfer technologies of potential interest to other developing regions. There is no doubt that the region should prepare itself not only for promoting the contribution of knowledge, but for receiving and distributing it internally as well. Nothing suits this purpose better than the organization of horizontal co-operation.

There is no disputing the effectiveness of concerted action in the region as far as financial resources are concerned. This is true not only because countries can determine their needs in a complementary manner with respect to those of others, but also because an ensemble of regional policies on human settlements can provide an excellent basis for negotiations with bilateral and multilateral sources, and especially with regional and subregional institutions.

In order to organize themselves so as to make the most advantageous use of international co-operation in the field of human settlements, the countries of the region should consider the following possibilities:

- a) The definition of areas of common interest in order to concentrate activities on the elements that provide the best support for various national human settlements policies;
- b) The establishment of practical means for developing forms of intra-regional co-operation aimed at utilizing the capacities of the countries when conditions of complementarity exist;
- c) The establishment of regional machinery to stimulate and orient co-operation from the developing countries and from regional financing organizations; and
- d) The establishment of regional consultation and decision-making machinery to orient and manage the preceding elements.

The present document consists of five chapters and is aimed at providing the basic information required for proper study of international co-operation in the field of human settlements. A general discussion is provided of prospective areas for regional co-operation, in addition to their possible operational procedures and the co-operation that the United Nations could offer on a worldwide, regional and subregional bases.

/In so far

In so far as regional aspects are concerned, special reference is made to the forms of assistance available to countries, CEPAL's Regional Human Settlements Programme and institutional organization of co-operation within the region. The Regional Programme is dealt with in greater detail, since one of the main objectives of the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements is to study the progress that has been made in this field.

Lastly, an annex includes the United Nations General Assembly and CEPAL resolutions that directly concern international co-operation in this field.

I. FIELDS FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

The priorities indicated by countries in the regional meetings that have been held on this topic since 1976 show a preference for three areas for international co-operation: basic research, information and the training of human resources. In addition to the activities carried out by the CEPAL Secretariat during the past two years, the topic of adaptation of technologies has also been included.

1. Basic Research

In the work programme approved by Governments during the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL, held in Guatemala City in 1977, the CEPAL Secretariat was instructed to study the social and economic aspects of human settlements, public participation and its organization, territorial planning for decentralization, and the effect of public and private investment on human settlements.^{1/} Owing to difficulties to be indicated further on, an in-depth study could only be made of the first of these, within the Habitat Project carried out by the Secretariat with the collaboration of CIDA.

The work carried out within the framework of this project^{2/} served as a basis for several of the documents submitted to this Conference and also to identify fields of research, such as the study of explosive growth, its planning methodology; the systematic study of rural areas; and more detailed study of the political and social implications of shanty settlements.

The remainder of the topics and the results of the study of the social and economic aspects involved provide a broad field for research that requires only resources to be carried out. Some of these, especially the last-mentioned, will require co-ordinated studies in several countries.

^{1/} Resolution 378 (XVII).

^{2/} CEPAL/CIDA, Aspectos sociales del ambiente humano en América Latina.

2. Information

The Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements, held in Mexico City in 1976, singled out the establishment of information machinery as being one of the most urgent regional needs, a priority that was reiterated at the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL.

Information with regard to human settlements doubtless constitutes one of the highest priority areas for the region. This is borne out by a number of initiatives undertaken in the region during the past two years that should be integrated within a single regional system.

a) A group of organizations from five countries,^{3/} with the support of the International Development Centre of Canada (IRDC), initiated the establishment of an information network (Latin American Human Settlements Network), which is of an experimental nature for the rest of the countries of the region.

b) A specialized technology network was established within the Programme on Human Settlements Technology, carried out jointly by CEPAL and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Action Committee for Housing and Building in the Social Interest (CAVEIS) of SELA in turn initiated an information system that is at present limited only to housing. For the present time the system is limited to the CAVEIS signatory countries; however, in the future it should include all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) At the Vancouver Conference,^{4/} the topic of information was considered to be one of the essential elements in international co-operation. This Conference established Vision-Habitat, a specialized programme to provide information on human settlements.

^{3/} The State Construction Committee of Cuba; the Information and Construction Centre of Guatemala; the Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works of Mexico; the National Construction Information Centre of Colombia; and the National Regional Information, Housing, Construction and Urban Development Network of Venezuela.

^{4/} United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT), Vancouver, 1976.

3. Training of human resources

The Seventeenth Session of CEPAL indicated the training of human resources as one of the three basic areas of the activities programme requested of the CEPAL Secretariat.

The majority of countries are characterized by a lack of relationship between the professional training offered by universities and management and planning requirements in urban and rural development. This is also true with respect to administration and operation of public services, on the one hand, and the construction of certain types of settlements, on the other.

With few exceptions, present-day training programmes are directed toward training specialized personnel, generally through post-graduate courses, whereas university curricula in architecture, engineering, public administration and the social sciences provide little attention to the specific problems of human settlements and to their relation to the environment.

Moreover, the level of professional qualification and the expectations of those graduating from the universities - particularly those who have obtained specialized degrees in the region and in foreign universities - draw such graduates away from secondary urban centres and rural areas and attract them to the cities. Consequently, the effective availability of professional personnel to deal with human settlements problems is more apparent than real. An excessive supply of professional personnel exists in capital cities and metropolises, whereas the demand for such personnel in secondary cities cannot be met, even in cases in which organizations exist that could employ them.

This situation is an extreme one in the case of shanty and rural settlements. The empirical techniques used by squatter builders cannot be combined with scientific knowledge owing to the lack of middle-level staff and, consequently, tend to lose their efficiency and their capacity for renovation. Generally speaking, the dissemination of appropriate technologies comes up against a stumbling block in the lack of personnel with both technical knowledge and the ability to penetrate into the cultural make-up of most of the population.

4. Appropriate technologies

The CEPAL/UNEP Programme on Human Settlements Technologies contributed knowledge on technologies considered to be appropriate for the region. The nature of the imported technologies that are being applied in organizing and adapting human settlements at the present time is generally adapted neither to the socio-economic conditions of the countries of the region nor to the ecological environment in which most of the population lives.

