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C E P A L

Economic Commission for Latin America

# REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

80-2-302

CONTENTS



/I. ATTENDANCE

# I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

## 1. Place and date of the meeting

1. The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements was held at the headquarters of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Mexico City, from 7-10 November 1979. It was convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL pursuant to CEPAL resolution 378 (XVII) adopted at the seventeenth session of the Commission (Guatemala, 25 April-5 May 1977) and CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII) adopted at the eighteenth session (La Paz, Bolivia, 18-26 April 1979).

## 2. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. Also represented at the meeting were the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of Public Information, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), the Pan American Centre for Human Ecology and Health, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (IPGH), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Comité de Acción sobre Viviendas y Edificaciones de Interés Social (CAVEIS) of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

4. Representatives of the following bodies attended as observers: World Association of Rural Housing, Centre for Third World Economic and Social Studies, Panamerican Federation of Architects' Associations, Latin American Information Network on Human Settlements and Inter-American Planning Society (SIAP).1/

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1/ See the list of participants in Annex 1.

/3. Opening

## 3. Opening meeting

5. The opening ceremony was held in the morning of 7 November 1979 in the Auditorium of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and was presided over by the President of the United States of Mexico, Mr. José López Portillo, who declared the meeting open. Prior to this statements were made by Dr. Gregorio Valner Orjas, Under-Secretary for Human Settlements of Mexico and Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL and Mr. Jorge Carballo Wedel, Minister of Housing and Human Settlements of Costa Rica, who spoke on behalf of the delegations taking part.2/

## 4. Election of Officers

6. The meeting of heads of delegations agreed to elect the following Officers, and this decision was endorsed by the plenary:

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|---|---|
| Chairman: | Gregorio Valner Orjas |
| First Vice-Chairman: | Jorge Carballo Wedel (Costa Rica) |
| Second Vice-chairman: | Leandro Quintana Uranga (Venezuela) |
| Third Vice-Chairman: | Nisia Agüero Benítez (Cuba) |
| Rapporteur: | Eduardo Koianec (Argentina) |

## 5. Agenda

7. At its opening meeting the Conference considered and adopted the following agenda:

1. Activities of CEPAL in the field of human settlements
   - (a) Policies regarding human settlements;
   - (b) Technology for human settlements.
2. International co-operation
   - (a) Fields of application of regional co-operation;
   - (b) New operational forms;
   - (c) United Nations co-operation at the world level;
   - (d) Regional and subregional co-operation.
3. Conclusions and recommendations.

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2/ In view of the substantive nature of these statements, they appear in the Summary of Debates (see paragraphs 13 to 25 of the report).

/6. Documentation

## 6. Documentation

8. Pursuant to the mandates stemming from the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission the secretariat prepared the documents listed in annex 2 of this report for the consideration of the participants at the Conference.

## 7. Organization of work

9. The meeting was conducted in four plenary sessions. In order to consider agenda item 2 the Chairman set up two working groups. The first of these was concerned with drawing up a declaration on the situation of human settlements in the region, and the second with considering the conclusions, recommendations and resolutions submitted by the delegations.

10. These two working groups completed their activities on 11 November 1979 and presented the results at the plenary meeting held that day.

## 8. Final report

11. The meeting of heads of delegations held on 7 November agreed, in view of the financial limitations faced by the secretariat as regards translation and other services, that the final version of the report of the meeting would not be completed during the meeting itself. It therefore decided, once the draft report was completed, to request the rapporteur to send it to the member countries for consideration, so that they could submit their amendments or changes to the CEPAL secretariat in Santiago, Chile, within the 30 days following the date of dispatch. The final version of the report, incorporating these amendments or changes, would be distributed to all the participants and other recipients of CEPAL documents.

## 9. Closing meeting

12. At the closing meeting Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Assistant Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, spoke on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Conference Secretariat; Mr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of Habitat, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and Mrs. Nisia Agüero spoke on behalf of the delegations

/taking part.

taking part. Dr. Gregorio Valner Orjas, Chairman of the Conference, closed the meeting, on behalf of Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, Secretary for Human Settlements and Public Works.3/

3/ A summary of these statements appears in the summary of debates (see paragraphs 59 to 62 of this report).

## II. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

### 1. Opening speeches

13. At the opening meeting, which was attended by the President of the United States of Mexico, Mr. José López Portillo, the first speaker was Dr. Gregorio Valner, Under-Secretary for Human Settlements of Mexico and Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements. After welcoming the participants, Dr. Valner expressed his hopes that in the course of the Conference practicable common answers could be found to the problems of human settlements, a task which would be facilitated by the similarity of situations in the region and the common aspirations of building up a healthier society. He mentioned the concern which had always existed in the United Nations as regards man and his habitat, and how the treatment of this topic had evolved in the course of the Organization's existence, mentioning as examples the various proposals formulated in different United Nations documents and meetings, particularly the conferences of Stockholm (1972) and Vancouver (1976), which constituted genuine landmarks in the course of this work. He laid particular stress on the fact that at the latter conference the use of the concept of human settlements was formalized from a standpoint which reflected the continuing interaction of the urban and rural environments, and also incorporated the concept of the quality of life of the population.

