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(1987)

DRAFT REPORT
OF THE
FOURTH MEETING OF THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
AND ENVIRONMENT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment was held at ECA, Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 February 1987.
2. The meeting was attended by representative of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The following countries were represented at the meeting by observers: Cuba, France, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Sweden, Switzerland, Union Socialist Soviet Republic, Venezuela and Vietnam.
4. The following United Nations Organs, organizations and bodies were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended as observers: Africa Union of Architects (AUA), International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Election of officers

6. The following officers were elected to the bureau:

Chairman	Hon. Henri DUVAL, Minister of Housing, Lands and Environment, Mauritius
First Vice-Chairman	Hon. Guy NZOUBA-NDAMBA, Ministre de l'habitat et du logement, Gabon

Second Vice-Chairman

Hon. Dr. P.Y. NGWANDU, Minister of Lands
and Urban Development, Tanzania

Third Vice-Chairman

Mr. El-Kady MEDHAT, Second Secretary,
Egyptian Embassy, Addis Ababa

Rapporteur

Mr. Emmanuel OFOPI-ANYINAM, Special
Assistant of the Minister, Ghana

F. AGENDA

Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

7. The Joint Committee adopted the following as contained in document E/ECA/IGRC/HS/ENV/87/IV/INF.1 with amendment in the item 7 Environmental Matters.

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Plenary session for presentation of working documents on:
 - (a) Human Settlements matters;
 - (b) Environmental matters
5. Plenary session for the presentation of country reports on the national state of human settlements and on the environment
6. Working group A on Human Settlements matters:
 - (a) Progress Report on Human Settlements Activities since last Meeting (E/ECA/HUS/22);
 - (b) Integrating Human Settlements Policies and Programmes into National Socio-economic Development Planning: Framework and Methodologies (E/ECA/HUS/24);
 - (c) An Integrated Approach to the Evaluation of Building Construction Needs of the African Region (E/ECA/HUS/26);
 - (d) Programmes for Promoting Institutionalized Public Participation Systems in Human Settlements (E/ECA/HUS/25);
 - (e) Programmes for Establishing or Strengthening Training Facilities for Human Settlements Personnel at all levels of Africa (E/ECA/HUS/23);
 - (f) Human Settlements Work Programme 1988-1989

7. Working Group E on Environmental Matters:

- (a) Progress Report on 1986-1987 Environment in Africa Programme Activities since the last Meeting, including Consideration of Environment in Africa Work Programme for 1988-1989 biennium (E/ECA/ENV/35);
- (b) Progress Report on the Development of Environmental Capabilities to Combat Desertification and the Impacts of Drought in the African Region (E/ECA/ENV/31);
- (c) Prevention of Encroachment on Arable Land in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1);
- (d) Developing National Environmental Standards in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/17);
- (e) Development of Environmental Training for Technicians on Marine Pollution, Coastal Erosion and Depletion of Marine Resources in the EEZ (E/ECA/ENV/32);
- (f) Cairo Ministerial Conference and Progress Report on ECA Resolution 578 (XXI) (E/ECA/ENV/33);
- (g) Report of ECA/IMO Inter-Agency Expert Consultations on Establishing an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Bujumbura, 8-10 October 1986 (E/ECA/ENV/34);
- (h) Study of the impacts on the marine and inland environment brought about the Exploitation of Marine Resources, namely land, corals and trachyte.

Opening Addresses

8. In his opening statement, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted the following.

9. He noted that when the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment met last 22-26 July 1985, the African continent was going through one of the worst crisis of its history. He said of particular concern was the drought which ravaged the continent, with all its attendant problems such as famine, malnutrition and homelessness. He noted that because of the severity of the unprecedented drought was, it is incumbent upon all of us to carefully assess the experience and see what lessons can be drawn from it. He noted that the drought demonstrated very clearly the unpreparedness of many

affected member States for dealing with such calamities even though they are recurrent in some parts of the African Continent. It has revealed the fragility of our organizational and physical infrastructure he noted.

10. He observed that it is not surprising that the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the OAU emphasized in their Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) the need for a scenario of development based on the rural sector, when it is considered that 80 percent of the population of most African countries do, and will for sometime continue to, live in rural areas. Natural resources, raw materials and agricultural potential as yet unexploited are to be found in abundance in rural Africa. It is obvious that development should spring from such natural endowments and population resources he pointed out.

11. He observed that four years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated 1987 as International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, this theme he said is very close to our hearts since we, in Africa, have to live with the problem of shelter for the homeless daily. He extended gratitude to UNCHS (Habitat) and the many donor countries who were implementing shelter projects to alleviate the plight of the homeless in developing countries.

12. On the role of human settlements in the development process, he observed that problems exist because of the discontinuities between primary cities, towns and villages as shown by the pattern of scattered human settlements characteristic of the African rural hinterland. He therefore suggested that a deliberate programme aimed at promoting networks of rural townships should be conceived to divert the flow of migrants to large cities and to reduce the cost of infrastructure for rural transformation. To remove the spatial imbalances therefore there is need for massive investment in social infrastructure and services with a view to reducing over dependence on industrialized countries.

13. He stated the ECA secretariat is focusing its effort on giving Africans the means to provide themselves with adequate shelter. Accordingly, we have prepared a regional project proposal on the development of indigenous building material industries in Africa for consideration by UNDP under its fourth Regional Programming Cycle. For some years, ECA has concentrated on various aspects of the building materials sector particularly on institutional framework,

promoting research activities and generally sensitizing member Governments to the needs for production of local building materials as a means of accelerating housing programmes for the poor and the needy, he observed.

14. He pointed out that because of the severe physical damage caused by the last prolonged drought and its devastating impact on the social and economic conditions of more than two-thirds of the African countries, member States were compelled to adopt, (with the assistance of ECA and the OAU), the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1990. Environmental components in APPER and in the related United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) are based on the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of Drought in Africa which resulted from the deliberations of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa. The Priority Programme incorporates medium- to long-term measures to promote environmentally-sound management of water, energy and soil resources for the rehabilitation of agriculture, and to promote self-sufficiency in food production in the continent. I hope that the country reports prepared for this meeting will adequately reflect your Government's plans, policies and programmes for combating desertification and the impacts of drought within the context of the African Priority Programme and the UN Programme of Action.

15. Another outcome of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation (and he noted that Drought in Africa), was the recommendation in ECA resolution 528(XIX) and decisions taken in resolution 540(XX) of April 1985 to establish an advanced African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). Since the last report on ACMAD to you, ECA and WHO, with strong inter-agency support, have been looking into the technical facilities available and in use at five potential host countries for the Centre, and have been implementing a preparatory assistance phase of the project. In your capacity as advisers on environmental matters, you will be examining the draft constitution for the Centre, the host country agreement and technical criteria for determining the location of the Centre, the proposed structure and functions of the Centre, and, most crucial of all, the financial arrangements for the running of the Centre.

16. The Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) noted that the most significant trends affecting human settlements development in the last two decades were the rapid rate of urbanization and the rural decline and low productivity of agriculture. These and other issues relating to the planning, development and management of human settlements should, he said, constitute a vital part of the agenda for African economic and social recovery.

17. He said that given the scale of the urban challenge and the limited public financial and institutional resources, community participation and private sector involvement should be encouraged in human settlements development and service delivery. He called attention to the UNCHS and DANIDA collaboration in the field of public/community participation and training. He stated that 45 percent of Habitat's on-going projects are in the Africa Region and that as at the beginning of 1987 UNCHS (Habitat) was implementing 72 human settlements projects in African countries and there were 57 other projects in the pipeline.

18. He called for an integrated approach to regional planning and for the level development of secondary urban centres as tools for stimulating rural development. On the question of building materials and construction industry, he suggested the removal of the constraints on it in order to stimulate economic development on the continent. He suggested several policy shifts to achieve this objective including approved use of local materials and labour, revision of building codes and standards, removing of institutional constraints on the private building sector and promotion of the informal sector, etc. He outlined with specific examples, the way in which UNCHS (Habitat) has assisted African countries in some of these tasks and informed delegates that UNCHS (Habitat) and ECA were consulting on the implementation of a regional project to assist African countries in the development and production of indigenous building materials to meet the immediate needs of low-cost shelter and infrastructure construction. He took the opportunity to announce a Workshop on the formulation of standards and specifications for local building materials which is scheduled to take place in Nairobi from 16 to 20 March 1987.

19. He reminded participants of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) this year 1987 and that UNCHS (Habitat) is the Secretariat and head Agency. He pointed out that in Africa, 45 countries have designated national

focal points for co-ordinating their National IYSH programmes and that 120 projects have been designated as IYSH demonstration projects in these countries. He also outlined the role of UNCHS (Habitat) in Human Settlements Training activities and in those of the National Liberation movements in Africa, especially populations oppressed by apartheid.

20. In conclusion, he emphasized that in order to enhance the opportunities for African economic and social recovery, it was extremely important that human settlements policies and strategies and physical planning should be integrated into national development planning, and that local small-scale construction industries and increased investments in human resources development should be promoted.

21. The representative of the Executive Director UNEP expressed the fact that the nature and causes of the African crisis have been discussed and analysed at length in many fora, and few would disagree that what was now mostly required was action rather than words. effective problem solving must be based on sound diagnostic approaches. Even as remedies were being applied the search for causes must continue, using increasingly refined and sophisticated tools and approaches.

22. He said that UNEP as the world body charged with the protection and care of the global environment, was particularly anxious that due attention should be given to the environmental dimensions of the African problem. Undoubtedly, many external factors, such as world economic and political forces, trade imbalances, unpredictable changes in consumption habits as well as the vagaries of climate and weather, had all been at play. However, the factors which really stroke at the root of the problem were environmental in nature and largely internal in origin. Looking at the situation closely and objectively, UNEP was of the view that Africa was moving towards environmental bankruptcy. As a result of mismanagement, indifference and misguided economic and social policies, Africa's once rich natural resource base and natural ecosystems had been over-taxed and over-exploited to the point where valuable life-support systems that had been build up over many centuries, had now been seriously damaged.

23. In large parts of Africa, the removal of natural vegetation cover by man and livestock lead to rapid impoverishment of the soil. The last 100 years had seen a 150 kilometer-wide belt on the southern edge of the Saharan zone turn into non-productive desert, due to the destruction of the fertility of its soil.

24. He pointed out that the first African Ministerial Conference on the environment held in Cairo in December 1985 under the sponsorship of UNEP in collaboration with the OAU and the ECA focused on these problems. the Conference adopted a Programme of Action aimed at mobilizing the scientific

and technical resources available in Africa to give support to the sustainable development of natural resources and the protection of the environment in all countries of the continent, with the basic priority objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food and energy. On the local involvement in the planning and execution of development programmes. The absence of participation by the local communities have caused such activities fail.

25. He concluded that the underlying philosophy of the Cairo Programme of Action was that African governments and African peoples must now take the continent's development into their own hands, relying first and foremost on their own material and human resources and directing their energies to goals which they themselves had identified.

26. UNEP in cooperation with ECA and OAU is acting as the Secretariat for the Conference to assist with the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action which would make a valuable contribution to APPER and to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the General Assembly earlier this year.

27. The Managing Director of Shelter-Afrique drew attention to the high urban population growth rate in Africa and the demands this phenomenon makes on housing and other human settlements aspects. He said this was the focus of attention of his Organisations and that Shelter-Afrique was the answer to the continent's housing problems. This, he said, meant that Shelter-Afrique, with a current membership of 24 African countries, should have capacities for enhancing the mobilization of domestic resources, providing funds, technical services and advice on low-cost construction as well as exploring other avenues of favourable external financing for viable and appropriate housing construction projects including those for the poor. He lamented the low priority given to Human Settlements development in the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. He assured participants that Shelter-Afrique possess the will and the determination to assist African countries in their strive towards socio-economic development, particularly in the shelter sector.

28. He then called on African countries who are not yet members of Shelter-Afrique, to assist in Shelter-Afrique's efforts by acceding to and taking equity subscription in the Organisation. He hoped that by the time of the next meeting of the Joint Inter-Governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, that Shelter Afrique's paid-up membership would have included all member countries of the ECA or OAU.