The rapidity of population growth and the unprecedented speed with which it is being concentrated in a few metropolises, the slow growth rate of income among most of the population and the fact that governmental action has been directed principally toward housing have created a situation in which the ability to organize and habilitate settlements is very inferior to existing needs. This circumstance, which is derived from the style of development prevailing in almost all the countries of the region, is aggravated by the use of technologies transferred from the developed countries, the product of very different socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions.

Approximately 60% of the territory of Latin America and the Caribbean is made up of lowlands with heavy rainfall and high temperatures that impose living human settlements conditions markedly distinct from those in the industrialized countries, which continue to provide most settlement criteria and technologies. Occupation of the tropical habitat is one of the most significant challenges for the future of the region. Inasmuch as in recent decades migration toward the hot lowlands of Latin America has increased, for several countries in the region the agricultural frontier is a tropical frontier.

Although the tropics constitute a priority area for technological development in the field of human settlements, the same situation applies to the complex technological demands of large urban areas that require appropriate solutions for mass transportation, a key factor

/in resolving

in resolving traffic and air pollution problems. Furthermore, urban sanitation problems require new solutions for the supplying of water and the discharge and treatment of excreta and residual wastes.

Building also requires greater technological attention, particularly in certain specialized areas such as low cost, earthquake-proof construction - especially important in view of the frequent earthquakes in the region - and the production of building materials. The latter has important repercussions on the region's energy problems, since the production of some of the commonly used materials, such as Portland cement, for example, requires considerable quantities of energy obtained from oil, especially in the Central American and Caribbean countries.

Lastly, the technologies used to produce the material components of human settlements in rural areas should be subjected to very careful study. In the case of agriculture, these technologies are not only limited to housing, infrastructure and services, but also extend to means of communication and transportation, and above all to agricultural production technologies. The use of tropical soils affected by heavy rainfall and eroded through centuries of improper use require priority technological attention.

In many of these subject areas, most of the countries of the region do not possess sufficient installed capacity for research and development, whereas in other cases such efforts could only be possible through international co-operation.

II. NEW FORMS OF OPERATION

The United Nations and other international organizations, in addition to regional development banks and bilateral institutions of several industrialized countries, provide technical and at times financial assistance for housing and sanitation, and, on a smaller scale, for other habitat components. Nevertheless, in recent years external aid in this field has shown a tendency toward decline and has also suffered from certain functional problems. Horizontal co-operation, however, is based on other than traditional approaches and forms of co-ordination. Little has been done to develop forms of co-operation involving horizontal exchange flows, despite the fact that this form of co-operation has been extensively promoted by the United Nations.^{1/}

The difficulties encountered in obtaining external aid and the advisability of new forms of co-operation suggest the need to increase the regions' scientific exchange with the rest of the world, establish policies and instruments for developing forms of horizontal co-operation, and to obtain new financial resources mainly through greater participation of developed countries and multilateral institutions.

1. Exchange with foreign countries and horizontal co-operation

International co-operation has traditionally been associated with the transfer of know-how and resources from the industrialized countries to the developing countries. This situation is largely the result of a linear concept of development based on a single model for the material progress of nations and the supposed universality of the knowledge applied to modern industrial development. The developing process itself, however, appears to indicate that as progress in development takes place, the capacity for

^{1/} See Plan de Acción de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre los Países en Desarrollo, Buenos Aires, September 1978.

adapting and finding new technological and organizational solutions also increases. At least this has been the case when homegrown national objectives have been sought and when it has been accepted that development can and should provide different forms and styles in accordance with varying national realities.

The know-how provided by the developed countries in the field of human settlements was of undeniable importance in so far as it contributed to establishing the material basis on which the contemporary societies of Latin America and the Caribbean still rest. Whereas population growth and the size of human settlements were maintained within relatively modest limits in relation to a wealthy and largely unexploited environment, imported knowledge regarding the organization, adaptation and use of settlements was able to provide rapid and relatively efficient means of accommodating the population within national territories.

The prodigious growth of the population and cities of the region since the 1940s produced substantial changes in the nature and content of the knowledge required to meet the needs of a population migrating in increasing numbers to urban areas and therefore undergoing rapid social and cultural changes. The need for technological innovations and organization methods has become apparent precisely because traditional management of the human habitat no longer satisfies the requirements of contemporary human settlements.

Other developing countries have had empirical experiences more similar to those of the countries of the region, at least with regard to ecological and economic contexts that resemble those of Latin America and the Caribbean. It must be borne in mind that the Third World is largely a tropical and poor world that is growing and urbanizing at unprecedented speed, and that Latin America and the Caribbean share these characteristics. Certain countries of the region have been able to develop technologies and forms of administrative organization that could be of considerable interest to other developing countries, which appears to indicate the existence of basic conditions for establishing mutually beneficial exchange.

Nevertheless, technical co-operation has been hindered by problems of geographical and language differences. Moreover, the region is also not prepared to distribute the knowledge arriving from abroad efficiently nor to utilize information regarding the assistance the Latin American countries could provide to other developing regions.

Problems of communications and relations could by their very nature be resolved by means of institutionalized international co-operation, which could act as an intermediary. However, solution of the remainder of the existing problems depends basically on the regions' internal organization.

In order to activate exchange with foreign countries it will be necessary to develop an adequate information system and to achieve significant progress in organizing intra-regional horizontal co-operation. The possibilities for co-operation with foreign countries therefore largely depend on the development of co-operation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Some countries of the region, in accordance with their relative degree of development and their economic and territorial dimensions, have made progress in formulating human settlements policies that include all the technical aspects of the habitat, and have consequently been able to establish very complete administrative organizations to implement such policies. The technological and organizational capacities developed in such countries should be transferred, first of all, to other countries in the region that require them.

The explosive growth of certain urban and industrial areas has resulted in an accumulation of positive and negative experiences that constitutes a valuable source of knowledge that should not be wasted by countries that are presently facing or will in the future face the same phenomena.

These experiences are frequently associated with the development of alternative technologies in the field of urban transportation and sanitation, and could be shared by countries with similar problems.

Generally speaking, technological development in the field of human settlements is provided with a considerable institutional base. Sixty research and development centres dedicated to the more concrete aspects of such technology represent a potential whose capacity could be multiplied merely by efficient exchange of knowledge and the implementation of joint research and dissemination projects.