14. He went on to say that both at the world and regional level population was at a cross-roads vis-à-vis the problem of human settlements. Despite the recommendation of the United Nations General Assembly, Latin America still had no suitable machinery for co-ordinating joint action in the field of human settlements, despite the urgency of the various problems which those countries had to face in this sphere. These problems included the excessive spatial concentration of population and activities, population overflow and environmental pollution, and the indiscriminatory import of technologies for housing which took no account of the resources possessed by the countries, restricted the efficiency of the use made of them and fomented their deterioration. The largest sectors of the population had

/no access

no access to credit for housing since, generally speaking, the guarantees required were excessively high for them. All these problems would seem to make it necessary to restate the question of human settlements, a task in which collaboration and exchange among the Latin American countries was crucial.

15. Enlarging on the subject, he said that the development process generated a great migratory dynamic and disordered urban growth. He stressed the need for integral development which would take account of the numerous facets which had to evolve harmoniously. Urban development should neither precede nor follow socioeconomic development. Wealth was not sufficient to improve the quality of life of the population; a concept of urban development with specific characteristics must also be incorporated. It was incumbent on each country to establish its own policies in this regard, although this was not an obstacle to the existence of an action front in favour of the less developed nations.

16. Referring to the participation of Mexico in various international meetings on the topic, he mentioned the effort being made by this country to tackle the topic in the context of integral development. The National Planning System, covering various levels (national, State, municipal and local) constituted an instrumental axis in the context of integral development.

17. Lastly, he said that the urbanization process in Latin America had been different from that of the developed countries, and that this should be taken into account in stating the problems and adopting the necessary approach for analysing them. He stressed the problems of the development model, the identity of the countries themselves, and the bringing into line of the concepts of justice and freedom in human settlements. Paraphrasing the President of the United States of Mexico, Mr. José López Portillo, he said that the process of population change from rural to urban could not be avoided, but could be guided; it would therefore be necessary to contribute to avoiding suffering and achieving a fitting quality of life for millions of Latin Americans.

/18. The

18. The Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, began his statement by thanking the President of Mexico for the support given at all times to the United Nations Organization, and remarked on his special concern for the subject of human settlements. He stressed that this meeting was being held pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, and that its aim was to foment various forms of co-operation among the Latin American countries as regards human settlements and establish common positions in this respect in the international sphere.

19. He said that in the United Nations the stage of dealing with exclusively political topics had already been passed, and that of the analysis of economic and social problems reached, with the incorporation of new sets of topics dealing with the most urgent world problems. CEPAL for its part had directed its efforts towards analysing the speeding up of Latin American development. The productive forces of Latin America had experienced a driving force which had not been accompanied by appropriate social change: i.e., this was a primordial challenge for the future, which could be seen in various critical situations which the Latin American countries would have to face up to. The first of these was population growth and the spatial distribution of this population in the physical geography of the region, in terms of the territorial location of human settlements. Secondly, there was the employment situation: in 20 years a new Latin America would exist and it would be necessary to provide jobs for 230 million persons - a number unprecedented in the world. Lastly, the growth of human settlements and other similar problems on which the consequences of the above-mentioned social ambivalence had even greater repercussions would be equally unprecedente In these situations the direct influence could be seen of the unequal distribution of income, inadequate employment opportunities for the population, the lack of attention given to the marginal sectors, imported styles of living and the deterioration in the quality of life.

20. He went on to mention four areas considered to be of top priority in CEPAL's present activities in this field: (a) Trends and repercussions of metropolitanization in Latin America. In 1970, 55 million Latin Americans lived in urban areas; very soon more than a third of the population of Latin

/America would

America would be living in megalopolises. If appropriate policies were not implemented, numerous problems of a socioeconomic nature and of territorial management would arise as a result of the excessive concentration of industrial activity, with the consequent challenges which would not only be economic and social but also political. Another important problem which could already be glimpsed was energy, the use and wastage of which were due to a large extent to the urban style of life predominating in the developed countries; (b) Shanty towns. These showed alarming tendencies and involved unacceptable conditions of living and a rootless existence for their millions of inhabitants; (c) Cities showing explosive, spontaneous and accelerated growth, and lastly, (d) Situation of the rural sector, in which archaic forms of productive organization prevailed, and the advance of technical progress was slow, notably affecting the structure of distribution existing in such areas.