29. He outlined his organisations collaborative efforts with other organisations including UNCHS(Habitat) ADB, ECA, UNDP, USAID and the World Bank. He informed that Shelter-Afrique is working on a programme to set up new finance institutions and strengthening existing ones as a major means of mobilizing domestic resources. A proposal has already been made to a member government to establish jointly with Shelter-Afrique and a private bank, a housing finance institution that will respond to this requirement. Shelter Afrique is also focussing attention and supporting the promotion of viable building materials industry in Africa, with a current study involving six countries in the continent.

30. Concluding, he reiterated the importance of Shelter in over all socio-economic development and called on African countries to support and strengthen their human settlements policies and programmes so that the shelter situation in the continent could be improved for all segments of the population.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Addresses

Plenary Session

Human Settlements

31. The ECA representative introduced document E/ECA/HUS/22 which gave an overview of the main activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Commission during the period August 1985 to January 1987 with regard to the human settlements.

These activities are:

- (i) study on mechanisms for integrating human settlements programmes in the socio-economic development process, study on the development of training facilities for human settlements personnel,
- (ii) study on an integrated approach to the evolution of needs with respect to construction in Africa,
- (iii) study on means of establishing programmes for institutionalizing popular participation in housing for low-income group,
- (iv) study on institutional mechanisms for the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies in Africa,
- (v) activities for the promotion of research on building and building materials had been undertaken,
- (vi) Expert group meeting on human settlements and its inclusion in socio-economic planning had been organized,
- (vii) and a workshop and study tour on human settlements planning was organized in co-operation with the USSR government, with experts from 24 African countries attending the workshop and study tour.

32. In addition to substantive activities programmed for 1986-1987, the secretariat has contributed to the work on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Accordingly, a paper has been prepared entitled "Contribution of the ECA to the International Year of Shelter and the Homeless". This paper will be tabled for discussion at the Fourth Joint Meeting. The revised document incorporating comments of the Joint Committee will be presented to the Tenth Session of the Commission on Human Settlements scheduled for April 1987 in Nairobi.

33. In pursuance of the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee, ECA has maintained contact with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS - HABITAT). A co-operation agreement between the two organizations is being finalized and their respective work programme will be harmonized.

34. ECA participated actively in the preparation and the deliberations of the regional seminar on Squatter Settlements and Low-cost Housing which it organized jointly with UNESCO, the Experimental Centre for Research and Study for Building and Public Works (CEBTP) in Paris and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Socialist Ethiopia from 18 to 21 November 1985 in Addis Ababa.

35. At the request of Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA) and the United Nations University (UNU), ECA participated in the organization of a seminar on Food and Energy for the Urban Deprived Population in Africa from 9 to 13 December 1985 in Addis Ababa.

36. At the invitation of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and the International Savings Bank Institute (ISBI) of Geneva and the German Savings Banks and Giro Association (DSGB), ECA participated in a seminar organized in West Berlin, the Federal Republic of Germany, from 15 to 23 January 1986 to which 11 African countries had been invited. The African countries were mostly represented by Directors of National Banks. The main topic of the seminar was on financing housing for low-income earners in Africa.

37. ECA also maintained contact with several organizations including FAO, ILO and the International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures (RILEM) in order to implement Joint activities.

38. The problems encountered in implementing activities are that the contribution of human settlements to overall development is rarely appreciated to its full extent. Hence the resources allocated to human settlements programme are not commensurate with its pivotal role in the overall development process. In view of the budgetary constraints under which the United Nations system is operating the operational budget of the Human Settlements has been severely reduced. Consequently, staff members of the Section were unable to render advisory services to member States and mobilize extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the human settlements programme.

Environment

39. Under the agenda item 4(b), the ECA representative presented the seven working documents on environmental matters at the plenary session. He started with document E/ECA/ENV/35 on Progress Report on the 1986-1987 Environment in Africa Work Programme activities since the third meeting of the Joint Committee in July 1985, including consideration of the future work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium. He stated that the Progress Report was in three parts dealing with first, the implementation of resolutions arising from the recommendations made at the Third meeting of the Joint Committee; secondly, a survey of the environmental matters being considered at this Fourth meeting, and thirdly a brief on future work programme activities for the next biennium.

40. As a result of the discussion of the report of the Third Meeting of the Joint Committee (document E/ECA/CM.12/9) at the Twelfth ECA Conference of Ministers meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon in April 1986, two ECA resolutions were adopted, namely 585(XXI) on the "Establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)" and 578(XXI) on "Development of environmental capabilities in Africa". This latter resolution (578) is in three parts reflecting the environmental topics discussed at the Third meeting, namely Part I: Development of national environmental standards for the protection of the African environment, as an ECA joint activity with the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO); Part II: Implementation of conventions and protocols on the environment, as another ECA joint activity with the OAU and Part III: on Institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) .

41. The ECA representative then pointed out that the agenda as adopted for this Fourth meeting will continue to deal with both the ACMAD topic on the establishment of the Centre (see document F/ECA/ENV/34) and on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) activities in document F/ECA/ENV/33. Also a technical publication (E/ECA/ENV/17) (for information only) has been produced on "Developing National Environmental Standards in Africa" to provide guidelines to member States involved in developing physical environmental standards as well as social standards as codes of conduct to halt environmental degradation through deforestation and soil erosion, drought and desertification; human waste disposal

and industrial pollution. He further pointed out that besides the recurrent and severe problems of the impacts of drought and combating desertification in Africa, two new areas of environmental concern were: one on the "prevention of encroachment on arable lands in Africa" as indicated in document E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1, and the other on "Development of environmental training for technicians on marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ)" (see document E/ECA/ENV/32).

42. The ECA representative said that in the area of environmental training, ECA has been involved in joint project activities with UNEP on the "Incorporation of environmental components into the training programmes of eleven ECA-sponsored subregional and regional institutions" under the project FP/3102-84-02(2367). This progress report indicates that ECA has undertaken two preliminary joint activities, namely: an ECA/UNEP/ADB Trainers workshop at the African Development Bank, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in November 1985 and a similar ECA/UNEP/ESAMI workshop at UNEP, Nairobi in December 1986. The two workshops brought lecturers together for ten days each to develop an Interdisciplinary Environmental Core Curriculum for:

- (i) environmental management and development;
- (ii) environmental assessment and standardization;
- (iii) drought and desertification control;
- (iv) environmental health and sanitation; and
- (v) environmental aspects of population trends and resources use.

The core curriculum will be published shortly by UNEP for use by the ECA-sponsored institutions which train upto 2 500 government planners, business managers, technicians, administrators, bankers and so on, every year. Finally the progress report calls for comments from the experts of the Joint Committee on the proposed Environment in Africa work programme for 1988-1989 as submitted in the document E/ECA/ENV/34.

43. The ECA representative pointed out that the document E/ECA/ENV/31 on the Development of Environmental Capabilities to Combat Desertification and the Impacts of Drought in Africa under agenda item 7(b), was the central theme of the environmental activities to be discussed at this Joint Committee meeting. The impacts of drought and the process of desertification which have aggravated the economy of about two-thirds of the African countries for the last two decades,

are contributing factors to the current African economic and social crisis. Hence, they form the focal points for the environmental aspects of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and its related United Nations Programme of Action (UNPAAREP). The environmental issues examined in the other documents being presented here, such as the impacts of urban encroachment and soil degradation on arable land use, the role of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the need for promoting manpower development in environmental training, and the activities involved in the Cairo Programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), are all supporting efforts towards combating the impacts of drought and desertification within the context of the APPER.

44. The ECA representative emphasized that the subregional approach on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impacts of drought in the region, has been adopted. National activities of selected countries and of subregional intergovernmental organizations such as SADC, CILSS and ICADD, within each of the MULOPOCs (Multinational Programming and Operational Centres) involved based at Tangier, Niamey and Lusaka, have been examined. Also the efforts of the United Nations (UNEP, UNSO, FAO, WHO, UNESCO) and the Organization of African Unity have been summarized, including the future plans of ECA in combating desertification and the impacts of drought. He then appealed to the experts to update or to submit a summary of their country activities in this area vis-a-vis the implementation of the APPER and the United Nations Programme of Action.

45. On agenda item 7(c), Prevention of Encroachment on Arable Lands in Africa, the ECA representative pointed out that document E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1 was the result of inter-agency consultations on the problem with UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, as well as from discussions with African experts on the subject for their country experiences during an ad-hoc Expert Group meeting in September 1985. He said that the land use situation in Africa has been examined under agricultural practices that maintain the ecological balance for promoting soil regeneration as against those farming practices that lead to soil degradation in soil erosion and its loss from arable land. Another aspect of the problem examined in the report was the actual encroachment on arable lands situated around cities, towns and villages, by the rapid processes of urbanization and rural-urban population

migration. Urbanization in the construction of dwellings, transportation and communications infrastructure, industrial development activities, airports, recreation and tourist facilities, has been a serious constraint on arable land availability and use in Africa as population growth rate and that of main cities and towns escalate above world averages.

46. The ECA representative pointed out to the Joint Committee that the problem was most serious in small African countries with high population density (Burundi, Rwanda, the Indian Ocean Islands) as well as in drought-prone African countries with over 70 percent aridlands, such as the North African countries, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and the Sudan around the Sahara Desert, Somalia in the Chalbi Desert and Botswana in the Kalahari Desert areas. He stated that the report also reviews the on-going activities of the main United Nations bodies investigating the problem. He concluded by urging member States to examine the problem as indicated by the country reports from Nigeria, the Sudan and Cote d'Ivoire in the report and to make recommendations on land use planning, national soils and land use policies, and on the conservation of natural resources for soils and water management.

47. The ECA representative then presented document E/ECA/ENV/32 under agenda item 7(e): Development of Environmental Training for Technicians on Marine Pollution, Coastal Erosion and Depletion of Marine Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). He said that ECA co-operates mainly with UNEP and IMCO, UNESCO to implement United Nations Programmes to assist African countries in the protection of their marine environment. These are:

- (i) the UNEP Regional Seas and Coastal Areas Programmes, four of which namely: the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Gulf, the West and Central African, and the East African, cover the African continent;
- (ii) the UNESCO/ECA co-operation on the development of marine science and technology in Africa; and
- (iii) the ECA projects relating to the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He noted that within this context, the ECA paper is stressing the need for middle-level technicians manpower training to monitor various kinds of marine pollution that can destroy or reduce the potential marine resources such as shell-fish and fish stock in the EEZ, which should be rationally exploited for economic development.

48. The ECA representative also pointed out that the document examines the three problems relating to the development and protection of the African marine environment, namely: marine pollution; coastal erosion; and depletion of living resources. He said that emphasis was put on the sources of marine pollutants namely from sewage discharge, domestic, industrial and agricultural chemicals waste discharges through river run-offs, mining activities, oil and dangerous chemical pollution from ships at sea and radio-active nuclear discharges. He noted that coastal erosion was causing untold damage to seaside towns and villages along the West African and East African coasts as development activities in the construction of jetties and quays and in beach sand harvesting alter the wave patterns. He concluded by requesting the experts to examine the problems of training marine technicians in Africa, and the need for developing national environmental pollution control policies. The experts were requested to update the information on marine institutions listed country by country in the annex to the report.

49. Under agenda item 7(f) on the Implementation of ECA resolution 578 (XXI) on the Cairo Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the ECA representative said that the progress report in document E/ECA/ENV/33 brought to the attention of the meeting the activities of the joint secretariat of the Conference, consisting of UNEP, ECA and the OAU. Since ECA has endorsed the institutionalization of the AMCEN Conference to meet every year, the paper reports on ECA's activities at the First Inter-Agency Working Group meeting in July 1986 and at the Conference Secretariat to implement the Cairo Programme of Action. Furthermore, he said that the paper brings to the attention of the meeting the deliberations of the First Bureau meeting of the AMCEN Conference held in October 1986 at which it was reported that the four Conference Committees on deserts and aridlands, on forests and woodlands, on rivers and lake basins and on seas respectively, were holding their first meetings to prepare draft terms of reference on their structure, work programme and financial requirements. Also, five of the eight technical co-operation networks were being established with the regional co-ordinating units (RCUs) located at selected African host countries namely the RCU for soils and fertilizers at the Soil Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Kumasi, Ghana; the RCU for energy at

the Centre for the Study and Research on Renewable Sources of Energy in Dakar, Senegal; and the RCU for water at the Water Resources Institute, Cairo, Egypt. The RCU for environmental monitoring was located at the Global Environmental Monitoring (GEMS) Unit at UNEP, Nairobi while that on climatology was temporarily located at the WMO Regional Office for Africa in Fuzumbura, Burundi until the ACMAD Centre was located in a host country. He concluded by requesting the experts to make recommendations on the modalities for this Joint Committee to serve as an advisory group of African experts to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment whose legal status was being studied.