The fact that common interests exist, such as the need to occupy tropical areas more intensely and to explore technological alternatives for the production of materials that at present consume large amounts of conventional sources of energy, reaffirms the possibilities of horizontal

/co-operation

co-operation within the region. Setting out to achieve these objectives involves a problem of organizing new machinery for co-operation, which, although it may be founded on present-day institutional structures, differs in nature from aid coming from abroad.

2. Co-operation with developed countries and international finance organizations

Bilateral aid in the field of human settlements has been intermittent and dependent upon the internal policies of the offering countries, and has, therefore, had scant relation to the needs of receiving countries. It must be acknowledged, however, that the latter have not always been able to define their needs for technical and financial assistance clearly and consistently. At other times, resources from abroad have not been able to be used more efficiently because of internal organization problems.

The borrowing countries have not always been able to take full advantage of co-operation policies and the offers of resources extended by some multilateral financial institutions. Thus, for example, the resources for urban development and housing made available by the IDB to countries in the last two decades have been only partially used. In part, this has been the result of discrepancies between institutional policies and national policies, and has also perhaps come about because of obstacles of an operational nature that have impeded the transfer of financial resources from abroad.

The need for financing and technical assistance in the region has increased as a consequence of the development process itself, which requires increasing financial resources for industrialization and therefore directly affects the amounts of national savings that can be invested in basic capital stock.

The possibilities for increasing the flow of resources from abroad depend substantially on the development of the world economy, which does not at present favour - nor does it appear that it will in the immediate future - an increase in external co-operation, at least in so far as bilaterally administered co-operation is concerned. Consequently, it appears that it would be to better avail to make more efficient use of available resources than to expect them to be increased.

/It should

It should be reiterated that rationalization of the use of resources provided by external co-operation depends more on the internal organization of the region than on control of external circumstances. In this sense, there is no doubt that countries must first of all identify their own needs for technical assistance, which in turn depends on national human settlements policies and the policies for improving the habitat. Instrumentation of these policies will clearly indicate which of the elements required by such policies may be obtained internally and which may be obtained abroad.

The qualification and quantification of national needs for technical assistance would make it possible to lay the foundations for co-ordinating them on a regional scale. Such co-ordination is necessary in order for both offering and receiving countries, in addition to international financial organizations, to be able to programme their future co-operation activities in the field of human settlements.

Co-ordination of international co-operation resources is premised on prior and rather approximate knowledge of the amount of resources that could be transferred from abroad and of the conditions attached to their use. In this regard the establishment of auxiliary mechanisms in the region could be of considerable advantage primarily to finance certain projects of common interest and in order to promote an increase in bilateral contributions.

These mechanisms would serve basically as instruments of consultation and financial support for special projects, assuming that there is possible to obtain voluntary contributions from the countries of the region. Such mechanisms could perform an important co-ordination function with respect to regional and sub-regional organizations, particularly in the programming of their activities.

III. WORLDWIDE CO-OPERATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS

International co-operation has traditionally been administered from world centres, and this is also true with respect to human settlements. In the 1950s the United Nations established A Housing, Building and Planning Centre (CVCP) with the aim of providing technical assistance to its Member States in matters that are presently part of the field of human settlements.^{1/} Since then, and until 1978, CVCP provided technical assistance from its headquarters in New York.

In resolution 32/162, adopted in March 1978, The General Assembly established a United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Commission on Human Settlements has held two meetings, one in New York and the other in Nairobi, and will meet again in Mexico City in May 1980. This Commission is composed of 52 countries of which 10 are Latin American or Caribbean countries. Appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the Habitat Centre took office in October 1978. The Centre's headquarters is in Nairobi.

The resources available to the Habitat Centre for carrying out its functions are made up of budgetary allocations originally assigned to CVCP and of transfers from other United Nations bodies with functions related to human settlements, including the United Nations Human Settlements and Habitat Foundation. This Foundation administered voluntary country contributions, which in principal continue to be the Centre's main source of operating funds, but in reality are insufficient to satisfy estimated needs.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was actually the first United Nations organization to maintain regular human settlements programmes. The human habitat was considered by UNEP, from its very beginnings, as a priority field for its activities, and consequently in 1976 UNEP financed programmes such as the CEPAL/UNEP Programme on Human Settlements Technology

^{1/} United Nations activities in the field of human settlements include the following fields: policies and strategies; planning; shelter, infrastructure and services; land; public participation; and institutions (General Assembly resolution 32/162).

in various regions. Upon the establishment of the Habitat Centre, UNEP excluded human settlements from its priorities. Nevertheless, at the last meeting of its Governing Council, the Member States requested that the environmental aspects of human settlements should be maintained within its programme of activities.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regularly allocates resources for education and training in human settlements. Either directly or through its Man and the Biosphere Programme, UNESCO has participated in important projects related to the human habitat.

Other organizations in the United Nations System can also co-operate in human settlements projects associated with their specific activities, especially the United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

IV. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

This chapter will study international co-operation within the regional context. A brief review will first be made of the various forms of international aid provided by the United Nations and other regional and subregional organizations to Latin America and the Caribbean. Secondly, CEPAL's activities will be described, particularly with respect to the Regional Human Settlements Programme. Lastly, United Nations inter-institutional relations will be discussed as regards regional activities in the field of human settlements.

1. Forms of aid available to countries

On the national level, international co-operation provides a number of opportunities for technical assistance in the field of human settlements. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has resources available for carrying out studies and preparing development projects. UNDP may request any United Nations organization to act as executor of a project in collaboration with the national entities designated by the Government requesting the aid.^{1/}

^{1/} These resources are specified by means of an indicative figure agreed upon annually with the countries and are assigned by means of co-operation agreements.

At the present time, the Organization of American States (OAS) is participating in technical assistance projects in the fields of housing and urban and rural development in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. In 1953 the OAS established the Inter-American Housing Centre (CINVA), which later became the Inter-American Information Service for Urban Development (SIINDU) until it was disbanded in 1977. For many years the OAS also maintained the Inter-American Urban and Regional Planning Programme (PIAPUR), with headquarters originally in Lima and later transferred with substantial modifications to Venezuela.

Since its establishment, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) has supported national initiatives and projects in the field of urban and rural sanitation and has provided technical assistance either directly or through associated organizations, such as the Inter-American Center for Sanitary Engineering and the Environment (CEPIS). Among other activities, this Centre maintains a regional air pollution monitoring network in urban areas.