21. He went on to say that the problem of the urban and rural habitat was not an isolated one, but was closely linked with the overall economic and social problems; it should therefore form an integral part of economic and social development policies in the countries, which did not preclude the implementation of specific policies. He referred to the fact that the mere interplay of market forces did not resolve the problem of the human settlements because, to paraphrase Raúl Prebisch, the market lacked a social and temporal horizon. The solution of the problem of human settlements, further exacerbated by the excessive growth of the non-formal sectors of the population, also required the expansion of the democratic base of the political system, and an appreciable effort in developing appropriate technologies, this last being a matter to which CEPAL had been making some contribution.

22. Lastly, he stressed the basic importance of international co-operation in this field and the need to intensify co-operation within the region itself, in view of the experience already acquired. It was indispensable to organize channels for the communication and transfer of technical know-how.

/23. Mr. Jorge Carballo,

23. Mr. Jorge Carballo, Minister of Housing and Human Settlements of Costa Rica, defined human settlements as a spatial expression of natural and social phenomena, and said that they constituted the means by which the governments could identify and comprehend the scope of their political activity. In his opinion, the governments should act basically along two lines: the diagnosis of a real situation on which their work could centre, in the first place, and the government's own programmes in the national development plan, the maximum expression of policy at the global level.

24. As regards the Latin American countries, he said that a common denominator could be found in human settlements, as a result of their common historical heritage and future. He went on to speak of the urbanization of Latin America at the demographic, productive and spatial levels, observing that it was fundamental for each country to understand the particular forms of the urbanization process, and to have access to common data at the regional level so as to be able to guide the processes on the basis of an understanding of each real situation. An intensive analysis would be required of all these aspects so as to guide the integral development expressed in the concept of human settlements. Lastly, he stressed the importance of the conference, not only because of the exchange which it would produce, but also because of the growing emphasis which could begin to be given to the co-ordination of planning activities at the national level.

25. Declaring the meeting open, the President of the Republic of the United States of Mexico, Mr. José López Portillo, said: "The prision and the concentration camp are a negation of the fundamental value of our coexistence: freedom of movement and of settlement. The slum, the shanty town, the lack of services, are the ultimate expression of social injustice. To bring the fundamental freedom of movement and settlement into line with spatial justice is the basic challenge of organized development in a civilized community; for this reason I have particular pleasure, today 7 November 1979, in declaring open the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements, which will without doubt bring fundamental conclusions to the solution of the question of how to harmonize freedom and justice in space".

/2. Consideration

## 2. Consideration of items 1 and 2 of the agenda

26. The consideration of item 1 of the agenda began with a statement by the Co-ordinator of the Regional Human Settlements Programme, who summed up the present situation of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean, their origin, historical process and future trends; these topics are discussed in the documents: "The situation of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.2), "Human settlements in the development of Latin America" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.3), "Population, urbanization and human settlements in Latin America. Present situation and future trends (1950-2000)" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.4), "The process of human settlement in Latin America" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.5), "The material base of the habitat" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.6), "Policies on human settlements in Latin America" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.7), "Meaning and scope of technology in human settlements" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.8), and "Human settlements technology in Latin America" (E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.9).

27. At the request of several delegations it was agreed to extend the time scheduled for the discussion of item 1 of the agenda in view of the amount of documentation and the importance of the topics addressed.

28. One delegate expressed satisfaction at the work done by the CEPAL secretariat in carrying out the mandate contained in CEPAL resolution 378 (XVII). The documents submitted to the conference by the secretariat constituted an adequate base for any proposal for international co-operation and provided a real diagnosis of the situation of human settlements in Latin America. He proposed that once the necessary changes and the supplementary contributions which might arise out of the conference itself were incorporated, this material should subsequently be published by CEPAL.

29. He also said that the document E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.7 on human settlement policies in the region was an improvement on the descriptive and informative nature of previous documents. He mentioned the form in which the document dealt with the relation existing between the human settlement policies and global socioeconomic policies. Lastly, he stressed the work done by the CEPAL secretariat in technology and expressed his conviction that the continuation and even the extension of these tasks should be ensured.

/30. Another

30. Another representative said that the policies of decentralization should be defined in terms of the availability of resources in each country, and that investments in infrastructure and social equipment should be considered as basic instruments for the promotion of decentralization.

31. He also said that an inadequate use of resources from external sources of financing was due among other reasons to deficiencies in the management capacity of the national bodies responsible for implementing programmes in this respect; he said that the formation of human resources would be a determining factor in improving this capacity.

32. The representative of a non-Latin American member country referred to the experience of his nation in this respect and pointed out some of the similarities with Latin America as regards the problems of human settlements and the State aid offered for this purpose. Lastly, he mentioned his country's interest in exchanging experiences with the countries of the region.

33. A Latin American representative said that the documents prepared by the secretariat provided a valuable diagnosis of the region and showed up the need to situate the problems of human settlements in the broader context of socioeconomic development policies. He expressed satisfaction at the work of CEPAL in its programme on human settlements technology, particularly as regards information and training.