50. On agenda item 7(g): Report of the ECA/WMO Inter-Agency Consultations on establishing an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), as document E/ECA/ENV/34, the ECA representative stated that the expert group meeting was held in response to ECA resolution 585(XXI) to prepare a draft constitution for the Centre ACMAD, which is attached as an annex to the Report. In addition to the draft constitution, the expert group deliberated on related matters such as the host country agreement; revised criteria for the location of the Centre and the financing of the Centre by member States and donors.

51. Furthermore, the ECA representative pointed out that since the same ECA resolution requested a report on the implementation of the preparatory assistance phase on the project on ACMAD which was funded by UNDP this year as EAF/86/026, two WMO consultants present at the expert group meeting provided technical details for a fullscale project on ACMAD. Hence, the Report deals with more focussed objectives of the Centre tied up to the main functional areas proposed for ACMAD, namely:

- (i) Applications development;
- (ii) Meteorological/climatological watch operations;
- (iii) Numerical analysis and prediction development; and
- (iv) Informatics and satellite meteorology technology support.

The WMO consultants have also provided details on the organizational structure, the work programme, the staff requirements for professionals and technicians, and the materials, equipment and financial requirements for running the ACMAD Centre during its first five year development phase. He concluded by requesting the Joint Committee to study the details involved in the implementation of the resolution 585(XXI) on the establishment of the Centre ACMAD and to make tangible recommendations to the thirteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1987.

Country reports

Ghana

52. On human settlements development in Ghana, the delegate of Ghana stated that housing problem was one of the country's developmental crisis, with an accumulated current housing deficit of 250,000 units. Ghana requires an average annual output of 133,000 units to give shelter to the homeless within the next 20 years. The deficit was attributed to past Government policy of trying to tackle the shelter problem by direct construction of housing with public funds, which is too limited to make a dent on the problem.

53. He noted that the private sector accounts for over 80 per cent of all housing output. Recognizing this, the present Government has initiated shifts in policy aimed at encouraging more private sector involvement such as encouraging sites and services schemes instead of building complete houses for the poor, encouragement of the informal sector, modification of codes and regulations, development and use of local building materials and other institutional reforms. Ghana has planned an annual housing unit production of between 20,000 and 40,000 units between 1987 and 2000. The total output of 115,000 over this period is expected to be made up of 2 per cent public sector contribution and 98 per cent private sector contribution.

54. Other policy shifts to encourage shelter production is the decentralization of the former 68 districts into 130 districts, a liberalized National Investment Code, reform of inheritance and marriage laws and enactment of rent control laws.

55. The Government has embarked upon a number of urban development projects to encourage the upgrading of slum settlements. One of such projects is the Nima-Naamobi infrastructural upgrading project. This project is also being used as an IYSH demonstration project. Burnt and laterite brick projects have also been set up to reduce the dependence on cement. A model village is being built with burnt and laterite bricks produced on the project site. He concluded by stating that his government would welcome any assistance from the international community in its attempt to improve shatter and neighbourhood conditions for the poor by the year 2000.

56. On environmental management, the participant from Ghana pointed out that the main environmental problems facing his country were coastal erosion, waste disposal, air and water pollution, general land degradation, bushfire, desertification as well as water-borne and water-related diseases. In response to these problems, he informed the meeting that his government, through its Environmental Protection Council (EPC) is carrying out a number of environmental protection activities.

These include Marine and Coastal protection under the framework of the convention for the protection and development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central Africa Region (WACAF 2 and 3). In the area of land degradation, he added that his government was making all efforts to alleviate the series of problems related to land degradation and has received some assistance from international organizations like UNESCO through the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme, UNEP and UNSO as well as bilateral agencies like the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). These areas include studies on the effects of human impacts on the Savanna ecosystems of the country, bushfire drought and desertification control, environmental education programmes including rural consultation and air quality and pollution control programmes.

57. Within the context of planned programme activities his government would need external assistance to backup national efforts in the areas of drought and desertification control within the framework of UNSO activities, the development of an Environmental Information and Resources Centre, rural outreach programmes and a Pilot Bush Fire Control Project.

58. He concluded by expressing the hope of his government that countries neighbouring Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo would develop joint programmes in these priority areas of environmental conservation.

Zambia

59. The Leader of the Zambian Delegation, the Minister of State for Decentralization stated that Zambia's human settlements problems are grave with an annual growth rate of 3.1 per cent p.a. It is expected that her population will reach the 12 million mark by the year 2000. This will demand an addition of 1.5 million housing units to the existing housing stock.

60. On the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, she informed the committee that Zambia had designated a focal point for the programme and had set up a National Steering Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the year (IYSH) at national, provincial and district levels. The Government of Zambia has also identified several major IYSH projects being implemented through both National and Bilateral efforts with donor agencies and other friendly governments. Some of these projects include (i) the Lusaka Squatter Upgrading and Site and Service Housing Project in collaboration with the World Bank, (ii) the Kalingalinga Integrated Upgrading Project with the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Agency for Technical Assistance (GTZ), (iii) site and service schemes in various rural centres, all supported by the European Development Fund (EDF). Extensions of this scheme to 14 other towns have been planned. These projects involve several thousands of serviced plots and housing units.

61. The Zambian Government is co-operating in the Kamanga Demonstration Project with UNCHS (HABITAT) under the aegis of the IYSH programme, as well as DANIDA/UNCHS in a Training Programme for Community Participation in the Improvement of Human Settlements. Other co-operative projects include the FIHVIDA assisted Research Programme on Built-up Environment, and a low-cost sanitation demonstration project. The Minister referred participants to the resolutions adopted by the 1985 Convention of Zambia's Ruling Party on Housing which called for a simplified housing land delivery process, modification of housing standards to reflect income levels of citizens and the need for improved credit facilities to cater for the low-income people.

62. She announced that a National IYSH Workshop on Shelter Strategies and Programmes was scheduled for early this year (1987) and that this would mark the official culmination of IYSH activities, and Zambia's commitment to the objectives of the programme for effective implementation by her own efforts and the assistance of friendly countries. In conclusion, the Hon. Minister appealed for assistance

in establishing a NATIONAL HOUSING BANK in Zambia which would charge low interest rates to low income borrowers.

63. The delegate from Zambia informed the meeting that since the last meeting of the committee, a national conservation strategy for Zambia had been prepared with the help of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The document was approved and adopted by the Government in July 1985. She added that the strategy was a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems that affect Zambia's development such as deforestation, drought soil erosion, pollution and poaching. It stressed ways of making better use of Zambia's natural resources. It outlined conservation activities which must begin in many sectors namely: Agriculture, Forestry, Urban development, Wildlife, Tourism, Energy, Mining, Industry and later use and it defines some basic measures needed in order to achieve conservation.

64. With respect to National Conservation Committee, she outlined some activities being carried out with the support of a secretariat set up in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, as follows:

(a) Afforestation: Where in spite of the existing regulations, deforestation, due to charcoal production and shifting cultivation was a major environmental problem. However, in addition to the current afforestation programme under which 52,000 ha. of plantation had been planted, the committee had initiated a tree planting project to supply fuel wood to major urban areas; and it planned to introduce improved fuel-efficient charcoal stoves soon.

(b) Drought, overgrazing and soil erosion: Again, in spite of the generally sub-humid climate, Zambia has experienced drought since 1980, especially in the southern half of the country which had been badly affected by the prolonged drought. As a result, crop production had in some areas dropped by about 50 per cent with chronic water shortages in places, and worsening of overgrazing and soil erosion problems due to lack of soil conservation in the dry lands. To combat these environmental problems, a number of dams had been constructed in the areas badly affected by drought since 1982 and the National Conservation Committee has carried out research on soil conservation measures which enabled Zambia to produce a draft soil conservation strategy, thanks to the support of the IUCN.

GABON

65. The representative of Gabon said that the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and the Environment was of particular importance.
66. It coincided with the celebration of the International Year of Housing for the Homeless and the forthcoming meeting of the second Conference of African Ministers of the Environment. Those facts indicated that African Governments were becoming increasingly aware that African solutions based on African experience and efforts should be used to solve Africa's problems.
67. Indeed, the imbalance in the distribution of people in the rural areas, the deteriorationⁱⁿ human settlements standards and the overcrowding of towns went hand-in-hand with a deterioration in the environment which was a constant concern of governments.
68. The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment offered the best opportunity for African governments not only to pool their knowledge but also to share their experiences and to recommend concerted efforts for the implementation of joint national and regional programmes.
69. The attention accorded by his country to the development of towns and to the housing situation had led to the drafting of a national housing plan which was a basic policy instrument.
70. The acute shortage of developed land and housing had led, in almost all the towns, to a very striking contrast between well-developed and equipped city centres and suburbs where rural folk settled without any reference whatsoever to development plans or registers. In view of that situation the Gabonese Government had been obliged to carry out a number of activities. Thus, the National Institute of Cartography had provided most of the main towns with useable maps and urbanization studies had been undertaken in a number of towns and land had been developed in order to restructure the insanitary areas and control the land situation.

71. The national self-construction policy was addressed to the poorest families, i.e., those whose monthly income was between 40,000 and 120,000 CFA francs.

72. The national self-construction policy had two objectives. The first comprised requesting community participation in order to have an impact on a greater number of needy people: it provided support for the efforts and investments made by the poorest people by supplying them with developed plots, cheap building materials, technical assistance and giving them access to credits commensurate with their construction costs and financial standing.

73. The second objective consisted of building on for the very poor the basic structures and leaving them to bear the rest of the building costs.

74. The Gabonese Government was trying to implement a multiannual social housing policy with financing channels adopted to that specific problem which would supplement the financing of the national housing fund(F.N.H).

75. Still with the aim of reducing building costs even further, research focusing particularly on the utilization of local materials had been undertaken in 1985 and had led, in 1986, to the purchase by the Ministry of Housing and urbanism of a machine for manufacturing blocks of raw earth mixed with a small percentage of cement. It had a production capacity of between 2,000 to 3,000 bricks a day and could be moved from one site to the other. It would make it possible to save about 17 per cent on the overall costs of housing units.

76. With respect to environment, a sketch of a national plan of action on the environment was under study and should produce a series of specific objectives and areas of intervention for government action on the environment, specify the various areas of intervention as well as the main resources required.

77. Several major on-going industrial and agricultural projects had required the services of the department of the environment and wildlife protection. Thus, the Centre national anti-pollution which had a logistics unit, had carried out several impact studies mainly on breweries and certain public works and buildings.

78. A vast project to provide Gabon with a national pollution map had been undertaken in 1984. The project which comprised two programmes of activities, was aimed particularly at:

- (a) Carrying out an inventory of polluted areas in Gabon - carrying out a field inspection of the main industrial areas of the country to locate the polluted areas.
- (b) Assessing the extent of pollution by using laboratory equipment to measure the pollution of the areas identified.

79. The two activities would be used to establish a national pollution map which would demarcate the sensitive areas of the country.

80. Despite the adoption of a series of texts, particularly the law on industrial pollution control which made it mandatory to carry out an environmental impact study before any project could be set up, and the law on the elimination of solid wastes and the reduction of public pollution Gabon still did not have a coherent body of law and regulations well suited to the protection of the environment and living conditions. Thus, a draft law on the environment reflecting local conditions was being prepared with UNEP assistance.

81. The representative from Malawi said that his country being a small, hilly and over populated country had a land use problem. The size of Malawi was 118,484 Km² and her population was 6.7 million with a density of 55.92 per Km². The population was basically rural and engaged in crop-production. There was an apparent conflict between agriculture and environmental protection. In certain parts of the country, the main problem being experienced was land degradation caused by soil erosion resulting from severe land pressure. There was very little land for the increasing human and livestock populations since most areas were steep, and others non-arable. The high soil erosion rates in these areas were causing damage to roads and bridges along the lake shore and valley areas. Crop yields in the affected areas were falling too and the people in these areas who depended mainly on agriculture were likely to suffer considerably if this trend is not reversed. Cultivation of the marginal areas which could not support crops satisfactorily for more than two years without soil conservation measures was becoming prevalent. Therefore, there was urgent need to rehabilitate and improve such areas by intensifying conservation activities.