More recently, the Latin American Economic System set up an Action Committee for Housing and Building in the Social Interest (CAVEIS) with headquarters in Quito, whose articles of incorporation have so far been signed by nine countries of the region. CAVEIS-SEIA, which began operations in 1970, has developed its capacity to provide specialized assistance in housing within a comprehensive human settlements framework and is initiating a housing information system.^{2/}

In 1978 Visión-Habitat set up an office in Mexico City to cover the Latin American and Caribbean area. Since then it has provided informational material, including motion pictures and other audio-visual material.

^{2/} CEPAL resolution 370 (XVII) provides that the CEPAL Secretariat "... should collaborate with SEIA in the preparation of policies and plans on human settlements, when (Member) States so request".

The Inter-American Development Bank has special resources available to assist its Member States in preparing feasibility studies, and in some cases, in carrying out studies of a more generalized nature.

Likewise, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) are also in a position to provide technical assistance to their Member States upon request. Through its Andean Technological Development Programme, JUNAC has contributed to the body of knowledge on human settlements by means of a significant study on wood technology and its application to construction.

Several developed countries provide technical assistance through bilateral co-operation agreements. With this purpose in mind, several decades ago the United States established the Agency for International Development (AID), which has collaborated with many countries in the region in preparing general and specific studies on housing and other fields related to the habitat. Canada also has two organizations specializing in international co-operation: the International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Research Development Centre (IRDC), which have financed important national and regional studies. Sweden, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom also possess resources and specialized institutions for providing technical assistance to developing countries, and have supported national projects in the field of human settlements either directly or through international organizations.

The countries of the region may also obtain financial aid for housing, infrastructure and services programmes and projects. Financial aid is usually in the form of credits for public sector investment or for the promotion of housing financing machinery through seed capital loans. The principal source of financial assistance in the region is the IDB, which possesses "soft" resources from its social progress Trust Fund and ordinary resources for its operations. With the exception of Cuba, between 1961 and 1977, the IDB transferred more than 1,700 million dollars to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The magnitude of this form of financing, somewhat rare in other parts of the world, nevertheless began to decline in the late 1960s.

The World Bank has also financed urban infrastructure projects, especially with regard to sanitation, land habilitation and services. As of 1973 the Bank had granted loans of approximately 340 million dollars to countries in the region.

In a similar manner, subregional financial organizations have contributed to financing housing, infrastructure and services projects. The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Caribbean Development Bank and, to a certain extent, the Development Financing Corporation have assisted their Member States on several occasions in financing projects associated with the material base of human settlements.

In certain cases, bilateral aid has assumed the form of financial assistance for executing housing and related services programmes and projects. This is especially true in the case of AID, which in the past two decades financed the development of the savings and loan system and several second-mortgage markets, in addition to providing guarantees for private United States housing loans in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. The CEPAL Regional Human Settlements Programme

In resolution 373 (XVII),^{3/} Governments instructed CEPAL to carry out a regional research, information and training programme in human settlements to include a number of topics that had been assigned priority during the Latin American Human Settlements Meetings held in Mexico City in September 1976.

The CEPAL Secretariat encountered difficulties of a financial nature in carrying out this Programme. As is well known, CEPAL's resources for performing its functions are derived from the regular United Nations budget and are allocated to specific activities. Consequently, the only possibilities for undertaking new activities lie in expanding the regular budget or in obtaining extra-budgetary resources.

^{3/} Adopted 5 May 1977 during the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL.

Prior to CEPAL's Seventeenth Session, in which the Regional Human Settlements Programme was approved, the CEPAL Secretariat had concluded co-operation agreements with CIDA and UNEP in late 1976 and early 1977. These agreements refer respectively to the carrying out of a study on the social aspects of the human environment in Latin America and a human settlements technology programme. Had it not been for this circumstance, it would not have been possible to comply even partially with the mandate of resolution 373 (XVII).

a) Research

The study on Social Aspects of the Human Environment in Latin America was concluded in December 1978, with the principal objective of identifying the critical variables in human settlements processes in the region in order to increase policy efficiency in this field. Five monographs synthesize most of the knowledge accumulated in a year and a half's work by an interdisciplinary team with headquarters in CEPAL's offices in Mexico City.^{4/} An Atlas of Human Settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean, containing 21 maps, concentrates a large part of the information available on human settlements in the region, and several supplementary studies complete the contribution of this project. Using the knowledge contributed by this study and additional information provided by CELADE as a basis, experts from CEPAL and CELADE prepared most of the basic documents for the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements.^{5/}

4/ Estrategias de crecimiento y distribución espacial de la población en América Latina; Asentamientos rurales; Asentamiento precario en las áreas metropolitanas; Crecimiento explosivo de centros industriales y CEGRPI, un modelo de crecimiento explosivo generado por la concentración de inversiones industriales.

5/ Human settlements in the development of Latin America (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.3); Population, urbanization and human settlements in Latin America (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.4); The process of human settlement in Latin America (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.6); The material base of the habitat (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.6); and Policies on human settlements in Latin America (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.7).

For the reasons mentioned above, the other research topics referred to in resolution 379 (XVII), have been dealt with only superficially; however, they have been maintained in the Programme since they deal with regional priorities. The Programme on Human Settlements Technology was initiated in June 1977 in collaboration with UNEP and will conclude on 31 December 1979. The two documents being submitted to the Latin American Conference on this subject^{6/} provide an extensive analysis of the activities carried out in the region in this field, the first of this kind ever to be performed and one whose importance was emphasized at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver in 1976.

b) Information

With the objective of making as much progress as possible in another of the activities of the Work Programme, the Regional Operational Unit (UOR) of the CEPAL/UNEP technological programme has developed a scientific exchange network in the region. With this purpose in mind, a regional directory of research centres and users of human settlements technology was prepared listing more than 250 institutions. Similarly, an inventory of current human settlements research and technological development activities is being concluded. A network specializing in low-cost earthquake-proof construction technologies was also set up. Finally, a series of monographs is being prepared to describe the state of knowledge regarding several settlements technologies that will be distributed in the region through the scientific exchange network.