34. Another representative referred to the group of documents submitted to the participants for their consideration and expressed satisfaction at the fact that they constituted an excellent diagnosis of the situation of human settlements in the region, and at the same time clarified the nature of the different problems existing in the Latin American countries in this respect.

35. He stressed the need to build up integral planning machinery in terms of the definition of policies relating development to the process and characteristics of human settlements, with a view to raising the quality of life of their inhabitants. He also reported on how the system of human settlements tended to be structured in his country, mentioning different achievements and projects in this regard.

/36. He

36. He mentioned the need to go further in studies on the technology of human settlements, and stressed the importance of the activities carried out by the United Nations system with the aim of improving the quality of life of these settlements. Lastly, he urged delegates to deploy all necessary efforts to set up permanent consultative machinery which would enable regional co-operation in the field of human settlements to be promoted.

37. Another representative referred to the situation of his country and the gravity of the problems of human settlements, particularly as regards the capital city. He also mentioned the urgent need for technical and financial assistance to improve the social and environmental conditions of population centres.

38. Another delegate remarked on the high quality of the documents presented by the CEPAL secretariat and suggested the inclusion of the problems of human settlements in the broader context of the protection of the environment. He also suggested the need of recommending the formulation of regional policies for the protection of the environment, and mentioned the importance of atmospheric, water, sound and soil pollution in the main cities of Latin America.

39. A delegate gave a detailed account of the different characteristics of the current global socioeconomic situation of his country and mentioned the objectives pursued by the regional development and human settlement strategies. He went on to refer to the main obstacles to attaining the objectives contained in these strategies at the national level, and stressed the special difficulties his country had had to overcome in order to achieve a certain measure of decentralization, although this was covered by the Constitution. Lastly, he summed up the activities carried out by his country as regards human settlements in collaboration with CEPAL and various United Nations agencies.

40. A member of another delegation mentioned the serious effect of the different forms of growth of the cities and stressed the urgent need to stop the process of deterioration of the major cities, and rescue them for future generations. Lastly, he recommended the adoption of machinery

/and teaching

and teaching programmes on human settlements, suited to the real situation of the region and stressed the need to generate horizontal co-operation machinery for this purpose.

41. As regards the problem of migration to the cities and marginalization in urban areas, a member of a delegation recommended the pooling of efforts to strengthen the agricultural economy by means of an integrated development programme which would make it more attractive for the population to remain in rural areas, as well as a policy of economic and administrative decentralization aimed at alleviating the pressures on the major urban centres and consolidating the viability of the intermediate cities. He also referred to work done by the Instituto de Crédito Territorial in his country, and said that it could make use of international co-operation in some of its tasks in connexion with housing conditions.

42. Various representatives described the situations of their countries and the efforts which had been made. They also remarked on the importance of the work done by CEPAL in connexion with human settlements and recommended that it should continue to be expanded and dealt with in greater depth.

43. Some representatives stressed the important role which the Commission could play in developing regional and subregional systems and the urgent need to go ahead with organizing them. Lastly, they expressed satisfaction at the adequate treatment given in the documents to the contribution of the "informal" sector to solving the problems of housing and related services in the region.

44. A member of a delegation said that in his opinion the institutional forms of regional co-operation had been determined by the competent bodies and that it was now necessary to exchange ideas on the administrative and technical forms of implementing the agreements. He also mentioned the importance in this regard of obtaining financial resources.

45. Another representative expressed agreement with these proposals. He mentioned the importance of stressing the community of interests among the countries of the region as regards the problems of human settlements and referred to the high priority which the governments of the region gave to this topic. He also mentioned the importance of the work carried out in the field of international co-operation and suggested that it would be a

/good idea

good idea to continue and extend activities, particularly as regards research, training and information. He suggested that it would also be a good idea to integrate the activities carried out by CEPAL in this sphere into the machinery of Habitat, Centre for Human Settlements.

46. Lastly, he proposed that meetings of this Conference should be institutionalized in order to supplement the work entrusted to the special committees for human settlements which, pursuant to CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII) would function during the sessions of the Commission, and that a technical supporting group should be set up for these committees. He also mentioned the need to set up machinery for intergovernmental information, training and co-ordination.

47. Another representative expressed satisfaction at the content and quality of the documents submitted by the secretariat and agreed with the above comments.

48. Similarly, a delegate from another country taking part reiterated his satisfaction at the quality of the documents submitted by the secretariat for the consideration of the delegates. He mentioned the importance of guiding research towards the topics defined by the governments as being of top priority, and stressed the need to co-ordinate the national information networks for human settlements among themselves and with other networks on similar subjects.

49. He mentioned the urgent need of going ahead with speeding up training of human resources, in order to support the efforts being carried out in this respect and the implementation of activities which would permit the exchange of experiences. Lastly, he recommended the creation of a technical secretariat to support the work of the governments, and the periodic holding of regional conferences on human settlements.