82. He continued that the other apparent problem is that between crop-production or agriculture and wild-life development. This was purely a land use problem. As land became intensively farmed or urbanised, wild-life became increasingly exposed to the "edge-effect". The agricultural land adjacent to protected areas became a tension zone as the two forms of land use interacted, leading to crop damage, human deaths and poaching. The government had, therefore resolved in establishing three ecological principles of special relevance:

- (1) The need to keep a range of resources use option available to future generations;
- (2) A policy of more intensive agricultural and pastoral development of lands proven productivity in order to give a better return than attempts to develop marginal areas, and
- (3) The realisation of the fact that the conservation of species and natural communities is a logical step in development.

83. Although Malawi was not actually threatened by desertification, he said, deforestation which as a step towards desertification, was rampant. This process of deforestation had dire consequences on the social and economic well-being of the human population. It was bringing about environmental degradation and decline in agricultural productivity, destruction of natural riches for wild-life and fish habitats, destruction of physical infrastructure like roads, hydro-electric and water pump installations through floods and the process of siltation. The most noticeable of these effects was the growing disparity between fuel wood supplies that people require to perform their day-to-day domestic as well as industrial tasks. Through the assistance of the World Bank and the total cooperation of the masses, a well managed and popular National Tree Planting Programme might in the foreseeable future eradicate this environmental evil, called "Deforestation", and thereby totally restore Malawi's green environment.

84. The National Committee for the Environment, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, he concluded, was an extra-Ministerial organ of government which advises government on environmental policy, and also advises both the public and private sector on the environmental consequences of any development project.

85. The delegate of Cameroon reported that the creation of the Ministry of Town Planning and Housing in 1979 saw the full launching of a National Housing Policy. He stated that the Government in addition to this created a number of relevant organizations to carry out specific functions in the field of human settlements. These included:

1. The Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Authority (MAETUR) to plan and implement land planning and development activities and the promotion of housing in the country.
2. Industrial Zones Development Authority (MAZI) which develops and manages industrial property.
3. The National Housing Corporation (SIC) to construct, buy and manage buildings for rent or for sale. As of 1986, it had constructed 6,000 housing units.
4. The Cameroon National Housing-Fund (CNC) for financing individual and national housing projects. This agency has been very instrumental in the development of the housing sector. It has financed 70 per cent of the total work carried out by SIC and MAETUR. This agency is financed by contributions from: Cameroon Government 70 per cent (1 per cent taxed contribution of workers); National Social Insurance Fund 20 per cent; Postal Savings Fund 5 per cent; National Reinsurance Fund 5 per cent.

86. While the Ministry develops the policies, these Parastatals serve as channels for their implementation. Their functions are highly specialized in residential, commercial and industrial land development, finance and social housing programmes.

87. It was also reported that Municipal Councils especially Yaounde, the capital, undertake renovation, rehabilitation and sites and services schemes aimed at improving the spontaneous unplanned development of towns. Government efforts also involve the training of professional staff and the development and promotion of the use of local materials, physical planning and facilitation of land access processes.

88. The delegate drew attention to the recent Lake Nyos gas disaster in the country which claimed over 1746 lives and displaced close to 5000 people. An International Conference has been planned for April 1987 to seek the causes of this disaster. Meanwhile, Government has embarked on a resettlement schemes for the displaced. This scheme aims at providing permanent homes with modern public facilities and services for the displaced, while maintaining the traditional and social identity of the people. It is envisaged to construct 750 compounds for the displaced population.

Tanzania

89. The delegation of Tanzania told the committee her experiences in questions of human settlements and environment.

90. Regarding intersectoral integration, Tanzania is in the process of formulating a National Urban Development Policy which will guide the development of human settlements. A National Land Use Commission has been established to co-ordinate land-use in a bid to minimize land use conflicts.

91. Tanzania is in full support of the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH). Efforts are being directed at expanding the national sites and services and squatter upgrading programmes. The Building Research Institute is being strengthened to enhance the dissemination of research findings. Building regulations have been reviewed to encourage the low income earners to build affordable housing units, and expand the training of personnel required in the field of human settlement development. National housing financial operations is being reviewed to make them more responsible to the needs of the low income earners.

92. In respect of construction activities, the delegation reported that Tanzania has established a National Construction Council - a body to act as a focal point to co-ordinate all activities of the construction industry. Some of the priority programmes currently being undertaken by the council include:

- (i) Development of small scale contractors through the provision of capital, plant and equipment as well as training in areas of project management;
- (ii) Development of local contractors capable of executing large projects through deliberate programmes of providing training and advisory services to local firms while taking part in the execution of projects;
- (iii) Institution of productivity studies with a view to establish schedule of rates for the construction industry;
- (iv) Establish of Technical Audit System to vet project designs for economy and appropriateness.

93. As recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action, Tanzania has been concerned with, inter-alia, the promotion of environmentally sound socio-economic development programme. The formation of the National Environment Management Council in 1986 was an endeavour to fulfil this objective.

94. In the field of combating desertification, Tanzania has formulated afforestation programmes with technical support from UNEP.

95. The Council is at the moment preparing a National Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

96. The conservation of marine resources is another area where Tanzania has started implementing some aspects of the UNEP programmes of the Regional Seas Programme of the Eastern African Region. additionally three villages have been selected for the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action.

Zimbabwe

97. The human settlement situation in Zimbabwe is characterized by:

- (a) huge housing backlog in both urban and rural areas;
- (b) very poor quality housing in commercial farming areas, mining settlements and in the communal lands;
- (c) unequitable distribution of quality agricultural land between tribal communal land and commercial farming areas with the former being on marginal land and being over crowded and therefore over utilized resulting in gradual degradation and deforestation.

98. These problems are a direct result of the racist land and settlement policies of previous colonial regimes. To redress this situation, the Zimbabwe Government has since independence formulated specific human settlement and housing policy strategies and programmes, and has further established institutions for the implementation of these programmes.

Progress

99. The Government has undertaken the preparatory planning phase, involving the preparation of the national and regional development plan i.e. the identification of growth points, rural service centres and the preparation of plans for each of these.

100. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements is assisting in this exercise being carried out by the Physical Planning Department.

101. The Government has also completed the housing needs assessment study which has been utilized to prepare the housing and human settlement policy strategies and programmes until the year 2000.

102. On the basis of the above a number of projects have already been identified and some undertaken.

- Urban areas

(a) The National Housing Fund allocates annually substantial sums as loans to local authorities for the construction by building brigades of low cost housing;

(b) The Government together with a number of international Donors and other funding agencies has undertaken a number of innovative low cost housing schemes. USAID, World Bank, CIDA and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and others, have each been involved in low-cost housing development in several cities and towns.

- Growth points

103. The provision of services, i.e., water sewerage and roads, has been completed in more than twenty growth points and work continues on the remainder.

104. In January 1987 the Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing commenced the construction of 20 low-cost houses in each growth point to give impetus to the policy of decentralization.

- Rural Housing Development

105. Through its rural housing programme which is part of a broader rural resettlement and development programme, the Government through the Ministries of Public Construction and National Housing, Local Government Urban and Rural Development and Agriculture, Lands and Resettlement is undertaking a massive rural low-cost housing construction in the following forms:

(a) Rural resettlement areas

Preparation of land use and settlement plans and extension of loans in the form of building materials and a resident artisan to assist and supervise about 100 houses with the villagers providing all the labour content. Loans are repayable over 30 years. Scatters are drawn from the overcrowded tribal lands;

(b) Planned villages

Within the tribal lands, rural folk are also encouraged to improve their housing and move into planned villages where proper land use plans are provided for improved productivity and better resources use, and housing loans in the form of building materials for better housing are provided.

106. To further encourage house construction, the Government has undertaken a number of measures - Proclamation of the Home Ownership Policy - Brought in the private sector to participate in low-cost housing, employer--assisted housing. - Persuaded building societies to make available credit facilities for low-income families. - Granted 9 per cent tax free paid up permanent shares (Puns) in building societies. Part of funds mobilized to be set aside for low-cost housing. - The Zimbabwe Government has adopted a policy to integrate human settlement policies and programmes into the national socio-economic development plan.

SENEGAL

107. The delegation of Senegal stated that like most other developing countries, the urban structure in Senegal was characterized by a profound imbalance between Dakar and the rest of the urban system. In an attempt to correct that imbalance, the Government of Senegal had embarked on a programme of planning and management of urban space that included operational plans for land development and rehabilitation in the various urban districts. In the absence of external financing, the programmes had to rely on scarce resources from the regular budget while spontaneous urbanization had reached alarming proportions. At the same time land registration procedures were cumbersome.

108. The seventh Economic and Social Development Plan included regional strategies aimed at encouraging rural development and at reducing the imbalances between the urban and the rural areas. These included 21 priority programmes intended to improve the integration of human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic planning.

109. In view of the ever-increasing needs for housing and because of the limited possibilities of planned settlements, the Government had adopted a new strategy which consisted in encouraging self-help construction, the development of co-operatives and investment in real estate.

110. A Housing Bank had been established in 1979 and an Urban Land development company was to be set up to help developers and the population secure adequate land for construction.

111. UNDP would also provide assistance to housing co-operatives. At the same time, the government was embarking on a vast rehabilitation programme in the unplanned areas so as to improve the living conditions of the population concerned. Moreover, the establishment of a computerized urban data bank would provide a better picture of urban land and housing requirements, making it possible to achieve rational programming for housing construction.

112. Efforts in research and dissemination of local construction materials would be continued. A current project for the standardization of technical norms for housing would be finalized.

113. The decision to establish AFRICABAT in Senegal was an encouragement and the Government was deeply involved in the preparation of this important event.

114. With regard to training in the field of human settlements, the Government had established several training institutions intended to provide the necessary manpower at the various levels of the administration. Six training institutions were now operational in Senegal.

115. The following were among the obstacles to the attainment of the training objectives of Senegal:

- (a) Financial constraints.
- (b) Problems with respect to the contents of the training programmes, in view of the multi-disciplinary nature of planning and management of human settlements;
- (c) Difficulties due to the shortage and to the qualifications of local teachers;
- (d) Problems in identifying training requirements consistent with the local conditions.
- (e) Difficulties with respect to the legal status of the training institutions (financial autonomy).

116. The fourth meeting was being held at the right time and it provided an opportunity to the various delegations to evaluate their experience in the areas concerned. Senegal was happy to be participants in the work of the meeting and would take full advantage of all the information and recommendations that would emerge from the discussions.

RWANDA

117. The representative of Rwanda said that his country's five-year development plan included a strategy on human settlements and another on the environment; both strategies were expected to bring about self-sufficiency in food. The salient points of the housing and human settlement policy were.

- (a) Bringing about greater efficiency in land use by streamlining the consumption of space and consolidating facilities;
- (b) Establishing a town and country planning policy;
- (c) Increasing the supply of housing units by involving other land development operators;
- (c) Developing appropriate land and institutional procedures;
- (e) Strengthening the role and involvement of local communities in planning, regulation and management of human settlement;
- (f) Organizing the funding of housing and systematically applying expenses recovery procedures;
- (g) Fostering the production of building materials to help revive the Rwandese economy.

118. His Government was determined not to finance urbanization at the expense of the rural areas and intended to institutionalize popular participation schemes in housing.

119. It was becoming increasingly urgent to adopt new approaches to human settlements since current policies such as housing units built by the public authorities or authorized agencies and the financing of housing by the rural networks had failed to achieve the expected results.

120. The two main environmental problems that Rwanda was facing were the loss of arable land and deforestation; Rwanda was currently using popular participation to wage an anti-erosion and soil conservation and afforestation campaign. It was also carrying out other activities such as water supply programmes for rural households and the development of marshland to destroy malaria-breeding grounds in particular. The aim was to properly manage all aspects of the environment in the light of the country's development activities.