CEPAL and CLADES, its specialized data-processing organization, participated in the initial consultations for setting up an experimental information network on human settlements that took place in Mexico City in March 1979 under the auspices of the International Research Development Centre of Canada and the Mexican Government.

The Regional Operational Unit, responsible for the Programme on Human Settlements Technology, prepared a glossary of current human settlements terminology to be distributed before the end of the year.

6/ Meaning and scope of technology in human settlements (X/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.8) and Human settlements technology in Latin America (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.9).

c) Training

In 1978 the group in charge of the Programme on Human Settlements Technology held two seminars on the technology of human settlements in the humid tropics in Mexico and Cuba, and will prepare a third seminar for the English-speaking Caribbean countries.

The Human Settlements Division of the Mexican Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works collaborated in holding the first of these seminars, and the International Environmental Sciences Training Centre of Madrid and the Centre for the Study and Supervision of Housing Development of Cuba collaborated in the second.

These seminars were planned and carried out by the programme staff, which prepared the texts and audio-visual material,^{1/} relying largely on the pilot project bearing the same name that was held in co-operation with the Human Settlements Division of the Mexican Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works.

Actually, the first activity carried out under this Programme was another seminar, held in August 1977 in co-operation with CIECA and with the Development Training Centre of Mexico.

A preliminary investigation was also made of the region's installed capacity for training in the field of human settlements, leading to the identification of some 30 professional specialization programmes.

Another co-operative effort should be mentioned, also carried out with the collaboration of the Human Settlements Division of the Mexican Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works, regarding the training of middle-level staff to disseminate technological information and provide support for urban and rural development. This project is in the nature of an experiment to train non-university staff as liaison between federal and state-level activities and self-help builders, small contractors, and municipal and communal authorities. The project concluded in August of this year with the first experimental training course for instructor-monitors.

^{1/} Visión-Habitat contributed motion pictures and audio-visual material.

3. Institutional organization of co-operation in the region

Resolution 32/162, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in March 1978, establishes norms for United Nations action on worldwide and regional levels. Section IV (Organization at the Regional Level) recommends that "... the regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional inter-governmental committees on human settlements, comprising all members, in cases where such committees do not already exist". Further on, the same Section notes "... that the regional committees shall be responsible for the formulation of regional and subregional policies and programmes and for their implementation".

In pursuance of the General Assembly resolution quoted above, CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII), approved during CEPAL's Eighteenth Session,^{8/} noted that "... regional co-operation in the field of human settlements should be the subject of analysis and specific examination by committees especially established for the purpose at the CEPAL sessions", and urged "... the member Governments to send to the sessions of the Commission, or of the Committee which may deal with the subject, at least one expert in this field to provide the necessary technical support to their delegations."

The committee of experts established during the above-mentioned session constitutes an intermediate element in approving regional human settlements policy. (This committee, however, owing to its temporary nature and its lack of technical personnel, will not be in a position to prepare, and much less implement, regional human settlements programmes.

It is evident that activities of such a nature cannot be carried out by a temporary committee that meets for a few days every two years. Such a function requires a support unit that performs the functions of a committee technical secretariat, that is, a unit of the type referred to in resolution 32/162 in its recommendation that "... each regional committee should be served by a unit of the secretariat of the parent regional commission under

^{8/} Held in La Paz, Bolivia, in April 1979.

an executive officer, that these units should preferably be established as soon as possible and that they should be provided with the necessary resources for their operations". This resolution also indicates the functions of such units.^{2/}

As provided for in the General Assembly resolution, the resources required to establish a unit of this nature in CEPAL should consist of those available from the regular budgetary sources and those redeployed from those available to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Since the CEPAL Secretariat does not have regular budgetary resources that could be used for setting up a unit to support the Commission on Human Settlements, it will have to depend exclusively on redeployment of the Habitat Centre's resources, which has not yet been effected.

Notwithstanding whether the CEPAL Secretariat is or is not in a position to assist its Member States in human settlements questions - and in this respect it seems appropriate to examine several alternatives - it would appear suitable to consider the need for a unit or groups of technical units to provide support in this area.

Firstly, the preparation of regional programmes requires technical capacity to incorporate national political guidelines within an organic ensemble of projects. Such capacity is also essential for implementing and supervising regional programmes.

- 2/
- a) To serve the regional inter-governmental committees;
 - b) To review progress in the implementation of programmes within the region;
 - c) To promote the active collaboration of governmental representatives in activities related to human settlements;
 - d) To assist Governments of countries in the region in the formulation of their requests for assistance from the appropriate bilateral and multilateral bodies;
 - e) To establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with regional units of the specialized agencies;
 - f) To formulate, implement and supervise regional and subregional programmes and projects, especially regional training programmes; and
 - g) To execute regional human settlements projects.

/Secondly,

Secondly, regional programmes must necessarily be co-ordinated with those being carried out on a worldwide scale by the Habitat Centre and other international co-operation institutions. Such co-ordination implies negotiating capacity of a largely technical nature. For example, in the Habitat Centre's Working Plan for 1980-1981, the projects assigned specifically to the region do not fully correspond to the priorities noted by countries at the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL nor do they represent a volume of resources sufficient to cover present needs.^{10/}

Thirdly, the establishment and development of new activities, such as horizontal co-operation among the countries of the region, requires predominantly technical co-ordinating activities, which do not exist at the present time.

Fourthly, exchange with countries of other developing regions, with bilateral institutions and multilateral organizations also require the permanent attention of a technical body, specially if the auxiliary financial mechanisms referred to in Chapter II were to be established.

Lastly, only a technical secretariat will be able to assist countries properly, particularly as regards information and collaboration with respect to their needs for external co-operation.

^{10/} The resources specifically allocated to projects in Latin America and The Caribbean in the Habitat Centre's 1980-1981 Working Plan amount to a total of approximately 450,000 dollars for that period. This is less than half the resources contributed by CIDA and UNEP for regional projects carried out by CEPAL between 1977 and 1979.

Annex

RESOLUTIONS



32/162 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The General Assembly

Recalling relevant resolutions, in particular its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 13 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974.

Convinced of the need for urgent action to improve the quality of life of all people in human settlements.

Recognizing that such action is primarily the responsibility of Governments.