50. Another delegate objected that the document E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.10 was only distributed on the eve of the meeting, and that he could not therefore present his government's position in this respect. He also pointed out that the Conference had no mandate to change the decision adopted in CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII) as regards the Commission's institutional machinery for dealing with the topic of human settlements.

/51. The

51. The representative of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), expressed the interest of this agency in matters concerning human settlements, and mentioned the different aspects in which the Fund had been collaborating with countries of the region, with CEPAL and with other agencies of the United Nations system. He also expressed the Fund's desire to continue to take an active part in the activities which might be undertaken in the future in this respect.

52. He went then to report that preparations had officially begun for holding a World Conference on the problems of managing cities of rapid growth; mayors of cities of more than 5 million inhabitants, experts on the subject and other participants would be invited to this conference which would be held at the end of 1980; the venue was still to be determined.

53. The representative of the OAS summed up some of the experiences of this body's Rural Development Programme and those obtained from its former Urban and Regional Development Programme as regards training for technical personnel in disciplines connected with human settlements. He also mentioned the desirability for agencies supplying technical assistance to make an effort to do so in the same countries.

54. The representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) referred to the close link between rural development, internal and external migrations and the quality of human settlements; for this reason collaboration in settlement activities would be incumbent on this agency.

55. Lastly, the representative of the Inter-American Planning Society (SIAP) referred to the work of this Society in training human resources and providing technical assistance for shanty towns. He mentioned the courses promoted by the Society since 1976 for bringing knowledge up to date, and the support it gave to various working groups which were carrying out studies and research, and the interregional Africa-Latin America seminar on precarious human settlements. He included a report on the recent programme of technical assistance implemented by the Society in Nicaragua.

/3. Adoption

### 3. Adoption of resolutions

56. The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements adopted four resolutions, the text of which is given in Part III of this report. In considering the draft resolutions some delegations left their observations on record.

57. As regards resolution 1, Declaration on Human Settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean, on taking part in the consensus of this declaration the representative of Brazil, observed that so as to avoid the proliferation of bodies, his government understood that the organization mentioned in operational paragraph 2 was the regional organization already in existence, i.e., CEPAL. The representative of Mexico wished to leave on record his opinion that the words "within CEPAL" should be added at the end of this operational paragraph.

58. As regards resolution 3, Ecology of Human Settlements, on taking part in the consensus on this resolution the representative of Brazil maintained the position upheld by Brazil in the forums on the environment, particularly the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, in 1972. His government considered that the principles listed in the draft were basic guidelines which could be adopted only where possible.

### 4. Closing statements

59. At the closing session Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Assistant Secretary of the Commission, spoke on behalf of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL. He thanked the Government of Mexico and the Chairman of the Conference and stressed the importance of the recommendations and mandates received by CEPAL from the governments in this area, which obliged the secretariat to continue actively with its work and implement the tasks specifically entrusted to it, with the support of Habitat, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations agencies concerned with the environment.

60. Mr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of the United Nations Habitat Centre, expressed his pleasure at the fact that this Conference had revitalized the spirit of the Vancouver Conference, and stressed the importance of the topic of human settlements, consideration of which was an interdisciplinary matter. He explained to the delegates the scope and objectives of the third

/session of

session of the Commission on Human Settlements to be held next year in Mexico and also referred to the tasks undertaken in recent years by the Centre. Lastly, he referred to the need of implementing General Assembly resolution 32/162 in the region.

61. Mrs. Nisia Agüero, delegate of Cuba spoke on behalf of the delegations taking part. After thanking the government and people of Mexico, recalling the words of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, she stressed that habitat was not an isolated problem but part of a broader concept of integral development. She urged that the agreements and resolutions of the Conference should be implemented soon and that the regional decentralization of Habitat, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, requested by the delegations present, should become effective.

62. On behalf of Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, Secretary for Human Settlements and Public Works, the Chairman, Dr. Gregorio Valner, closed the Conference. He conveyed the satisfaction of the Mexican Government at having acted as host country in a conference of such importance and mentioned Mexico's desire to put before its sister countries its experiences in the work it had done on human settlements. Lastly, he invited the delegations to take part in the third session of the Commission on Human Settlements, contributing the solidarity of their experience to common problems.

## III. RESOLUTIONS

63. The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements adopted four resolutions, the text of which is given below.

