



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.14/ECO/162
E/CN.14/HUS/33

16 October 1978

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Executive Committee
Nineteenth session

Arusha, 23-25 October 1978

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2-6 October 1978)

1947
JANUARY
LONDON, ENGLAND
1947
KODAK SAFETY FILM
KODAK SAFETY FILM
KODAK SAFETY FILM

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

1947 JAN 19 1947

PART ONE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements was convened pursuant to the resolutions of Habitat : United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 32/162 and by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa in its resolution 316(XIII).

B. Attendance

2. The meeting was convened at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 October 1978 by invitation of the secretariat to the States members of the Commission.

3. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting : Burundi, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Senegal, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire.

4. The Governments of the following countries had informed the secretariat of their intention of participating in the meeting but in the end were unable to be represented at it : The Central African Empire, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, the Niger and Nigeria.

5. The following countries were represented at the meeting by observers : Belgium, France, Finland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

6. The following organizations were also represented by observers : The Organization of African Unity (OAU), Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Vision Habitat and the World Health Organization (WHO) finally the Pan African Institute for Development were present from the Ethiopian Ministries of Agriculture Housing and Urban Development.

C. Opening statement

7. Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, chaired the opening meeting. He noted with satisfaction the calibre of the representatives nominated by Governments, which, he said, demonstrated the importance

attached by African Governments to a fundamental aspect of the economic and social life of the region. He identified the objectives to be considered by the meeting as being the establishment of institutional arrangements for those regional organs responsible for human settlements and the formulation of a programme of work, taking into account the priority sectors in the field of human settlements. He also drew attention to the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers providing for the ECA secretariat to set up a unit comprising the resources currently available within the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section staff resources from the central human settlements secretariat and resources which might become available in the region.

D. Election of officers

8. The following officers were elected :

Chairman : H.E. Mr. Jobo Rampeta, Minister of the Interior, Lesotho;

First Vice-Chairman : H.E. Hon. Eliezer Francois, Minister of Housing, Lands and Country Planning, Port Louis, Mauritius;

Second Vice-Chairman : Mr. Jerome Mendouga, first counsellor at the Cameroonian Embassy in Ethiopia (United Republic of Cameroon);

Third Vice-Chairman : Mr. Abdulrahman Bashir, Director of the Executive National Housing Corporation, Sabbah, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

Rapporteur : Mr. Tcha Katanga, Chef de Cabinet, Togo;

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda and draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat. However, it reserved its right to modify the organization of work if necessary. It decided to adopt the following hours for its meetings : Morning 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; afternoon 3 to 6 p.m.

10. In the course of the discussion, it became apparent that there was no need to meet in working groups. Therefore, all the meetings were held in plenary.

PART TWO

ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS AND AGREED CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

A. Presentation of documents (Agenda item 4)

11. The representative of the secretariat introduced documents E/CN.14/HUS/25, 26, 27 and 28. Documents E/CN.14/HUS/25 and 26 reviewed various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular, resolution 32/162, and resolution 316(XIII) of the Conference of Ministers of ECA concerning the terms of reference of the Regional Committee and administrative and regional arrangements.

12. Documents E/CN.14/HUS/27 and 28 were introduced as complementing one another. Both of them reviewed institutional arrangements which might be provided for at the regional level. Document E/CN.14/HUS/27 described the regional action undertaken so far by ECA in fields directly related to human settlements.

13. The purpose of Document E/CN.14/HUS/28 was to draw the Committee's attention to the material on which it could base its decision concerning the constitutive bodies dealing with human settlements at the regional level.

B. Administrative organization of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee (agenda items 5, 6 and 7 (ii))

14. Since Agenda items 5, 6 and 7 (ii) all related to administrative organization and were therefore covered in the same document (E/CN.14/HUS/28), they were considered at the same time by the Committee.

15. The secretariat was asked to clarify the proposal to create a regional centre for human settlements. The representative of the secretariat stressed that the Committee had been seized only with a suggestion as to the title of the human settlements unit to be established within the ECA secretariat because of the uncertainty as to the words "unit" and "service" as used within the United Nations system. One delegation then proposed that the unit should be known as the "Regional Secretariat on Human Settlements". After some discussion, the Committee decided it was too early to establish a regional centre on human settlements.

16. Following the discussion reported above, the Committee turned to the agenda items under consideration and took the following decisions:

17. The Intergovernmental Regional Committee should comprise representatives of all States members of the Commission. It should hold annual meetings. Its work should be directed by officers elected for each session, who should remain in office until the

following session when their successors were elected. Officers would be eligible for re-election. The officers should comprise a Chairman and four other officers representing the subregions of the Economic Commission for Africa.

18. The Committee was to submit its decisions to the Commission's Conference of Ministers for consideration and inclusion in the over-all programme of work of the Commission, as was the procedure within ECA; its rules of procedure should be analogous to those of ECA.

19. The responsibilities envisaged in respect of the Committee and its officers 1/ should be passed on to the Human Settlements Unit established within the secretariat of the Commission.