Conscious that human settlements problems represent a primary field of action in international co-operation, which should be strengthened in order that adequate solutions may be found, based on equity, justice and solidarity, especially among developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community should provide, both at the global and regional levels, encouragement and support to Governments determined to take effective action to ameliorate conditions, especially for the least advantaged, in rural and urban human settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements and the steps to be taken to improve them should be considered an essential component of socio-economic development.

Recalling the declarations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the recommendations of the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Conference of the International Women's Year, as well as the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, that establish the basis of the new international economic order,

Aware of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations System,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that new priorities should be identified and activities developed to reflect comprehensive and integrated approaches to the solution of human settlements problems,

Convinced that it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen promptly the capacity of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, with a view to improving human settlements,

Believing that:

- (a) The current level of resources available for development purposes, particularly for human settlements, is clearly inadequate,
- (b) The effective development of human settlements has been hindered by great disparities in socio-economic development within and between countries,
- (c) The establishment of a justa and equitable world economic order through necessary changes in areas of international trade, monetary systems, industrialization, the transfer of resources, the transfer of technology and the consumption of world resources is essential for socio-economic development and for the improvement of human settlements, particularly in developing countries.

I

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Considers that:

- (a) International co-operation in the field of human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development;
- (b) The fundamental object of international co-operation for development is to support national action and, therefore, programmes for such co-operation in the field of human settlements should be based on the policies and priorities established in the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements ^{1/};

^{1/} Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

(c) In seeking co-operation for development, States should give due priority to human settlements;

(d) Requests for development assistance should not be subject to discrimination on the part of the institutions to which these requests are addressed;

(e) Technical co-operation should be made available to countries requesting assistance in policy formulation, management and institutional improvement relating to human settlements;

(f) Technical co-operation should be made available to developing countries requesting assistance in education and training and applied research relating to human settlements;

(g) Financial and technical co-operation for development should be accorded to countries requesting assistance for, inter alia, projects in self-help and co-operative housing, integrated rural development, water and transportation;

(h) All Governments should give serious consideration to making contributions as soon as possible to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX), in order to expedite action programmes in the field of human settlements;

(i) Emerging concepts and priorities regarding human settlements in developing countries present new challenges to the policies and capability of development assistance agencies in donor countries and to international bodies; multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies should, therefore, respond effectively to requests for assistance in the field of human settlements and special attention should be paid to the needs of the least advantaged countries, particularly in the provision of long-term, low-interest mortgages and loans to facilitate the implementation of human settlements activities in the least developed countries that cannot fulfil existing terms and conditions.

(j) Information systems should be strengthened, where necessary, and better co-ordinated, and stronger links should be established at the regional level between human settlements and research institutions in different countries;

(k) Many international organizations carry out activities related to human settlements and specialized agencies and other appropriate bodies -in partic-

cular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and the World Health Organization- should consider seriously the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, with a view to implementing them in their respective fields of competence;

II

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. Decides that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building, and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements, which will have fifty-eight members to be elected for three-year terms on the following basis:
 - (a) Sixteen seats for African States;
 - (b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;
 - (c) Six seats for Eastern European States;
 - (d) Ten seats for Latin American States;
 - (e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;
2. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements will discharge, inter alia, the responsibilities at present exercised by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning;
3. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements will have the following main objectives:
 - (a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;
 - (b) To promote greater international co-operation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;
 - (c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements in all countries;
 - (d) To strengthen co-operation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions;
4. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements will have the following main functions and responsibilities:

- (a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements, as formulated in the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;
 - (b) To follow closely the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the over-all policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved;
 - (c) To study, in the context of the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;
 - (d) To give over-all policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
 - (e) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;
 - (f) To provide over-all direction to the secretariat of the Centres referred to in section III below;
 - (g) To review and provide guidance on the programme of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 31/113 of 16 December 1976;
5. Decides that the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements shall be held in the first half of 1978;
6. Decides that the reports of the Commission on Human Settlements will be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

III

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

1. Decides that a small and effective secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to service the Commission on Human Settlements and to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and the co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system, to be named "United Nations

Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", hereinafter referred to as "the Centre";

2. Decides that the Centre shall be headed by an Executive Director, at the level to be determined later, who shall report to the Secretary-General until such time as any relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System can be taken into account;

3. Decides that the Executive Director shall be responsible for the management of the Centre, which shall comprise the posts and budgetary resources of the following:

(a) The Centre for Housing, Building and Planning of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(b) The appropriate section of the Division of Economic and Social Programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme directly concerned with human settlements, with the exception of the posts required by that Programme to exercise its responsibilities for the environmental aspects and consequences of human settlements planning;

(c) The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(d) As appropriate, selected posts and associated resources from relevant parts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

4. Decides that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation shall be administered by the Executive Director referred to in paragraph 2 of the present section and shall have the terms of reference set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) with appropriate amendments, to reflect the new relationship to the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat;

5. Decides that the Centre, under the leadership of its Executive Director, shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To ensure the harmonization at the intersecretariat level of human settlements programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system;

(b) To assist the Commission on Human Settlements in co-ordinating human settlements activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness;

(c) To execute human settlements projects;

(d) To provide the focal point for a global exchange of information about human settlements;

- (e) To provide substantive support to the Commission on Human Settlements;
 - (f) To deal with interregional human settlements matters;
 - (g) To supplement the resources of the regions in formulating and implementing human settlements projects when so required;
 - (h) To promote collaboration with, and involvement of, the world scientific community concerned with human settlements;
 - (i) To establish and maintain a global directory of consultants, and advisers to supplement the skills available within the United Nations system and to assist in the recruitment of experts at the global level, including those available in developing countries;
 - (j) To initiate public information activities on human settlements in co-operation with the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat;
 - (k) To promote the further and continued use of audio-visual material relating to human settlements;
 - (l) To carry out the mandate and responsibilities previously assigned by the appropriate legislative bodies to the secretariat units to be absorbed in the central staff;
 - (m) To implement programmes until they are transferred to the regional organizations;
6. Decides that the Director of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements shall report to the Executive Director;
7. Decides that there should be close links between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme, and that for this reason the location of the Centre should be at Nairobi;
8. Decides that during the period 1978-1980 a significant portion of all posts in the Centre will be assigned to the regions for work on regional human settlements questions;