### 1. DECLARATION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering that in the Latin American region human settlements constitute a reality linked to a shared historical process, and are an element of economic and social development, that in this process, the settlement does not precede the integral development of society nor is a consequence of it, but is an essential part of it,

That the settlement has been characterized, particularly in recent decades, by a substantial concentration of population, activities and resources in urban areas, and most particularly in the great metropolises; that together with this characteristic a marked scattering of the population has been observed in rural areas, accompanied by an almost total absence of infrastructure and basic services; that where investments have been concentrated, characteristic forms of population concentration are observed and manifested in explosive urban growth rates which give rise to unacceptable living conditions; and, lastly, that it is characteristic of the region that a great part of human settlement arises out of precarious forms of occupation, organization and management of the land,

That these characteristics show notable differences compared with other regions of the world, particularly as regards the intensity of the rate of growth of the population and its concentration in cities, originating to a large extent in the continuous flight from the land, which simultaneously produces a quantitative and a qualitative reduction in the population of those areas; that, moreover, the geographical and ecological realities of Latin America and the Caribbean together represent a differential factor of importance particularly in comparison with developed countries,

/That their

That their historical, cultural and political community links the countries of the region more closely than any other group of nations,

That the limited number of options open to the countries of the region for solving their human settlement problems brings them together in the future too in that they are facing a common challenge; thus, the solidarity of the past is projected as a need for the future,

That the dynamism characteristic of the settlement process of the region confers on it an inevitable sense of urgency: more than 200 million new urban inhabitants will be incorporated into the cities of Latin America in the remainder of the century, equivalent to the creation of a new settlement of 10 million inhabitants each year; that, if present trends continue, the population will continue to be concentrated in great metropolises in proportions of up to 60% of the urban population and more than one-third of the total population of the region, and that of this percentage, more than half will be settled under precarious conditions, if no change takes place in present socioeconomic structures,

That the present situation offers a singular opportunity for taking efficient action on the socioeconomic and the material structures; that at the present time, when the bases on which the future society of the region will be settled are being reconstructed, the words of the President of Mexico on opening this Conference should be recalled: "To bring the fundamental freedom of movement and settlement into line with spatial justice is the basic challenge of organized development in a civilized community",

That the meetings of Caracas in 1975, Vancouver in 1976, Mexico in 1976, Guatemala in 1977, Mexico in 1978 and La Paz in 1979 constitute a sequence in which the Latin American countries reiterated their concern for and condemnation of socially intolerable situations in human settlements; that it is necessary to go beyond the declarations and the good intentions and act in a decided form in order to apply the agreements and recommendations on which a broad consensus already exists,

<u>The countries meeting at the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements declare:</u>

1. That for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries, the human settlement constitutes a top priority field of action subordinated

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to the need to build up a new international economic order which is in its turn a definitive step in the struggle for the claims of the developing countries;

2. That, recognizing national sovereignty, and in support of and supplementing national human settlement policies, the Latin American countries should adopt a regional co-operation policy and formulate and implement joint programmes, the responsibility for which should be in the hands of a regional organization;

3. That the third meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements should take account of this regional position when it outlines the policy of Habitat, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

## 2. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 32/162 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; also recommends that such regional committees should be established as soon as possible and then co-ordinate their activities with those of the Commission on Human Settlements and report to it through the appropriate regional commissions,

Taking into account that the same resolution recommends that each regional committee should be served by a unit of the secretariat of the parent regional commission under an executive officer; these units should preferably be established as soon as possible and should be provided with the necessary resources for their operations,

Recognizing that this resolution decides that the regional committees shall be responsible for the formulation of regional and subregional policies and programmes and for their implementation,

Taking into account that the Commission on Human Settlements, at its first session, recalled the decision of resolution 32/162, with regard to the regional commissions considering the possibility of establishing regional committees on human settlements as soon as possible,

Also taking into account that at the second meeting of the Commission on Human Settlements held in Nairobi from 26 March to 6 April 1979 the activities carried out in this connexion by the Economic Commission for Latin America were recognized, and stress again laid on the need to decentralize action in this regard,

Bearing in mind that other regions of the world have already established regional committees on human settlements and channel their activities in this field through them,

Considering that CEPAL, at its eighteenth session (La Paz, 18-26 April 1979), reviewed the recommendations formulated in resolution 32/162 and decided to establish special committees on human settlements at the sessions

/of the

of the Commission, since for different reasons it was not possible at that moment to set up the regional commission on human settlements,1/

Also considering that at this session CEPAL requested the Executive Secretary to study the financial implications of setting up an intergovernmental committee on human settlements,1/

Considering that in this regard the Latin American and Caribbean region presents some problems of greater gravity compared with other regions, and as yet does not have sufficient resources to deal with these problems,

Lastly considering that it would be desirable to know how far the recommendations which emerged from Habitat, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, May-June 1976), have been implemented, and the difficulties which may have arisen in their implementation and to stimulate such activities as are being carried out satisfactorily,

1. Requests the Executive Secretariat of CEPAL:

(a) To set up an Administrative Unit on Human Settlements in the CEPAL secretariat, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

(b) To take steps to secure the extension of the time for the implementation and expansion of the Regional Human Settlements Programme defined in resolution 378 (XVII) adopted in Guatemala in 1977;

(c) To support the information systems already established in the Latin American region, improving the channels of communication and urging those countries which are not yet participants in this system to become part of it so as to guarantee the registration and exchange of knowledge and experiences;

(d) To promote the creation of subregional centres and the strengthening of those already existing, both at the government and the non-governmental levels, for the training and use of human resources at all levels in the field of human settlements;

(e) To take the necessary steps to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

(f) To convene during the first six months of 1980 the special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL anticipated in paragraphs 323 and 324

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1/ See CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII).