Kenya

121. The delegate of Kenya reported that since independence Kenya has recognized the importance of human settlement in the preparation of its National Development Plans. The last five National Development Plans have aimed at provision of basic needs that improve its human welfare namely, health, education, water, decent dwelling houses and food. The biggest human settlement movement occurred immediately in the early years of independence when Kenya African families were settled on the one million acre formerly reserved for white settlers. That resettlement has now been completed and in the last three Development Plans Kenya has concentrated on provision of dwelling houses to the ever increasing urban population.

122. To co-ordinate all activities connected with the provision of shelter, the Kenya Government has created the Ministry of Works, Housing and Physical Planning. This Ministry is responsible for designing housing units for the Government of Kenya and the supervision of their construction and maintenance.

123. Private individuals have been encouraged to build or buy already built houses. This has been done through owner-occupied schemes where long term mortgage has been made available at a low rate of interest. The availability of long term mortgage has now been extended to include the building and purchase of permanent houses in the rural area.

124. In the field of housing, the Government has adopted the policy of aided self-help schemes in order to stimulate vigorous community involvement and participation, e.g. the Dandora Community Development Project within this project design and implementation processes have generated self-help building activity and created a sound base for the provision of socio-economic community services and infrastructure.

125. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the University of Nairobi is the main training and research institution and plans are at hand to start training programmes for sub-professionals at the Kenya Polytechnic.

126. Kenya since the Stockholm Conference, has taken some concrete steps in the establishment of appropriate institutions to ensure an effective overall management of the environment. Among these institutions are:

- (i) the National Environment Secretariat which co-ordinates all environment programmes;

- (ii) the Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Reforestation and
- (iii) the Kenya Rangeland Environmental Monitoring Unit. Through the National Environment Secretariat, a state of Environment Report has been published, and the National Conservation Strategy is under preparation. The Secretariat has initiated an Environment Education Programme for Primary and Secondary Schools. Faculty of Environment and Wildlife studies has been established in Moi University and Kenya Institute of Education is developing environmental teaching curriculum for Secondary Schools.

127. With a population growth rate of 4 per cent p. a. there is an apparent over-exploitation of arable land for the production of food and cash crops. The over-exploitation has led to serious soil degradation. Lack of arable land has forced people to move into marginal lands which are unsuitable for crop farming resulting in soil loss through wind erosion during the dry season. Experience has taught us that no conservation measures can succeed in these critical areas unless there is an active participation by the people down to the village level.

128. Kenya supports the CAIRO PLAN OF ACTION. Kenya has identified institutions and individuals who will be the focal points for the four Technical Committees. Kenya has further identified three villages and one semi-arid stock raising zone to form the pilot projects within the Cairo Plan of Action.

129. Kenya is ready and willing to exchange experience and research findings in matters of environment with other countries and particularly those in our region. We look forward to collaboration between us, Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in the study and implementation of an integrated multi-purpose development plan for the Lake Victoria Basin in view of the importance of Lake Victoria to the community within the basin. We hope the study will rationalize management of the resources of the Lake Catchment area including reforestation, soil conservation, pollution control.

Botswana

130. Botswana has for some time now been devising a range of policies and programmes to alleviate settlements and shelter-related poverty. These include:

(i) The preparation of the country's National Settlement Policy. This policy aims at preparing a comprehensive national plan in which programmes are considered in respect of all settlement and resources;

(ii) The preparation of Development Plans for all planning areas under Town and Country Planning Act. to guide and control development in detail by means of Building and Development Control Codes. These codes determine urban and rural development standards which set guidelines to define the quality of structures, regulate efficient use and occupancy of space, the utilization of material, building services and public health.

131. Botswana is currently reviewing its Building Codes and Regulations. The promotion and use of locally produced building materials as a means of improving the housing affordability situation for low income households is also being pursued.

132. A self-help Housing Agency (SHHA) Scheme has been in operation for over ten years. Its success includes a complete eradication of squatter settlements in Botswana's towns through upgrading projects site and services programmes for low-income families. The scheme is now being reviewed to address some of the inherent problems such as cost recovery mechanisms.

133. On the environmental front, Botswana is increasingly focussing attention on the deterioration of the earth's renewable natural resource base as follows:

(i) The country's Wildlife Policy which was finalized in 1986 has had major achievements in conservation and development. Under the Policy, 17 per cent of the country's territory has been reserved for wildlife preservation in National Parks and Game Reserves while an additional 20 per cent of the country has been declared Wildlife Management Areas. This gives a total of 37 per cent of the country's territory reserved solely or partially for the conservation of wildlife;

- (ii) Initiatives under a project called Livestock III has incorporated local land use planning for sustained use, range-land monitoring systems, increase of the abattoir capacity and increase in economic incentives to reduce herds by increasing off-take;
- (iii) The preparation of an integrated National Conservation Strategy (NCS) is scheduled for completion by the end of 1987. The primary purpose of the NCS is to help ensure Botswana's sustained development by tying together economic growth and replenishment of those renewable natural resources on which long-term economic growth will have to be based;
- iv) One other on-going important national environmental project is the preparation of a National Water Masterplan which has been necessitated by the mismatch between location of water resources and growth of population. Government is also actively promoting NGO initiative in the country, thus NGOs such as the Forestry Association of Botswana and Thusano Lefatshing have been formed.

134. The Botswana Government's approach in all the environmental programmes outlined above is that as much as conservation is necessary, it must be done profitably and with people's full involvement by making them realize their personal survival in sustained development.

ETHIOPIA

135. The representative of Ethiopia stated that the Government, has launched massive programmes of resettlement of people from the drought-stricken regions of the country into virgin lands of Western and southern Ethiopia. Accordingly, as of July 1986 a total 1.5 million people have been resettled in the newly-opened regions.

136. Villagization, like its sister programme of agricultural resettlement, has had the rural population as its target. It has tried to bring economic and social development to the rural population who live in a scattered fashion. The object of this policy is to bring together rural people into newly established villages so that they may be provided with various economic, social amenities and services. The villagization programme is basically a voluntary activity, self-financed as far as construction of housing units is concerned, with local governments' involvement only in the selection of sites for the new villages.

137. To date 15 per cent of rural villages have been successfully relocated on new sites. It is expected that by the end of the current medium-term plan period, the figure will rise to 25 per cent. According to current statistical information, as of June 1986, some 5367 peasant associations were reported to have been villagized in 8 out of the 14 administrative regions of the country. Thus, the number of newly-created villages has reached 20,624 with 1.6 million dwelling units giving shelter service to some 893,000 farm family heads, or about 4 million rural inhabitants.

138. Urbanization is a relatively new phenomenon in Ethiopia. Out of a total population of nearly 43 million, only 10 per cent live in urban centres. However, because of the overall low performance of the Ethiopian economy the provision of modern urban facilities, especially those in housing, has remained to be a problem.

139. In the area of housing provision, four types of participants exist: co-ops, the government, urban dweller's associations and individuals despite government's effort the housing situation leaves much to be desired, however, a substantial amount of activity is currently underway involving all four participants.

140. The environmental problems of Ethiopia are not different from those of other African countries. As pointed out by the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the problems are mainly "conditions which deny the most basic needs of life to a majority of people. The most serious relate to insufficient food, shelter, widespread disease and ill health which continue because of the lack of basic health care resources, education and even the minimum correct information about infectious diseases."

141. Ethiopia's environmental problems may be reiterated in terms of their priorities: land and soil degradation, deforestation, drought and desertification, water resource management, environmental problems related with human settlements, environmental diseases, and low level of environmental awareness.

142. National objectives and policies regarding environmental management have been formulated since the beginning of the Ethiopian Revolution in 1974. The pressing problems of deforestation and desertification have been met squarely with programmes of afforestation, soil and water conservancy, and rational management of wildlife resources of the country.

143. The importance attached to environmental issues have been clearly demonstrated by designating protection and management of the environment as one of the major objectives of the 10 - Year Perspective Plan (1984-93). In 1986 about 134 million tree seedlings were planted. This represented 24 per cent of the planned target.

144. Other targets to be fulfilled within the framework of the 10-Year Perspective Plan are: land use studies covering about 13 million hectares of land (10 per cent of the total area of the country); small-scale irrigation to develop 50,000 ha terracing of a nearly 1 million ha, planting on 1.5 million ha. of land; and revitalization of some 720,000 ha. of degraded land. Regarding afforestation programmes, there will be established a forest reserve area of 1.6 million ha. and registration of 381,200 ha of forest land. All in all the extent of forested area at the end of the 10-year plan period will have increased to about 9 million ha. or more than 7 per cent of the total area of the country. This is a substantial achievement regarding the nearly 4 per cent forest coverage of the current period.

Nigeria

145. The Nigerian representative said that over the past 18 months his Government had succeeded in creating greater awareness and commitment in evolving and maintaining a liveable environment. The activities undertaken in the field of human settlements covered such areas as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), the Nigerian States Urban Development Programme (NSUDP), and national urban development policy.

146. In 1986, his Government had hosted the ECOWAS subregional seminar on IYSH and provided 500,000 Naira (\$US 700,000) for IYSH activities. Sixteen states had so far formed IYSH steering committees a majority of which had initiated slum upgrading projects in collaboration with the national steering committee.

147. NSUDP was a key shelter improvement scheme aimed at encouraging home ownership and upgrading squatter settlements with the assistance of the World Bank. Two pilot projects were being implemented, one in Bauchi state (financed with an external loan of \$US 17.8 million) and the other in Imo state (financed with an external loan of \$US 53 million). The Urban and Regional Planning Division of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing was in the process of finalizing a draft policy document which would provide broad guidelines on urban development for the entire country. Preliminary work had been started on an integrated Regional plan for the country which would highlight human settlements problems and issues that cut across state boundaries.

148. As far as environmental matters were concerned, the Federal Government had been concentrating on the following three broad areas::

(a) Drought and desertification

The activities being undertaken to combat the impact of drought and desertification throughout the country included the sinking of boreholes to tap underground water, the building of dams to store water for irrigation and domestic use and the planting of trees to control desertification;

(b) Erosion

Work had been started in the southern part of the country to control coastal erosion while studies were ongoing to identify appropriate solutions to erosion;

(c) Environmental protection

The Federal Government was in the process of establishing a National Environmental Protection Agency which would be responsible, inter alia, for developing and enforcing national standards for environmental protection and improvement.

In the meantime, a number of activities aimed at improving and protecting the quality of the environment would continue to be undertaken. Public awareness campaigns on general environmental sanitation had been launched by all the governments throughout the country.

The Federal Government had also undertaken a number of studies aimed at formulating a sound domestic and industrial waste - management policy for the country. The Government regularly monitored the activities of oil companies operating in the country; they had now been issued codes of practice with the view to limiting the occurrences of oil pollution in the oil-prospecting areas.

Contributions from Specialized Agencies

149. The Representative of UNESCO to Ethiopia and Liaison Officer with ECA and OAU reiterated that this meeting was taking place within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's priority programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the UNPA in which UNESCO had fully participated within its area of competence. In view of the drought desertification and other critical problems of the region, UNESCO has prepared an action programme to address the problem. New paragraph begins here: Two important meetings, the First Congress of African Scientists and CASTAFRICA II are scheduled to consider this year (1987) the form of Action necessary for the effective implementation of that programme in close cooperation with OAU, ECA and other sister organizations. He stated that following the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, and the decision to nominate the Director of the Coordinating Committee for the implementation of the Plan of Action, UNESCO will fully participate and cooperate in that effort.

150. He added that the actions pursued and envisaged by UNESCO in the fields of Human Settlements and Environment were closely coordinated with ECA, UNEP and HABITAT and other Regional organizations and constitutes a multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach including Education, the Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Cultural and Communication, as defined in the UNESCO Medium Term Plan for 1984 - 1989 and elaborated in its biennial Programme of Action encompassing fourteen major projects covering the same period. The adoption by the first conference of African Ministers of Culture organized by OAU, (Harare - 1986) in close collaboration with UNESCO, had put cultural development into its proper perspective. He emphasized that knowledge of the different natural environments of the Continent, and their resources is promoted through the numerous activities of the major international, intergovernmental programmes launched world-wide by UNESCO. These are the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and the Programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). A distinctive feature of these scientific programmes is that they give greater emphasis and priority to the

training of specialists in the mastery and utilisation of science and technology for the attainment of skills that were necessary for the management of the Human Settlements within their respective environments.