IV

ORGANIZATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

1. Recommends that the regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional intergovernmental committees on human settlements, comprising all members, in cases where such committees do not already exist;

2. Recommends that such regional committees should be established as soon as possible and should then co-ordinate their activities with those of the Commission on Human Settlements and report to it through the appropriate regional commissions;
3. Recommends that the responsibility for implementing regional and sub-regional programmes should be gradually transferred to regional organizations;
4. Recommends that each regional committee should be served by a unit of the secretariat of the parent regional commission under an executive officer, that these units should preferably be established as soon as possible and that they should be provided with the necessary resources for their operations;
5. Decides that the regional committees shall be responsible for the formulation of regional and subregional policies and programmes and for their implementation;
6. Recommends that the budgetary and personnel resources available to each regional secretariat unit should consist of those available from the regular budgetary resources and those redeployed from the aggregate posts available to the central secretariat, voluntary contributions, including those made to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as well as selected resources currently available to each region;
7. Recommends that the principal functions of the regional secretariat units should be:
 - (a) To serve the regional committees referred to in paragraph 1 of the present section;
 - (b) To review progress in the implementation of programmes with the regions;
 - (c) To promote the active collaboration of governmental representatives in activities related to human settlements;
 - (d) To assist Governments of countries in the region in the formulation of their requests for assistance from the appropriate bilateral and multilateral bodies;
 - (e) To establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with regional units of the specialized agencies;
 - (f) To formulate, implement and supervise regional and subregional programmes and projects, especially regional training programmes;

(g) To execute regional human settlements projects;

8. Recommends that the regional secretariat units, with the approval of the regional committees, should identify those national and regional institutions which are best able to provide services, training and assistance in research relating to human settlements.

V

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Decides that human settlements activities and programmes at both the global and regional levels shall deal in particular with the following subject areas:

- (a) Settlement policies and strategies;
- (b) Settlement planning;
- (c) Institutions and management;
- (d) Shelter, infrastructure and services;
- (e) Land;
- (f) Public participation;

2. Decides that the formulation of global programme priorities within these broad subject areas shall be undertaken by the Commission on Human Settlements and that of regional programme priorities by the regional committees on the basis of the needs and problems of the region and of the countries within the region;

3. Recommends that the following functions should be considered on a priority basis, in relation to the subject areas mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present section:

- (a) Identification of the problems and possible solutions;
- (b) Formulation and implementation of policies;
- (c) Education and training;
- (d) Identification, development and use of appropriate technology, as well as limitation of hazardous technology;
- (e) Exchange of information, including audio-visual information;
- (f) Implementation machinery;
- (g) Assistance in the mobilization of resources at the national and international levels;
- (h) Promotion of the establishment of an international information pool on building materials, plants and equipment;

VI

CONCERTED ACTION AND CO-ORDINATION

1. Urges, in particular, that the Executive Director of the Centre and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements should meet biannually with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council to review together their respective priorities and programmes for improving human settlements and to strengthen and extend co-operation between the two organizations;
2. Urges also that the Executive Director of the Centre and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme should participate in and address the annual meetings of their governing bodies;
3. Decides that there must be a sustained and determined effort, on the part of all organizations most closely connected with human settlements, at both the regional and global levels, to concert their planned programmes and projects;
4. Decides further that the existing mechanisms of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination must be strengthened to ensure that co-ordination in the field of human settlements is effective throughout the whole United Nations system;

VII

WORKING RELATIONS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Recommends that the Centre and the secretariats of the regional commissions should establish working relations, as regards the question of human settlements, with the principal financial institutions at the regional and global levels;
2. Recommends that special co-operation should exist at the global, regional and national levels between the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre;