20. Since consideration of the creation of a regional centre for human settlements had been postponed, its functions should be assigned to the Human Settlements Unit, whose core comprised the present Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division. The usefulness of creating a regional centre should depend on the progress made in connexion with human settlements at the regional level.

21. The Human Settlements Unit was to have the competence to negotiate with countries and organizations concerned with problems relating to human settlements with a view to obtaining the assistance it needed to implement its programmes and projects, such negotiations to be conducted in agreement with the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with a mutually agreed procedure.

22. Moreover, to enable it to fulfill its terms of reference, the Human Settlements Unit was to enjoy as much autonomy as possible within the framework of the restructured Commission. The Committee therefore urged the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the steps needed actually to implement the decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly 2/ and by the Commission's Conference of Ministers. 3/ The Committee also requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its next session regarding the measures taken in application of those decisions.

23. The Commission's Technical Committee of Experts, whose role was to assist ECA in the formulation of its programmes of work and their implementation was to extend its activities to cover human settlements. There would therefore be no need to establish a special permanent technical council of experts 4/.

1/ See Document E/CN.14/HUS/28.

2/ See General Assembly resolution 32/162.

3/ See resolution 316(XIII) adopted at Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1977.

4/ See Document E/CN.14/HUS/28.

24. The Human Settlements Unit could, however, in case of need, call upon specialized working groups to consider given problems relating to or specific aspects of regional policy or the programmes of work.

25. At the national level, the work of the Human Settlements Unit was to be supported by the establishment by Governments of national advisory committees of a permanent nature or similar machinery in the field of human settlements for the purpose of:

- (a) Considering the goals and objectives of national policies and strategies relating to human settlements;
- (b) Identifying shortcomings and formulating possible solutions to them;
- (c) Collecting and analyzing data on all aspects of the development of human settlements;
- (d) Proposing priority areas of action and maintaining contact with the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, both directly and through the intermediary of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs).

C. Minimum requirements in administrative and technical staff and consideration of the programme of work for the period 1980-1983 (agenda items 7 (i) and 8)

26. The Committee considered agenda items 7 (i) and 8 simultaneously on the basis of the following documents submitted to it by the secretariat:

E/CN.14/HUS/27 ("Historical content of the work of ECA, and resource implications of Habitat recommendations on human settlements");

E/CN.14/HUS/30 ("Human settlements: Proposed medium term plan 1980-1983");

E/CN.14/HUS/31 ("Financial implications of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements").

27. The medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 submitted to the Committee by the secretariat was approved in its entirety. This plan includes the following three subprogrammes: 5/

- (a) Policies, strategies and planning in the field of human settlements;
- (b) Shelter, infrastructure and services;
- (c) Institutions and management.

28. The Committee considered the staff needs of the Human Settlements Unit. Delegations differed in their views concerning the suggestion made by the secretariat of the Commission 6/ that the Unit should be provided with seven permanent experts at headquarters level. Some of them thought it would be preferable to reduce that number and to fill the gap by calling upon consultants

5/ See Document E/CN.14/HUS/30.

6/ Ibid.

while others felt that seven experts from the permanent staff was not enough in view of the number of components of a consistent regional policy in human settlements.

29. On the other hand, where the staffing in the subregions (MULPOC offices) was concerned, the Committee agreed unanimously as to the need to recruit at least one expert for each subregion. The experts serving the five subregion must have broad experience in the various disciplines relating to human settlements. They would advise Governments in respect of the assessment of national needs, the formulation of policies, strategies and programmes and the identification of subregional and regional priorities where human settlements were concerned. One of their tasks would be to see that local personnel were trained in all aspects of human settlements.

D. Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme

30. At the conclusion of the consideration of item 8, one delegation drew the attention of the Committee to document E/CN.14/HUS/29 entitled "Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme". The representative of the secretariat apologized for not having been able to submit the French version of that document and said that document E/CN.14/HUS/24 containing the report of the Meeting of African Experts on Building Materials ^{7/} had been distributed instead because it provided the main elements of document E/CN.14/HUS/29. The secretariat gave the Committee an oral report on the Programme as a whole. In view of the importance of the Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme for the implementation of the human settlements policy, the Committee insisted that it should be made an integral part of the human settlements programme.

E. Statement by a delegation

31. In the course of the debate, one delegation made a statement in which it stressed the importance of human settlements in the economic and social development process of the African countries, referring in particular to the impact of ecological, socio-cultural and geographic factors, which weighed heavily in view of the political criteria used in determining the subregions of the continent. For the purposes of human settlements programmes, therefore, the region should be divided along lines that took greater account of those ecological and socio-cultural factors than did the present subregional designations.

F. Vision Habitat

32. As part of its work, the Committee was informed of the goal and activities of Vision Habitat, a United Nations audio-visual information centre on human settlements with headquarters at the University of British Columbia in Canada. The representatives of Vision Habitat explained the regional structures of their centre to the Committee and invited all African countries as well as the Committee to make use of the services provided by their centres at Nairobi and Dakar. A film on problems relating to human settlements was shown.