151. UNESCO had endeavoured to contribute through education, training and research, to the advancement of knowledge in ecological systems and their interaction with human activities in the following areas:

- (i) geological structures and their mineral potential.
- (ii) hydrological processes and the evaluation and proper use of water resources.
- (iii) and the determination of the relationships between ocean dynamics and climate
- (iv) and the exploitation of mineral and biological resources.

152. The scientific development of any country he pointed out, rested basically on the development of a sound educational system with Man as the centre of development. In this regard the development and renovation of the educational system, at all levels, constituted a central role in the overall national development effort. It was therefore, imperative that a concerted approach, whether in policy, strategy, content, methodology, facilities and training, be constantly elaborated, to ensure participation of all citizens in the political activities which are aimed at making and guiding the community in its correct course of development within a given socio-cultural environment.

153. In conclusion he stated that, the State, as embodied in its various institutions, and particularly the Communication Sector, needs to play a leading role in the dissemination of essential information needed to ensure the fullest participation of all communities.

154. UNESCO placed considerable emphasis on interagency cooperation in the implementation of its activities. To foster this, he continued, a cooperation agreement between the ECA and UNESCO has been supported by regular Joint Consultative meetings and similar cooperation has been forged between the OAU and UNESCO such that these mechanisms, in addition to the Cooperative Agreements with various UN Agencies such as FAO, ILO and other IGO, would ensure the necessary interagency cooperation.

155. The representative of WHO stated that WHO had a long record of activities in the area of urban and building climatology and in matters related to climate and human health. To this effect, the Organization had produced several guidance materials. An integrated planning in human settlements requires a detailed knowledge of climate resources like sunshine, wind flow and rainfall patterns and atmospheric stability. The national meteorological service, which was the focal point of WHO programmes, was generally well vested with the necessary knowledge in local climate. As regards the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action, WHO was closely collaborating with UNEP by putting the existing and operational climatology station network and its associated networking mechanisms at the disposal of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

156. The representative of WHO gave a brief account of the preparatory actions undertaken by WHO with regards to the establishment of ACMAD. These were contained in two information documents available to the Committee. The WHO Regional Association 1 (Africa) which was the intergovernmental body of African states in meteorology and operational hydrology adopted Resolution 25 (IX-RA1) expressed full support to the ECA Conference of Ministers and called on its members to actively support the Centre. The other document gave an overview of the report of the consultants on ACIVS regarding its functions and organizational structure and its implementation strategy. In continuation with the preparatory phase an ECA/WHO was to visit potential host countries and a study team was visiting several African countries to assess the need to improve the existing WHO telecommunication facilities to ensure timely exchange of data and products with the Centre. The draft Constitution of the Centre proposes two alternatives for the Chairman of the Board of Governors. In view of its experience in the operation of regional and global centres and considering that regular consultations would be necessary in the operation of ACMAD, WHO would submit that the second alternative be retained whereby the Chairman be selected from the Board members. WHO would recommend that the technical criteria adopted by the Interagency Meeting be retained as basis for site selection. It was felt necessary that an estimate of the capital and other costs be worked out, based on the consultants' report, to enable potential host countries to take an early decision. A preliminary analysis of the economic impact of ACMAD would also prove useful to the decision makers.

157. The representative of FAO said that his organization was glad to note that there was a general concern in most African countries on both issues of human settlement and environment and their inter-relationship.

158. FAO has classified the main problems associated with environmental degradation affecting the continent into four.

- (i) Forest depletion and its degradation, both in closed and open formations,
- (ii) Forests and bush fires;
- (iii) Fuelwood and charcoal wasting;
- (iv) Soil erosion and desertification.

159. To indicate the magnitude and gravity of the situation, the representative pointed out that, annually, about 200 m³ of timber were lost in the closed humid forests mainly as a result of shifting cultivation and exploitation for timber purposes, and for example, Nigeria will lose about 492 million M³ of its closed productive forests before the end of this century if adequate measures were not undertaken. In the open woodlands it was estimated that more than 150 millions M³ is lost annually primarily for fuelwood, charcoal and construction purposes.

160. Aware of these alarming rates of forest and soil resources depletion and degradation he stated that, FAO had launched a very broad action plan entitled "Tropical Forestry Action Plan" containing five priority areas for action, namely:

1. Forest in land use. This area aimed at conserving the resource base for agriculture (watershed management and desertification control) and, at integrating forestry into agriculture systems (agroforestry development), at with a view to the retention and use of the land.
2. Forest-based industrial development. This area aims at promoting appropriate forestry industry through appropriate plans for forest management and conservation.

3. Fuelwood and energy. Through this action the objectives are directed at accelerating connective action and restoring firewood supplies in the countries more affected by wood energy deficits.
4. Conservation of tropical forest ecosystems. Aims at conserving, managing and utilizing tropical plants and wild life genetic resources by the development of national networks of protected areas, and research into the management of tropical forest for a sustained production.
5. Institutions. In this area the main objective is the strengthening of public forest administrators and related government agencies.

161. It is evident that FAO through this plan is offering a realistic approach to supplementary efforts geared at integrating the national resources and its utilization of forests, mills and water resources for the benefit of the continent.

ILO

162. ILO has multifarious and alternating activities in the sphere of human settlements and environmental establishments. To simply enumerate some of those activities and put them against the background of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless one could mention the following:

- (i) the Special Public Works Programmes have been set up by the organization for the benefit of various communities, these are road maintenance, the fight against desertification, and distribution of potable water.
- (ii) ILO has been engaged in feasibility and evaluation studies training programmes and follow up courses. The ILO consequently has developed a systematic professional training method with model of qualification programmes.

163. The ILO has prepared educational material for the training of qualified labourers in the field of masonry, concrete construction and carpentry.

164. The representative of the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation(CIB) presented his organization to the meeting and informed the meeting that CIB was an international, non-governmental, non-profit-making organization whose purpose is to encourage, facilitate and develop international co-operation in building, housing and planning research, studies and documentation, covering not only the technical but also the economic and social aspects of building and the built environment.

165. CIB, he said, was the primary mechanism through which the international building community exchanges findings on building research and practice. It endeavours to achieve its objectives by:

- (a) promoting international co-operation between all types of building research organizations,
- (b) encouraging the international exchange of research personnel,
- (c) fostering exchange of building and construction information and research documentation, and
- (d) sponsoring international symposia on topical themes and holding a triennial congress.

166. The main thrust of CIB's work, he added was to carry out through a network of over 40 working commissions which were composed of specialist representatives of CIB member institutions and of other co-opted experts. These dealt with a variety of topics selected from CIB's field of interest. The overall programme of the Working Commissions' activities was continually reviewed by the programme committees. He added that CIB had a number of Working Commissions which were specifically dealing with problems of interest to the developing countries. The active ones were:

- Timber Structures, Tropical Hardwoods
- Low Cost Housing
- Energy Conservation in the Built Environment in the Developing Countries
- Building Climatology
- Natural Disasters Mitigation
- Utilization of Local Materials and Agricultural by-products

167. He concluded that CIB, in collaboration with the Reunion internationale des laboratoires d'essais et de recherche sur les matériaux de construction- (RILEM), a Swiss organization to promote international co-operation in research and development of test methods for construction materials. In 1983 organized the Nairobi Symposium on 'Appropriate Building Materials for Low-Cost Housing'. This symposium was the first in a series - Africa Region. The second - for Asia and the Pacific Region - took place last month in Bangkok, Thailand (January 19-26, 1987). The third was expected to take place in Latin America within the coming three years.

168. In order to contribute to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the representative of Africa Union of Architects (AUA) has decided to organize its third Congress, which will deal with the state-of-the-art in construction and town and country planning in Africa (AFRICABAT), 7-12 January 1988 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting will be jointly organized by the African Development Bank, Shelter Afrique and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and possibly ECA, UNESCO and all other organizations interested in the event.

169. A dispatch of the Agence France Presse dated 23 October 1986 indicated that (AFRICABAT) will promote better North-South dialogue between public works ministers and professionals of the building sector and European, American and Asian industrialists for the revival of the construction of infrastructures and housing in Africa. Here again, the main intention will be to bring about direct dialogue between those who set standards (architects) and the builders or industrialists so that they can speak the same language. But the most appropriate way of describing the meaning of AFRICABAT seems to have been expressed by the newspaper, *Urban Press* which had a headline in its 29 October edition "AFRICABAT 88: construction in the heart of development", as a major construction fair bringing together political decision makers, industrialists and contractors.

170. In most African countries, more than 80 per cent of what goes into construction is imported; yet the establishment of local construction industries helps directly to develop industries while solving the problem of Africa's homeless.

171. The establishment of building industries should be done methodically by ensuring that such industries will be profitable. Everyone knows that the markets of African countries taken individually cannot justify the establishment of profitable factories. The ambition of AFRICABAT is to get African economic operators to meet partners likely to bring about a transfer of technology with the assistance of African architects.

Human Settlements Sub-committee report

Study on the establishment and strengthening of training facilities in the field of Human Settlements in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/23)

172. In introducing document E/ECA/HUS/23, the representative of ECA pointed out that the experience of many African countries during the first three decades development had demonstrated the need to put greater emphasis on the spatial consequences of development. Progress in the human settlements sector could be achieved only if African countries had qualified manpower. While some countries had established their own training institutes, others still relied on expertise from outside the African continent. Training in the area of human settlements called for multinational co-operation. The study recommended specific action to be taken at the national and international levels to meet training requirements in the field of human settlements.

173. After the introduction, the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Burundi, Zambia and Kenya took the floor to congratulate the Secretariat for the quality of the document and the information contained therein. They described the experiences of their own respective countries and how the training institutions in their countries operated.

174. After endorsing the recommendations made by the document, they emphasized the need to develop and to streamline the existing institutions so as to avoid duplication.

175. The representative of Kenya requested that the Rural and Urban Planning Department of the University of Nairobi should be included in the table entitled: "Location of training institutions in some African countries".

Human Settlements Sub-committee report

Integrating Human Settlements Policies and Programmes into National
Socio-Economic Development Planning: Framework and Methodologies
(E/ECA/HUS/24)

176. A representative of the ECA, introducing this document pointed out that the distinction formerly drawn between economic and social planning objectives and the too strict sectorization of development planning had been arbitrary and untenable and has become increasingly irrelevant. Development includes both economic and social objectives. Since all development planning is "people-centred" in the sense that the population (people) is the basis and beneficiary of all planning.

177. Human settlement incorporates and encompasses almost the universe of human activities and needs including the economic and social. The distribution and settlement of population are closely linked with the broader field of socio-economic development and change. Policies and programmes for human settlements development therefore are part and parcel of national socio-economic development.

178. The irrelevance of the distinctions among macro-economic, sectoral and other categorisations of planning are therefore being increasingly realized in several African countries whose Development Plans Documents no longer speak solely of "Economic Planning" but rather of "Plan for Economic, Social and Cultural Development" or of "National Socio-Economic Development Plan. Planning is increasingly being integrated. He noted that almost all the National Development Plans of African Countries examined indicated that the general objective is that of bringing about an improvement in the living conditions of the people, and that several of these plans emphasize "inter-sectoral integration in planning and harmonious inter-regional development. The necessity for integrating the various aspects of planning including the human settlements aspects is therefore widely acknowledged. The ECA

representative went on to review the existing framework for national development plan preparation and integration in several African countries and noted that the framework used varied among countries, and involved three broad structures.

- a key Ministry of Planning and/or Finance coordinating all Sectoral Plans,
- an Inter-Ministerial Plan Coordinating Committee, Coordinating all sectoral plans.
- a planning commission, independent of any Sectoral Ministry, Coordinating all the sectoral plans.

179. The strengths and weaknesses of each of these as plan integration framework were reviewed as was their respective potential effectiveness.

180. While recommending the Inter-Ministerial Plan Coordinating Committee framework as the most effective framework for Plan Coordination, the paper recognised that the framework and methodology adopted by a given country would depend on which framework the country finds more workable under its particular local political milieu and circumstances and on the maturity of the people who operate the given framework. In either case, continual inter-ministerial consultations, discussions and good interministerial information flow is pivotal for successful plan integration.

