

Sir,

Fifth Meeting of the ECA Joint Intergovernmental
Regional Committee on Human
Settlements and Environment

I have the honour to inform you that the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment is to be held from 13 to 17 February 1989, at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It may be recalled that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/162 pertaining to the human settlements policy and programme at the global, regional and national levels, the Conference of Ministers of the Commission decided by its resolution 316 (XIII), on institutional arrangements in the field of human settlements and, consequently, on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements as a subsidiary body of the Commission responsible for the regional policy and programme on human settlements matters as well as on its terms of reference.

It may also be recalled that by resolution 408 (XVI), the Conference of Ministers decided to extend the mandate of this subsidiary body of the Commission so as to cover human settlements and environmental matters and hence to rename it the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

The Fifth Meeting of the Joint Committee will review the activities carried out during the past two years by the Human Settlements Section and the Environment Unit of the Commission as well as the country reports prepared on national activities being undertaken in the following areas:

- (1) The planning methodologies and techniques for the development of rural settlements with particular emphasis on equipments and infrastructures such as: water supply, energy, health, education, transport and communication, employment, etc...;
- (2) Progress being made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/191 on the Global Shelter Strategy to the Year 2000: trends and problems in its implementation;
- (3) The mobilization of local resources both human and financial through appropriate institutional arrangement for the provision and maintenance of rural infrastructure and shelter;
- (4) The effective participation of women in the provision of low-income shelter, infrastructure and services in rural areas;

- (5) The mechanisms and financial arrangements for the promotion of small-scale building construction enterprises and accelerated investments opportunities in the production of indigenous building materials;
- (6) The human settlements projects and programmes for which resources have been mobilized in your country during the past five years: amount of investment for each project and programme and the respective component of external aid;
- (7) Progress being made in the implementation of the Environmental aspects of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD);
- (8) Desertification control activities;
- (9) The development/strengthening of environmental institutions including environmental policies and legislation for environmental management including the monitoring of hazardous industrial wastes and potentially toxic materials;
- (10) Progress in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);
- (11) Progress being made in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED).

The Secretariat of the Commission has programmed an exhibition of photographs and documents on the theme of human settlements development in member States on the occasion of the Fifth Intergovernmental Regional Committee Meeting. This exhibition aims at a better understanding of the problem of human settlements in Africa as well as promoting a fruitful exchange of views between representatives of member States at the meeting. To this end, member States are respectfully invited to contribute to this exhibition by sending relevant documents to the ECA Secretariat at an early date but not later than the end of January 1989.

The provisional agenda of the meeting is attached, the working documents will follow. In view of the importance of this meeting, I earnestly hope that we will have the privilege of the participation of your country at the highest level.

I should be very pleased to receive, as soon as possible, the names of the members of your delegation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Adebayo Adedeji
UN Under-Secretary-General
and
Executive Secretary
of the
Economic Commission for Africa