

(d) To identify, through the programmatic approach, emerging environmental problems and to propose solutions;

(e) To manage a separate environment fund as an integral part of the programmatic process;

(f) To advocate and articulate the interdependence of environment and development;

(g) To respond to the environmental problems of both developed and developing countries;

(h) To respond to the environmental problems of human settlements, which are an integral part of the human environment;

3. *Decides* to maintain at this stage the present arrangements, without prejudice to any decision the General Assembly might take as regards the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/113. Specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in its recommendations A.4, B.3, B.12, C.4, C.14, C.15 and E.4, called for specific measures to be taken to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society,³³

Considering that human settlement policies are inseparable from the goals of the social and economic sectors, and that consequently solutions to the problems of such settlements must be conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community,

1. *Requests* Member States and the Secretary-General, when planning the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to bear in mind the measures that protect the decent living environment of the most vulnerable social groups, such as children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped, so that they may live in an environment which is equally accessible to all individuals;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the measures taken and the results obtained.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/114. Collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations with regard to world-wide intercommunal co-operation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the results of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Aware of the importance and global nature of the phenomenon of urbanization,

Noting that uncontrolled urbanization is one of the causes of the deterioration in living conditions in human settlements,

Stressing the need for harmonization of intergovernmental action and intercommunal action with regard to human settlements,

Recognizing the role that the competent non-governmental organizations can play in solving the problems facing local communities,

Noting that non-governmental organizations such as the United Towns Organization and the International Union of Local Authorities, which are in consultative status, in category I, with the Economic and Social Council, have offered their collaboration with the United Nations in the field of human settlements,

Recalling its resolution 2861 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 concerning world-wide intercommunal co-operation, which stressed the role played in that sphere by the United Towns Organization,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1738 (LIV) of 4 May 1973 on international co-operation between municipalities,

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that the international bodies responsible for implementing the relevant recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements:

(a) Study the specific possibilities and effective conditions for collaboration between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned;

(b) Draw up with those organizations programmes of collaboration;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session on the evolution of those programmes.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/115. United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Noting resolution 5 of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements on post-Conference use of audio-visual material,³⁴

Expressing its appreciation for the support and assistance in preparing the audio-visual material for the Conference provided by national and international organizations, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme,

Convinced that the audio-visual and related material prepared for the Conference constitutes an information resource of continuing value for the effective implementation of recommendations for national action, programmes for international co-operation and the realization of goals in the field of human settlements established by the Conference,

Recognizing that prompt and effective utilization of the information resource created for the Conference is

³³ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

essential if maximum benefit is to be derived from the considerable investment in that resource, particularly its audio-visual component,

Bearing in mind the possibility of evolving regional audio-visual centres associated with regional arrangements for training, education, research and information exchange,

Expressing its appreciation also for the undertaking by Canadian authorities regarding the post-Conference use and dissemination of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference,

1. *Decides* to establish a United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements;

2. *Invites* all participants in Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to transfer, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General or his designated agents the internegatives and international copyright of their audio-visual material prepared for and made available to the Conference, including material prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Invites* Governments of Member States, as an important part of a programme for augmenting the audio-visual material on human settlements, to make available to the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements new or enriched audio-visual presentations prepared for their programmes of national action;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the appropriate Canadian authorities for the latter to provide the facilities and financial support to the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements to carry out the Centre's responsibilities for the custody, reproduction and international distribution, for the period up to March 1980, of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference, to ensure the widest possible use of the material by Governments and interested bodies, and calls for a review of the agreement in 1979.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/116. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,³⁵ in particular the annex to Conference resolution 1 on programmes for international co-operation,³⁶

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2040 (LXI) of 5 August 1976,

Recognizing that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System is considering proposals that would have implications for institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

Considering that the most appropriate and effective action for dealing with human settlements problems is

action at the national level, but that action is also required at the regional and global levels with a view to improving the quality of life for all peoples, particularly in the developing countries,

Recognizing also that the momentum of the Conference must be maintained through further action and decisions within the United Nations system,

Considering also that co-operation in the field of human settlements is one of the important means of fostering the goals of over-all social and economic development,

Taking into account that further consideration is required with respect to definitive institutional arrangements for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

I

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. *Takes into account* the paragraphs agreed to by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as contained in the preamble and in sections I to IX of the annex to Conference resolution 1, with due respect to the foot-note to section X of that annex;

2. *Decides* to defer until its thirty-second session the decision on the type of definitive intergovernmental body for human settlements and on the organizational link and location of the human settlements secretariat, when the guidelines from the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System will be in hand, the financial implications of alternative institutional arrangements will be worked out and studied in greater depth, and the regional consultations will have been completed;

II

INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to make available to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session any conclusions it has reached in the light of its over-all responsibilities which might have implications for institutional arrangements for human settlements;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to devote the necessary time at the outset of its sixty-third session to the examination of the developments in human settlements and the follow-up to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements;

3. *Recommends* that those meetings of the Economic and Social Council should be at the expert or highest appropriate level and with the active participation of all interested delegations and that the Council at its organizational session for 1977 should arrange the necessary modalities to this end;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, as part of its agenda, to consider the report of the Secretary-General referred to in section III, paragraph 1 below, together with the views of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and of the regional commissions, with a view to taking action on the recommendations of the Conference regarding institutional arrangements, bearing in mind the terms of reference contained in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the annex to Conference resolution 1;

³⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. III.