181. The adopted integrating framework notwithstanding, it was emphasized that for a more effective integration of human settlements policies and programmes into the national socio-economic planning, human settlements objectives, goals and priorities should be reflected among the national plan objectives, goals and priorities at the highest policy levels. This is necessary because it is on the basis of the objectives, goals and priorities that the programmes and projects to achieve them would be formulated. The chances of achieving integration of basic human settlements programmes in the national socio-economic plans will therefore, be brighter if they are the subject of

specific programmes reflected in the overall national plan objectives. He also pointed out that the integration of human settlements programmes into the national socio-economic plan would be much more effective if the location or siting decisions of major projects of other sectors could be made at the beginning of the planning stage because of the implications that the impacts of such locations have for human settlements programmes and activities.

182. In conclusion, the representative of the ECA stressed the necessity for continuous interaction between technicians (especially the professional planners) and the people who have ultimate responsibility for political judgements - the politicians, if plans would be carried through to achieve their designated objectives.

Discussion

183. In the discussion that followed, the Representative of Shelter-Afrique noted that this issue has been with us for sometime now; he stated that the issue should be more relevantly raised at the Meeting of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning as they are the targets of the issues raised. He noted also that the paper ignored some external factors and actors such as the IMF which would prevail on countries not to make substantial allocations to the human settlements sector on the erroneous presumption that the sector is not productive. He suggested that the meeting of Ministers of Economic Planning of the ECA be requested to take cognisance of the issues raised in this paper.

184. The delegate of Rwanda suggested that the problem of integrating human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic development plan could be a result of language and the way these are presented to national planners. Human Settlements professionals may not have been making themselves understood. He suggested that they should present their case better by showing what contributions human settlements make in the economy and in the achievement

of national development goals and objectives such as the generation of employment and income in housing and public works programmes and projects and in building materials industries. It assists in the wider spread of income to the lower levels. He noted that all constitutions and all governments strive for the improvement of the living conditions of their people and human settlements is part of these conditions they seek to improve. He emphasized that human settlements policies and programmes should be presented in a language which the economist would understand e.g. finance, infrastructure, employment and income generation etc., so that it can be better appreciated, and provided for.

185. The representative of Congo, referring to paragraph 51 (IV) of the paper stated that Interministerial Committees already exist in African countries and that what is required is to give these Interministerial bodies specific directions and responsibilities.

186. A representative of Zaire observed that human settlements programmes should emphasize the problem of low-income housing and suggested the inclusion of low-income housing in the title of the paper. The secretariat explained that this was essentially a methodological paper, and that the title was the title of the element in the official work programme. The concern for low-cost housing was however taken note of.

187. Zimbabwe stated that one of the difficulties in integrating low-cost housing programmes into national socio-economic planning is that low-income housing is aid-oriented and often not able to justify itself economically.

Human Settlements Sub-committee report

Programme for institutionalizing public housing participation
schemes for the low-income population in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/25)

188. In his introduction of document E/ECA/HUS/25, a representative of the ECA secretariat said that housing was a primary concern of African governments which needed to be looked at within the context of the increase in population and its impact on the overall development process. The aim of the study was to consider the various factors that influenced the development of the housing sector and to put forward solutions likely to improve current housing policies for the low-income population.

189. He then spoke about the housing situation in Africa and the role of housing construction societies in national policies before stressing the usefulness of public participation schemes as a means of reducing current housing construction costs. The aim of such schemes was to get participants to finance the construction of housing and the maintenance and conservation of collective property and give them the opportunity of contributing, through their personal efforts, to the housing and improvement of their respective housing units.

190. He also made a comparative analysis of individual self-help, public participation and contractor construction and mentioned obstacles to the implementation of popular participation in housing construction.

191. In conclusion, he made some recommendations that would lay the foundations for promoting public participation in housing.

192. In the discussions that followed, the speakers congratulated the secretariat for the quality of information in the document and expressed support for the proposed recommendations.

193. The delegations of Zimbabwe and Senegal made statements on the achievements and problems of the **experiments** carried out in their countries. They proposed that the **systems** of access to housing credit should be reformulated to meet the needs of the low-income population.

An integrated Approach to the Evaluation of Construction Needs of the
African Region (E/ECA/HUS/26)

194. Five countries including Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Botswana and Rwanda contributed to the discussions which followed the presentation of the paper. All five delegates congratulated the secretariat for the detailed work presented.

195. The delegate from Tanzania noted the experiences of his country in the formation of a National Construction Council which corresponds with the formation of an inter-ministerial mechanism suggested in the paper, and recommends the adoption of that particular recommendation. However, the delegate from Zaire noted that since the system might be already existing in some country, a clause should be inserted so that the recommendation covers only those countries which have not yet established such mechanisms.

196. On the second recommendation relating to teaming-up between local and foreign firms, the delegate from Tanzania noted that the recommendation should be extended beyond the level of small-scale contractors to cover all national construction companies where necessary. He noted the experiences in his country where given proportion of projects are reserved for national companies.

197. Commenting on the same recommendation (2), the delegate from Zaire noted that while such teaming-up could be desirable, the foreign exchange implications that normally accompany the hiring of foreign companies should not be forgotten.

198. Rwanda supported the objectives underlying recommendation (2) but suggests the need for intra-African co-operation in construction. He noted that if there could be uniform construction standards for the region, African construction companies could be utilized for less dependence upon foreign firms.

199. The delegate from Tanzania commented on the need to increase productivity and suggested that the use of incentives could be very rewarding.

200. In his observation the delegate from Botswana pointed out that while the paper aptly pointed out what should be done (in the recommendations) it does not indicate how the recommendations could be implemented. In reply, the secretariat agreed to take note of such implementation measures in the future.

Programme of Work 1988-1989, Development of building materials industries and Construction sector in Africa and Human Settlements contribution to the implementation of APPER (agenda item 6 (f))

201. The Human Settlements programme of work for 1988-1989 biennium was introduced by the secretariat. The secretariat emphasized the orientation of the programme towards implementation of regional policies and programmes. The main focus of the programmes was on development of infrastructures, accelerated rural transformation, physical planning and the building and construction sector. Within this programme the project for the development of building materials in Africa was introduced. This regional project was designed to strengthen existing building materials development centres in the production, standardization and commercialization of indigenous building materials along with training of technicians, artisans, entrepreneurs and the mobilization of finance for the commercial production of building materials. Delegates were informed of the practical and operational nature of the project which will include the design and construction of pilot housing schemes projects in participating member States. Building codes and standards are to be given special consideration in the implementation of this project. The project was designed by ECA in collaboration with UNCHS (HABITAT) and Shelter Afrique and ECA has co-opted both UNCHS (HABITAT) and Shelter Afrique as Associate Agencies in the execution of this project.

202. Delegates were also asked to consider the paper on "Human Settlements in the Implementation of APPER" which will be considered as the basis for the ECA medium-term programme of work for 1990-1995. The crucial role of rural transformation, physical planning in striking a harmonious interaction between rural and urban areas and the provision of infrastructures as well as the need to mobilize resources were highlighted. The endorsement by the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment (JIRCHSE) of both programmes of work for 1988-1989 and the recommendations for the medium-term plan 1990-1995 were being sought.

Environment Sub-Committee

203. Under the Chairmanship of Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama the Minister of Housing and Settlements of Gabon as 1st Vice Chairman of the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee the sub-committee on environmental matters discussed agenda items 7(a), (b), (e), (f), (g) and (h). Agenda item (c) and (d) which were introduced at the plenary session under presentation of documents by the secretariat, were not discussed as the french versions were still not available from the Conference Services. Mr. JOSEPH LETSHOLO PRINCIPAL PLANNER OF BOTSWANA was unanimously elected Rapporteur of the subcommittee.

Agenda item 7(a): Progress Report on 1986-1987 Environment in Africa
Programme Activities since the last meeting, including consideration
of the Environment in Africa Work Programme for 1988-1989 biennium
(E/ECA/ENV/35)

204. The representative of the secretariat highlighted the main activities in the Progress Report E/ECA/ENV/35, pointing out the ECA resolutions adopted from the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Committee and calling the attention of this fourth meeting to the proposed work programme for the Environment in Africa for the 1988-1989 biennium.

205. In the discussion which followed, clarification was requested on the use of the term "legislative bodies" in the "general objectives of the secretariat" of the 1988-1989 work programme. It was decided to delete the term to remove any ambiguity in meaning. A few delegations pointed out that too much emphasis was put on drought and desertification control activities whilst nothing was mentioned about natural disasters plaguing African countries, as for example the peculiar Lake Nyos natural gas disaster in Cameroon, earthquakes and cyclones common in the island countries and floods in Mozambique. The meeting decided to draft a resolution calling for the Secretariat to take into account the different priority environmental problems in different areas of the continent, in its biennial activities especially on natural catastrophe. Several delegations pointed out the low attendance at

this fourth meeting by drought-prone countries which were also affected by desertification. Most of those countries were benefiting from the OAU FUND for Drought Control, but have not shown enough interest to come and discuss their problems at an environmental forum such as this. The meeting recommended a study of the problem involved and then it adopted the document including the 1988-1989 Environment in Africa Work Programme. The meeting also noted that an international conference on the causes and consequences of the Lake Nyos disaster will be held shortly.

Agenda item 7(b): Progress Report on the Development of Environmental Capabilities to Combat Desertification and the Impacts of Drought in the Africa region. (E/ECA/ENV/31)

206. The ECA secretariat highlighted the points in the above mentioned document. In the discussion that followed, participants expressed the dissatisfaction that the paper did not have updated information on combating desertification in all the countries mentioned in the papers. Some delegates felt that the paper did not give the historical context of most of the activities particularly going back to the late 1970s and early 1980s. One delegate also complained that only three of the five MULPOC sub-regions were reported on in the paper.

207. Apart from an amendment on the entry under Angola which gave the late attainment of independence as being the cause for its under development, updates were promised from Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Cameroon.

208. One delegate expressed the view that he had expected to see an evaluation of the functioning of national environmental machineries so that an idea could be got as to the environmental problems that member States were facing. One participant pointed out that it was the duty of member states to help the secretariat in supplying the necessary information by fitting in questionnaire that were sent to them from the secretariat.

209. One participant questioned the sources of the information contained in the paper saying that in his country there were several agencies dealing with environment-related matters and that the secretariat should decide on what national environmental machinery it should deal with.

210. In reply to this point the chairman pointed out that it was the duty of the government to tell the secretariat which was the national lead agency on environmental matters with which the secretariat should deal and not the reverse.

211. In reply to the remarks and issues raised by participants, the secretariat said that all the amendments and editing errors pointed out will be done. The Secretariat expressed appreciation for the concern of participants about the scanty information contained in the paper on the functioning of national environmental machineries. He said that the Secretariat relies on information it receives from member States as some participants had pointed out and that the paper had stimulated the desire for member States to provide updates to the paper and hoped that this will continue so that at the next meeting a more detailed paper could be presented.

212. In answer to the question of the sources of information in the paper, on the Secretariat pointed out that they got from country reports at the last Joint Committee meeting and country reports at subsequent meeting on drought and desertification. It was pointed out that the report dealt with the situation between the two meeting and did not intend to go back beyond that period.

213. In conclusion, the sub-committee recommended that the Secretariat undertake an evaluation study on the functioning of national sub-regional and regional environmental machineries especially for drought and desertification control. The meeting also took note of the request from the Secretariat for updates their country activities in the report especially in relation to the regional plan of action to combat drought as published in RURAL PROGRESS Vol. 5 which was distributed at the meeting.

Agenda item 7(e): Development of Environmental Training for
Technicians on Marine Pollution, Coastal Erosion and Depletion
of Marine Resources in the EEZ. (E/ECA/ENV/32).

214. The UNECA Secretariate presented the document in brief by Stating that it was a summary of a consultant's report on the topic indicated above.

215. The Secretariate requested that each member State should up-date annex I of the document; which related to institutional resources for Monitoring Pollution and depletion of living resources in the coasts and Marine environment in Africa.

216. The representative of the Secretariate stressed that ECA was mostly interested in developing national technical capabilities of African countries, for a systematic Monitoring of Pollution in the coastal marine environment as well as developing the manpower resources.

217. During the discussion, one delegate felt that the title and emphasis of training of technicians, but he would have liked to see the area of training marine ecologists at professional level stressed in the paper. Also clarification was requested on the differences between sewage discharge and domestic/commercial waste discharge and also on negative pollution.

