

38/168. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General⁹⁴ concerning measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 1983/169 of 25 July 1983,

Convinced that special efforts need to be made by States and the international community in order to reverse the chronic deterioration in shelter and living conditions suffered by the majority of the poor in urban and rural settlements, especially in developing countries,

Convinced also that national programmes and demonstration projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should be launched as soon as possible, since most of the action and resources for the Year will be required at the national and local levels,

Noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions and pledges that Governments have so far made for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

1. Welcomes and endorses the overall plans for activities before, during and after the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the priorities for national and international action during 1983-1984 contained in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)⁹⁵ to the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixth session;

2. Calls upon all Governments, especially those of developing countries, to give renewed political commitment and priority to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and to allocate the necessary resources to meet the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

3. Endorses the proposals contained in the annex to the present resolution on national action needed before April 1984 in order to launch the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless quickly and effectively;

4. Urges all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other interested intergovernmental, non-governmental and national organizations to make special efforts through existing and new programmes, including those aimed at involving public-opinion leaders and large groups of the population, to help achieve the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

5. Appeals to all Governments, especially those of developed countries and others in a position to do so, and to international financial institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide effective financial and other support for the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

*102nd plenary meeting
19 December 1983*

ANNEX

National action needed before April 1984 for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

1. Most of the action and resources for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless will be required at the national and local levels. The

programme for the Year must be launched quickly and effectively, so that most of the demonstration projects can be completed, or be at a stage where results can be evaluated, by late 1986.

2. The following national action should be undertaken by countries before the seventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements, to be held in April 1984

(a) Establish national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

(b) Assess the existing situation and future needs;

(c) Begin implementation of demonstration projects for the Year.

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

3. All interested countries should designate, as soon as possible, a national focal point for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Although there should be a specific person as a contact point, the national focal point could be an existing agency or a new unit or national committee, including representatives of relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations, specifically established to stimulate and co-ordinate national and local action.

4. Although the functions of national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless will vary from country to country, they could include:

(a) Receiving, producing and exchanging information on the programme and plans for the Year, on relevant activities in other countries and other programme support information;

(b) Developing a national strategy and programme for the Year, including the identification and selection of appropriate demonstration projects;

(c) Encouraging close working relationships with and among non-governmental and community organizations on their projects, plans and possibilities relevant to the Year;

(d) Stimulating and co-ordinating local and national activities and projects for the Year;

(e) Organizing relevant meetings, seminars and training courses;

(f) Reporting periodically on the progress and achievements of activities and projects for the Year in the particular country.

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING SITUATION AND FUTURE NEEDS

5. In launching a national programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and before the actual selection of specific demonstration projects, countries should undertake at least a preliminary assessment of the existing situation, taking into account the following questions:

(a) What are the size, distribution and characteristics of the target group in quantitative (for example, those below the poverty line in urban and rural areas) and qualitative terms (for example, access to drinking water, sanitation services, transportation, food, education, energy)?

(b) What previous and existing programmes, or parts of programmes, have successfully provided affordable improvements in the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor, and how can they best be extended? Why have other programmes failed to do so?

(c) What national and local resources (money, land, labour, materials) are available and needed to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the target group? Are there obstacles to the full use of local resources?

(d) What changes are needed in existing programmes, policies and legal, institutional and financing arrangements in order to accelerate the provision of affordable shelter for the poor?

(e) What, based on the answers to the above questions, are the priorities within the national programme for demonstration projects during the Year?

C. BEGINNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

6. Demonstration projects for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should test and demonstrate new approaches to basic problems in urban and rural areas, such as providing or improving shelter; providing an improved drinking water supply, sanitation and waste disposal; generating jobs in the formal or informal construction sector; improving environmental and health conditions and services; upgrading infrastructure and services for the poor, including roads, public transportation, energy, and medical, social, educational and recreational facilities; and providing low-cost building techniques and materials, especially through more widespread use of indigenous methods, skills and construction materials.

⁹⁴ A/38/233-E/1983/74 and Corr.1.

⁹⁵ HS/C.6.4.

7. In addition to projects of a physical character, the national programme and project for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should include the review and strengthening of policy, legislative, organizational and financial measures to assist the poor in improving their shelter and neighbourhoods. Areas of special concern might be legislation on land and tenure; building codes and regulations; financing, including credit and loans for shelter for the poor; and institutional arrangements within and between national and local authorities.

8. In order to meet the objectives for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, countries should take the following guidelines into account in the design, selection, implementation and monitoring of demonstration projects for the Year:

(a) Projects must explore, test and demonstrate existing or new ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged, particularly those below the poverty line in urban and rural settlements;

(b) Projects must contribute to or result in a clear and visible improvement in the shelter or neighbourhoods of at least some of the poor and disadvantaged before 1987;

(c) Projects must be replicable, in order for them to reach many more of the poor and disadvantaged, leading to affordable improvements for many rather than major improvements for a few;

(d) Projects must seek a practical balance between what is desirable (in terms, for example, of basic health requirements and structural safety), attainable (technically and administratively, and using local skills, methods and materials), and affordable by the poor themselves and the nation as a whole.

D. PROGRESS REPORT

9. In order that all countries may be informed on the existing situation, priority concerns and activities and plans for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in other countries, prior to the seventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements, in April 1984, the national focal points for the Year should submit to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):

(a) A brief overview (maximum two pages in length) of their national plans, priorities and activities for the Year, including information responding to the questions in paragraph 5 above;

(b) A one-page summary for each of the national demonstration projects for the Year launched to date, using a common format to be prepared by the Centre.

38/169. Immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation.

Recalling also its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling further its resolution 36/193 of 17 December 1981, in which it endorsed the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy⁹⁶ and, in particular, its resolution 37/250 of 21 December 1982 on the immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Convinced of the importance of developing new and renewable sources of energy in order to contribute to meeting the requirements for continued economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries,

through, *inter alia*, the transition from the present international economy based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy.

Reaffirming that, while the primary responsibility for promoting the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy rests with individual countries, international co-operation is indispensable and should be directed to assisting and supporting the national efforts of developing countries, that developed countries should play a special role in contributing actively to this end and that other countries in a position to do so should also continue to promote efforts in this regard.

Aware that the present world energy situation should not reverse or halt the efforts of the international community to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Recognizing the need to take urgent and concerted measures for the mobilization of additional and adequate resources necessary for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Recalling that specialized intergovernmental organizations and institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy are invited to extend their co-operation in order to strengthen the co-operative action of the international community and to ensure that further resources are made available for the development of new and renewable sources of energy, that national public and private entities in interested countries, as appropriate, have a role to play and that, in certain countries, non-governmental entities will also have a significant role to play.

Recognizing also that the United Nations system has initiated the necessary steps towards its full participation in and support of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and that it is imperative to increase the responsiveness of the system in this respect, through, *inter alia*, the provision of additional and adequate resources and increased co-ordination of the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

Emphasizing the importance of the subregional, regional and interregional efforts for implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its first session,⁹⁷ held at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 29 April 1983,

I

NAIROBI PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

1. *Reaffirms* the significance and importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy as the basic framework of reference for action by the international community and renews its call for the early and effective implementation of the Programme;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the areas for priority action designated in section III.A of the Nairobi Programme of Action⁹⁶ and in section V.B of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,⁹⁷ and calls upon the Committee, at its second session, to make recommendations wherever urgent initiatives are required;

⁹⁶ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.L.24), chap. I, sect. A.

⁹⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/38/44).