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of the report of the eighteenth session of the Commission (La Paz, 18-26 April 1979) 2/ so as to consider the reorganization of the structure of CEPAL and its auxiliary organs in general; on this occasion the problem of the machinery responsible for dealing with the topic of human settlements should be reviewed according to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/162, and taking into consideration the region's convenience;

(g) To submit, on the occasion of the meeting referred to in the last paragraph, a report on the financial rerpecussions of the creation of a committee under the terms of paragraph 2 of CEPAL resolution 407 (XVIII);

(h) To request the governments of the member countries to report on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976, and the difficulties which may have been faced in putting them into practice, so that the CEPAL secretariat can submit a report on the extent to which they have been implemented at the next meeting of the Commission at which the topic is discussed;

2. Requests the Executive Director of Habitat: Centre for Human Settlements:

(a) To implement resolution 32/162 as regards the transfer of resources, particularly for the establishment of the administrative unit mentioned in paragraph 1 (a) of this resolution;

(b) To co-ordinate with CEPAL the implementation of the Work Programme 1980-1981, so as to permit the implementation of the Regional Human Settlements Programme;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide maximum collaboration and financial support in implementing this resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure:

(a) the strict implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/162, particularly the provisions establishing regional autonomy as regards decision and control of regional policies and projects on human settlements;

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2/ Document E/CEPAL/1083/Rev.1

/(b) the

(b) the transfer of resources from the regular budget of United Nations to CEPAL for the purpose of implementing these resolutions;

5. Entrusts the Latin American and Caribbean countries members of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements with representing the countries of the region at the third meeting of this Commission, seeking to implement the recommendations and resolutions adopted at this Conference.

## 3. ECOLOGY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering that human settlements constitute a concrete complex problem, the essence of which does not come down to the specific technique of town planning or architecture but is part of a series of problems with deep-rooted social and environmental implications, and that not only the material and spiritual self-realization of mankind is at stake but also the conservation of the environment, the vital milieu for such settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements should therefore be considered to belong to a socioeconomic and environmental group of problems as a specific part of the far greater problem stemming from the population question in general, which, approached from the environmental standpoint, requires a study of the global impact of man on the environment,

Taking account of the fact that this is a complex problem which requires a multidisciplinary approach and that therefore any human settlements policy should be part not only of a demographic but of a global environmental policy, covering the above-mentioned technical, social, economic and environmental aspects,

Bearing in mind the environmental declarations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, and the repeated references to the environment made at the different sessions of the Governing Council of UNFPA, and in Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver,

1. Declares:

(a) that from the point of view of the necessary and inevitable relations between human settlements and environment, the following general principles constitute, inter alia, basic guidelines suited to a human settlements policy integrated into a global environmental policy, tending to minimize the inevitable repercussions of the former on the latter;

(b) that the establishment, extension or restructuring of human settlements should as far as possible be carried out and organized so as to:

/(i) cause

(i) cause a minimum of adverse effects on the ecosystem in which they evolve and on its normal functioning;

(ii) take place in areas of the ecosystems which do not possess great biological wealth or constitute terrain suited to agricultural production;

(iii) be distributed in the national territory in such a way as to be integrated into the economic circuit with the least possible effort, or so as to constitute self-sufficient economic units in minimum satisfactory conditions for people's spiritual and material life;

(iv) be maintained at a level of quantitative concentration which will permit an optimum or at least a tolerable balance between the principle of the economy of fertile land and that of people's full spiritual and material self-realization;

(v) be regulated in their different functional, especially industrial, aspects, so that these activities do not pollute or cause unnecessary deterioration in the ecosystem in which they are established;

2. Recommends that, in order to achieve these and other supplementary aims, those countries which do not as yet possess clearly-defined policies and their respective legislation for national environmental protection should adopt them as soon as possible.

## 4. FORMATION OF A SUBREGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE TRAINING OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Latin American Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering that the most urgent tasks of national reconstruction have considerably increased Nicaragua's needs for high and middle-level professional personnel,

Taking into account this country's urgent need to obtain assistance from abroad,

Also taking into account that Nicaragua shares ecological and socioeconomic conditions similar to those of other countries in Central America and the Caribbean,

Also considering the importance given by international co-operation to the training of human resources in this field,

Recommends:

1. That the Executive Secretary of CEPAL should consider the setting-up in Nicaragua of a subregional centre for training and technical co-operation in human settlements;

2. That the Executive Direction of Habitat, Centre for Human Settlements should co-operate with such resources as he can offer for setting-up the proposed subregional centre, and that the multilateral regional and subregional co-operation bodies and the member countries of CEPAL should also co-operate in setting up this centre;

3. That while the subregional centre referred to above is being set up, CEPAL and the Habitat Centre should offer assistance in training the higher and middle-ranking cadres urgently required by the country.