218. On answering the questions raised the secretariate pointed out that negative pollution was a concept used to indicate pollution due to loss of useful material from the environment such as in coastal erosion, as against ordinary air and water pollution caused by adding toxic substances to the environment.

219. Another delegate pointed out that the document only treated problems of marine pollution, without mentioning pollution problems of rivers and lakes. The ECA secretariate pointed out that UNEP has just started a programme on inland waters to address such pollution problems.

220. Another delegate observed that the environmental problems of sand, corals and trachyte which are used in the building industry are a major problem in the island countries of Africa. He said that his country has just started a project to study the impacts on the marine and inland environment, brought about by the exploitation of marine resources, namely sand, corals and trachyte.

221. After the discussion on this matter, the committee agreed to make a recommendation to stress the importance of developing policies, guidelines and regulations on the environmental problems of harvesting sand, corals, and trachyte on the island environment.

Agenda item 7(f): Progress Report on the Implementation of
ECA Resolution 578 (XXI) on the African Ministerial Conference
on the Environment (E/ECA/ENV/33)

222. In his contribution the UNEP Representative emphasised the vital importance of the financial contributions of Governments for the success of the Cairo Programme of Action both as a source of funds for the implementation of the programme and as a catalyst for attracting outside assistance by demonstrating the determination of African Governments to help themselves. He stated that as of the end of January 1987 only 18 governments had indicated in affirmative terms their acceptance of the financial arrangements. He hoped remaining Governments will follow suit.

223. With regard to the village and stock-raising that since there projects were intended as grass-roots activities based on popular participation, they occupied a position of special importance in the Cairo Programme, and their success was crucial to the success of the entire programme. He said preparatory studies on selected villages and stock-raising zones had started in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Zaire and action plans based on these studies would be formulated for implementation by the Governments. He indicated that similar action was envisaged for Senegal, Ethiopia, Egypt and some other countries.

The representative of UNEP said that the Second Meeting of the AMCEN in June 1987 at Nairobi will consider the relationship and modalities for cooperation with this Joint Committee. He also gave a summary of follow up actions taken so far on AMCENI.

224. In the discussion that followed participants expressed the concern that the paper did not give them much information on what the secretariat was doing about sorting out the modalities of co-operation between the Joint Committee and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) as contained in that resolution. Participants expressed the concern that the procedures for the exchange of ideas and reports between the two bodies were not clear and wanted to know what the secretariat was doing about this.

225. The representative of the secretariat explained after the Yaounde session of the ECA Conference of Ministers which passed the resolution 578 (XXI) the difficulties that arose were linked with the fact that the Joint Committee had its mandate from the General Assembly through the ECA Conference of Ministers and that any amendment to this mandate had to follow the same procedure. It was further explained that the most important mandate of the Joint Committee was to review the environment in Africa and Human Settlement work programmes and make recommendations to the ECA Conference of Ministers and that this role cannot be taken over by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment which was established by UNEP in collaboration with the ECA and the OAU.

226. In conclusion participants recommend that the secretariat should continue to study the modalities of co-operation with AMCEN.

Agenda item 7(g): Report of ECA/WMO Inter-Agency Consultations on
Establishing an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for
Development (ACMAD), Bujumbura, 8-10 October (E/ECA/ENV/34)

227. The representative of the secretariat highlighted the contents of document E/ECA/ENV/34 on the above joint ECA/WMO expert group meeting organised in response to ECA resolution 585(XXI) to prepare a draft constitution of ACMAD

and submit it to the twenty second session of the Commission through this Joint Committee. He also highlighted the work of the consultants and recommendations of the expert group on the preparatory assistance phase of the project on ACMAD funded by UNDP.

228. Several delegations raised points for clarification on the main text and on the draft constitution which was Annex III to the document. The ECA Secretariat pointed out that on the funding of ACMAD, the same resolution 585(XXI) had suggested that potential host countries be willing to underwrite the capital and other costs of the Centre. Responses were being awaited from Egypt, Kenya, Algeria, Niger except Senegal who has sent a reply that it does not want to be considered as a potential host country. The Secretariat also noted that even though donor usually cover most of the financing of an ECA-sponsored Centre at its initial phase of 5 years, it was necessary for member States to start with token contributions at the initial phase, with gradual increase in contributions to enable governments to take over completely when the donor withdraw after the Centre is fully established. The WMO representative supplemented this by clarifying the structure of ACMAD as shown in the Organogram in Annex I and by explaining the meaning of "Centre of Excellence as the best that can be provided for Africa, and of evolving needs of Africa" in terms of the growth of meteorology to meet economic demands in the continent.

229. On the draft constitution of ACMAD, several delegation sought clarification on Articles 5, 8, 12 and 16. The ECA Secretariat responded that on Article 5, parag. 2(a), it was the practice in establishing about 30 ECA-sponsored institutions for the Executive Secretary to remain Chairman of the Board of Governors at the initial phase until the institution was well established as constant guidance was needed. However, it was noted that it was the ECA Conference of Ministers to which the Board reports through the Joint Committee, that had the ultimate responsibility. On article 8 parag. 1, was pointed out

that it was not necessary for the Centre to have privileges and immunities in each member State, only where it is located. Article 12 on the Resources of the Centre with parag. 1 suggesting that the finances of the Centre be derived from contributions made by member States has been dealt with in the previous paragraph. Article 16 on Entry into Force did not meet the approval of many delegations.

230. One delegation suggested that the matter be brought to the 14th instead of the 13th ECA Conference of Ministers and another delegation suggested that for geographical balance, ACMAD should be located at Burundi where the WMO Regional Office for Africa is located.

Finally on the establishment of ACMAD, the Sub-committee recommended that:

- (i) this document E/ECA/ENV/34 both the draft constitution of ACMAD as Annex III, be sent to all African Governments for detailed study for the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1987.
- (ii) the ECA Secretariat continues to contact donors besides UNDP for the Centre ACMAD, and report to the Conference of Ministers.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Considering that rural transformation based on sound regional and physical planning are vital to the implementation of APPER,

Conscious of the rich experiences available in Africa and the need to promote exchanges of these experiences among its member States,

Aware of the limited resources available for the development of member States,

Appeals to member States to give higher priority to physical planning, development and management of their human settlements;

Further appeals to member States to give special focus on creating an enabling environment for the homeless, the poor and the disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

Urges member States to take immediate measures to integrate physical planning and rural transformation policies and programmes into national socio-economic development planning;

Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT), and the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, UNEP and the World Bank and other aid agencies to mobilize resources, for the provision of technical assistance, upon request, from member States in the formulation and implementation of Shelter and Human Settlements policies and programmes.

Recognizing that the building and construction sector plays a crucial role in other sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport and communications and in the provision of physical infrastructure in human settlements,

Urges member States to promote policies conducive to the development of the construction sector along the following lines:

(a) strengthening building materials development institutions and production facilities to produce indigenous building materials as well as its utilization and to train local technicians, artisans for the construction of infrastructures and implementation of rural transformation;

(b) revision of the building codes and standards in consonance with the prevailing circumstances in member States;

(c) promoting the informal sector, i.e. the small scale contractors, building co-operatives as they are labour-intensive enterprises producing capital for all sectors of economy at a low capital intensity.

(d) developing of low-cost solutions for all building types and needs. This could be done by the design and execution of pilot projects which establish clear precedents for large scale projects;

(e) establishing and or strengthening existing housing finance institutions catering for the poorest section of the society.

Commends the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT) and the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique for their efforts to formulate a major regional project designed to assist African governments in the development and production of indigenous building materials to meet the immediate needs of low-cost shelter and infrastructure construction;

Appeals to Shelter Afrique, UNDP and other aid agencies to give favourable consideration to providing the necessary financial resources for the effective implementation of this project.

Recognizing that effective human settlements development requires close co-operation between the public and private sectors as well as community participation at the local level,

Urges member States to remove institutional barriers that may present obstacles in the efforts of the poor and disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

Recommends that member States explicitly promote community participation in human settlements planning, development and management and adopt policies and programmes that would enable the people to fully participate in meeting their own shelter and related needs.

Recognizing that the development of the human settlements sector requires the availability of trained human resources at all levels,

Noting the high priority given to training in the field of human settlements by Governments, ECA and UNCHS (HABITAT) in the respective work programmes,

Requests the Executive Secretary in co-operation with UNCHS (HABITAT), to assist member States in promoting human resources development to meet the requirements of urban and rural settlements inter-alia, through: (a) development of training materials, (b) organization of training courses and workshops, (c) establishment of networks of human settlements training institutions,

(d) continuous assessment and evaluation of human settlements training in Africa, (e) mobilization of resources and co-ordination of the programmes of various aid organizations concerned with human settlements training in Africa.

Noting that the 1980-1989 and the Medium-term Priorities for member States 1990-1995 as presented under the work programmes of ECA have been prepared in collaboration with UNECHS (HABITAT) in order to ensure effective co-ordination and harmonization of activities in the area of human settlements in the region,

Endorses the 1980-1989 work programmes and the Medium-term Priorities for member States 1990-1995 in the human settlements sector, as proposed by the Executive Secretary.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

I. Agenda item 7 (a)

This Committee requests the Secretariat to appeal to those drought stricken countries in future to endeavour to participate in environmental meetings of this nature so as to share their experiences with other member countries.

II. Agenda item 7 (b)

The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment after examining the progress report on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impacts of drought in the Africa region (document E/ECA/ENV/31), recommends to the ECA Secretariat to undertake an evaluation of the evolution of desertification and drought in Africa in relation with the efforts being undertaken by agencies working on combating desertification.

To facilitate this evaluation which should be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee, an appeal is made to member States to forward the necessary data (information) to ECA and respond to questionnaires that will be sent out to this effect.

III. Agenda item 7 (b)

The meeting recommended the integration of programmes of human settlements together with those of forests and soils management and conservation:

Considering:

- the direct relationship between the establishment of human settlements and utilization of forest resources, especially for building poles and fuelwood;
- the forest resources must play an important role in the supply of basic commodities in space and time, especially for the rural communities;

Recommends:

- the strengthening of the capabilities of the respective countries of the region in both fields, in order to set up plans and programmes for settlements, and taking into account the production capacity of lands and forests vis-a-vis the needs of the communities;
- that the FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan becomes the main tool to channel the activities which are aimed at a developing and conserving the forest and soil resources of the continent, closely with rural development activities.

IV. Agenda item 7 (e)

The Conference recommends that the island countries take appropriate action based on their realities at a national level to protect the marine environment, in particular activities associated with the exploitation of marine resources, namely sand, corals and trachyte. We therefore recommend that, a regional project be developed to study the existing state of the art of the exploitation of marine resources such as sand, corals and trachyte, and make appropriate recommendations to state concerned; that ECA and UNEP should look at the appropriate modalities for developing such a regional project and find the financial resources to implement the project.

V. Agenda item 7 (f)

After examining the progress report on the implementation of resolution 573 (XXI) on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) the Fourth meeting of the Joint Committee recommended that the Secretariat should continue to study the modalities of collaboration with UNEP and OAU in the implementation of the Cairo programme, as well as that on co-operation between AMCEN and this Joint Committee.

VI. Agenda item 7 (g)

Having considered the report of the ECA/WHO Inter-agency meeting on the establishment of ACIAD:

Considering that the fundamental problems relating to financing, providing equipment, how member States were to pay their contributions and where the headquarters of ACIAD would be established had still not been resolved.

The Committee recommends that the Executive Secretary of ECA should:

(a) Pursue his contacts with the United Nations Environment Programme and other international agencies in order to secure the funds needed to finance the activities of ACIAD;

(b) Continue the joint ECA/WHO study on telecommunication in Africa financed by the Federal Republic of Germany in order to find the appropriate equipment for ACIAD;

(c) Undertake, on the basis of the criteria selected, technical visits to the countries willing to host ACIAD;

(d) Submit a detailed report on these fundamental problems to the fourteenth ordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

VII. Any other business (agenda item 9)

The Chairman informed the Committee that some delegations have suggested drafting a note of sympathy to President Biya of the Republic of Cameroon on the Lake Nyos natural gas disaster. The message of sympathy drafted was read.

At the suggestion of another delegation, one minute silence was observed for the victims of the disaster.