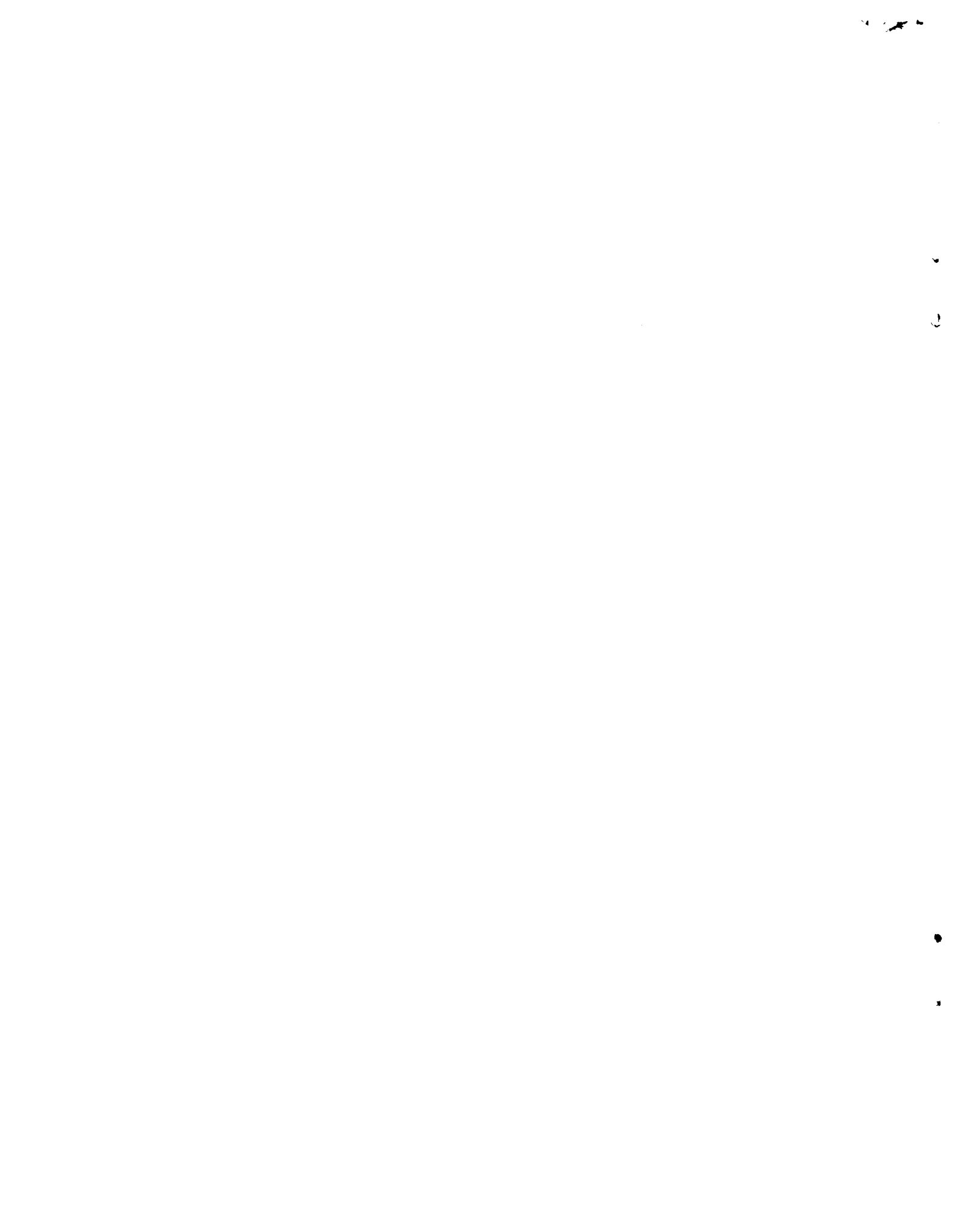
VIII

COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Recommends that, at the global and regional levels, co-operation should be sought with universities, research and scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations and voluntary groups, in order to make full use of their knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements; at the intergo-

vernmental level, this co-operation should be formalized and at the secretariat level it should be brought about by the establishment of appropriate working relations.

107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977



378 (XVII) REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Economic Commission for Latin America

Having in mind that the Caracas and Vancouver declarations on human settlements lay down the guidelines and criteria at the international and regional levels in this sphere, and that the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America on Human Settlements, held in Mexico, set guidelines for the implementation of the recommendations made in these declarations,

Recognizing that man and the improvement of the quality of life should be the central objectives of integral economic and social development, and that it is the responsibility of the Governments to prepare national plans and programmes to these ends,

Also recognizing that these policies must be linked and harmonized with the policies on, inter alia, industrialization, agriculture, employment, housing, population, education, health, recreation, social security and environmental and cultural preservation, since all these are indispensable elements of a broad development strategy,

Likewise recognizing the efforts being made by CEPAL in the implementation of projects in the field of human settlements,

Agree that the Latin American Economic System (SLEA) constitutes an important forum for regional consultation on the implementation of efforts in the sphere of international co-operation, and that CEPAL represents a valuable contribution towards realizing these efforts,

Taking into account the pressing need to put into practice a programme of work on research, information and training of human resources during 1977-1978, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements,

Seeing in mind the continual need to convene periodic regional meetings with the participation of the member countries of the region in order to evaluate the results of the programme of work so far implemented,

Recommendations:

1. That the activities aimed at the creation of a regional intergovernmental body on human settlements, in accordance with the provisions of resolution I on international co-operation programmes adopted by consensus at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, should be intensified,

2. That the secretariat of UNAH should carry out the programme of work given below, in accordance with the following order of priorities, in the period 1977-1979:

(a) Research

- Economic and social aspects of the human habitat in Latin America, especially in the rural and marginal urban environments.
- Popular participation in the organization and development of rural and urban communities as part of the institutional structure.
- Methodology of territorial planning applicable to strategies of social organization and decentralization of economic activity.
- Methodology for evaluating the environmental impact of economic and infrastructural projects on human settlements.
- Methodology for the organization and integrated development of rural and urban communities.

(b) Training

- Identification of the professional and technical human resources existing in the region and of the installed capacity of the professional training sector in this sphere.
- Identification and facilitation of access to an organization of seminars and courses oriented towards the requirements of socio-economic development for professionals and technicians connected with institutions which carry out programmes and/or activities in the sphere of human settlements.

(c) Information

- Systematization of the information available and preparation of a glossary for general information.

- Encouragement of the exchange of general and specialized information by the existing national services with a view to integration into a regional system of information on human settlements which may be established in the future;
3. That a regional conference, with the participation of the member countries of the region, should be convened at the beginning of 1979 in order to evaluate the programme of work described in paragraph 2 of this resolution;
4. That in the sphere of technical co-operation CEPAL should collaborate with SIDA in the preparation of policies and plans on human settlements, when States so request; in providing support to the action committees created in that field; in assisting national bodies in co-ordinating that cooperation among the countries of the region;
5. That the Secretariat should explore with the International co-operation bodies of the United Nations and of appropriate countries the possibility of obtaining funds for the implementation of the programme of work, including the programme on human settlements and integrated community development. Support should be requested from the United Nations World Bank Foundation and the United Nations Environment Fund in this connection;
6. That the Secretariat of CEPAL should submit to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly a report on the progress made in carrying out the programme of work and on the time-table for its implementation, including details of the financial resources needed for this purpose.

201st meeting

5 May 1977



407 (XVIII) REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162, and especially its provisions concerning organization at the regional level,

Taking into account the fact that the resolution recommends the establishment of intergovernmental regional committees and corresponding support units in each of the economic commissions,

Also taking into account the fact that, under that General Assembly resolution, such intergovernmental committees would be responsible for formulating and implementing regional and subregional policies and programmes,

Bearing in mind that the Regional Human Settlements Programme proposed by the member countries of the Commission at its eighteenth session lacks the resources required for its implementation,

Recognizing the interest of the member countries of the Commission in improving their human settlements, and the importance of international co-operation for that purpose,

Also recognizing the effort made by the secretariat to implement the regional human settlements programme in part, using extrabudgetary resources, and the importance of this type of resources in supplementing ordinary resources,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Latin America is the only commission which has no intergovernmental bodies dealing with human settlements, and that its secretariat has no administrative unit responsible for such activities,

Recognizing, finally, that the region requires as soon as possible institutional machinery to assure co-operation in this field both among the countries and between them and the international co-operation agencies,

1. Decides that regional co-operation in the field of human settlements should be the subject of analysis and specific examination by committees especially established for the purpose at the CEPAL sessions;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to study the financial implications of setting up an Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements, and the possibilities of financing it;

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3. Urges the member governments to send to the sessions of the Commission, or of the Committee which may deal with the subject, at least one expert in this field to provide the necessary technical support to their delegations.

29th Meeting
26 April 1979

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