/Annex 1

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. States members of the Commission

ARGENTINA

Representative: Eduardo Koianec, Coordinador Dirección Nacional de Planeamiento Urbano, SEDUV

Member of delegation: Marta Balderiote

BRAZIL

Representative: Lauro Escorel R. de Moras, Ambassador of Brazil in Mexico

Members of delegation: Luiz Henrique Fonseca, Cesario Melantorio Neto

CANADA

Representative: S.C.H. Nutting, Ministerial Adviser to the Canadian Embassy

Members of delegation: Suzanne Sevigny, Linda Cronin

COLOMBIA

Representative: Mario Ortiz Ayala

COSTA RICA

Representative: Jorge Carballo Wedell, Ministro de Gobierno, Encargado de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos

Members of delegation: Víctor Bonesana, Hilda D. de Creco, José S. Delcore, Juan Francisco Montealegre Martín, Carlos Marcelo Sankilevich

CUBA

Representative: Nisia Agüero Benítez, Directora Centro de Estudios y Centro de Desarrollo de la Vivienda

Member of delegation: Aracelis Mastrapa Melero

ECUADOR

Representative: José R. Martínez Cobo, Ambassador of Ecuador in Mexico

Member of delegation: Ramiro Dávila

SPAIN

Representative: José Luis López-Schummer, Vicepresidente del Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana

Members of delegation: Ignacio Gálvez, Hilario Domínguez, José Manuel López-Barrón, Juan Jesús Trapero

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representative: Frederik Hansen, Deputy Director Housing Bureau, IDA

Member of delegation: Robert H. Wilcox

FRANCE

Representative: Jacques Dupaigne

Member of delegation: Frédéric Basaguren

GUATEMALA

Representative: Antonio León González, Jefe del Departamento de Vivienda

Members of delegation: Marta Pilón de Pacheco, Pablo Aguilar Flores, Oswaldo Rodríguez Cabrera

HONDURAS

Representative: Armando Blanco Paniagua

Member of delegation: Antonio N. Kawas Kawas

JAMAICA

Representative: R.G. Sterling, Special Assistant to the Minister of Housing

MEXICO

Representative: Gregorio Valner Orjas, Subsecretario de Asentamientos Humanos

Members of delegation: Luis Sánchez de Carmona, Oscar López Velarde Vega, Jorge Alfonso Fuentes

NICARAGUA

Representative: Roberto Lacayo Gabuardi, Viceministro Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos

Member of delegation: Mario Barahona Solís

NETHERLANDS

Observer: R.A.R. L'Ami

PANAMA

Representative: Belisario A. Rodríguez C.

PARAGUAY

Representative: María Erna Talavera de Lanz

URUGUAY

Representative: Juan B. Oddone, Ministro del Servicio Exterior, Embajada del Uruguay

VENEZUELA

Representative: Leandro Quintana Uranga, Presidente del Instituto Nacional de la Vivienda

Members of delegation: Salvano Briceño Matute, Armando Rodríguez García, Gustavo Garaicoechea

2. United Nations agencies

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

Graciela E. Duce

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Liliana Kusnir

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Tulio de Andrea
André Faust

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Danilo Jiménez Vega

### 3. Specialized agencies

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Francisco V. Escobar

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Arturo de la Guardia

World Health Organization (WHO); Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)

Alejandro Sotelo
Thomas S. Schorr

World Bank

Mario Francisco Rothschild

### 4. Intergovernmental organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)

Roberto Pineda Giraldo

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Raúl Santin González

Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (IPGH)

Rafael Moranch
Mauricio Aceves

Action Committee on Public Housing and Building (CAVEIS) of the Latin American Economic System (SELA)

Manuel Grubel

World Association of Rural Housing

Arturo R. Ortíz

### 5. Non-governmental organizations

Centre for Third World Economic and Social Studies (CEESTM)

Julio A. Cortés Holz
David Becerril Morales
Yves Carannes

Pan American Federation of Architects' Associations

Víctor Hugo Reynoso Sotelo

Latin American Information Network on Human Settlements (LATINAH)

Arturo Robledo

Inter-American Planning Society (SIAP)

Luis E. Carvacho Murcia

Visión Hábitat

Edmundo Palacios

6. Special guest

Dr. Mateo J. Magariños de Mello

/Annex 2

Annex 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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| E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.3 | Human settlements in the development of Latin America |
| E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.4 | Population, urbanization and human settlements in Latin America. Present situation and future trends (1950-2000) |
| E/CEPAL/CONF.70/L.5 | 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.7 | Policies on human settlements in Latin America |
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