^{7/} See Document E/CN.14/HUS/24.

G. Exhibition on the role of human settlements in the organization of the economic and social life of Africa

33. The secretariat had mounted an exhibition on the role of human settlements in the organization of the economic and social life of Africa, whose main purpose was to provide an introduction to the techniques and modes of expression used in designing and implementing programmes and projects relating to human settlements.

H. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 9)

Adoption of the report

34. The draft report submitted to the Committee was adopted in substance. The Committee asked the secretariat to submit a final report prepared in accordance with ECA standards and to see that the English translation conformed to the original French text.

Adoption of resolutions and recommendations

35. The Committee adopted four sets of resolutions and recommendation with amendments to their operative parts. It left it to the secretariat to redraft the preambular parts in accordance with ECA standards.

36. The recommendations and resolutions adopted deal with the following matters:

- (a) Institutional arrangements;
- (b) Human settlements programme of work and priorities for 1978 and 1979 and medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983;
- (c) Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme of work;
- (d) Development of the construction and building materials industries.

The final texts of these resolutions and recommendations are reproduced in part IV of this report.

I. Agenda for the second session of the Committee (agenda item 10)

37. The Committee decided that its second session would also be held in Addis Ababa. It was left to the Human Settlements Unit in the secretariat of the Commission to fix the date, draw up the agenda and organize the second session.

PART THREE

MESSAGES

38. Two messages were conveyed to the Committee during its first session. The first, which was from the Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, wished the Committee every success in its work; and the

second, which was from a country represented by an observer at the session, expressed a wish for bilateral co-operation in the field of human settlements between it and the States members of the Committee.

PART FOUR

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1 (I)

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Convinced that no real economic and social progress is possible without a corresponding without a substantial improvement in people's life style and especially in the life style of the poorer people, and that consequently any economic and social planning process at the local, national or regional levels must necessarily include a basic component relating to the planning and development of human settlements and the built-up sector of the environment,

Reaffirming forcefully the Vancouver Declaration in its support of the Principle that it is the urgent duty of all African countries to formulate a national human settlements policy covering population distribution and related economic and social activities on their national territory, with special attention to the efforts made by the informal sector,

Recognizing that in the African context in particular, only co-ordinated action at both the regional and global levels and active inter-State co-operation can effect substantial improvement in human settlements in African countries, both individually and collectively and in the shortest time possible,

Especially aware that such co-ordination and co-operation will probably will not be effective and dynamic without the support of adequate regional and subregional institutions with facilities for effective action,

Recalling, in this regard, the relevant recommendations and resolutions formulated or adopted in recent years by various conferences, both regional and global, and in particular:

(a) Recommendation IV on organization at the regional level contained in the programmes for international co-operation formulated by Habitat: United Nations Conference on human settlements, Vancouver, May-June 1976;

(b) Section IV of United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements: organization at the regional level" adopted in December 1977;

(c) Resolution 316(XIII) entitled "Institutional arrangements in the field of human settlements at the regional level" adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, in Kinshasa, in March 1977;

1. Recommends that African Governments should establish or strengthen at the highest possible level, institutions created specifically to formulate, implement, evaluate and, if necessary, revise human settlements policies and strategies with the aim of achieving the kind of social and economic development called for in the recommendations on human settlements policies adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and in recommendations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference of Ministers of ECA;

2. Reaffirms Commission resolution 316(XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and a unit to service it within the ECA secretariat and United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 setting forth the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and of the unit established to service it;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa request assistance from specialized working groups as needed and to use the services of consultants in so far as possible;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take whatever steps are needed to:

(a) Establish effective and dynamic arrangements for co-operation with the Divisions in the secretariat of the Commission;

(b) To establish and strengthen increasingly co-operation with other regional and international organizations and agencies with activities relating to human settlements;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to submit the decisions he takes on these matters to the Commission's Conference of Ministers at its 1979 session for its approval;

6. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa as soon as possible to take appropriate measures for the actual implementation of the decisions taken at the Kinshasa session of the Commission's Conference of Ministers and of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

7. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report on the measures taken in application of the decisions taken by the Commission's Conference of Ministers at Kinshasa, Zaire, and by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements at Vancouver, Canada, which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly;

8. Invites the organs of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to give the necessary priority to questions relating to human settlements.

Resolution 2 (I)

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ORDER OF PRIORITIES FOR 1978 AND 1979
AND DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Recalling that the programme of work and order of priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for 1978 and 1979 as contained in document E/CN.14/TECO/35/Rev.1 and annexed to document E/CN.14/HUS/30 was approved by the fourth Conference of Ministers held in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 24 February to 3 March 1977;

Mindful of the present acute shortage of experts in the Commission's Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section, which is responsible for human settlements activities;

Recognizing that the unimplemented part of the 1978 programme and a large part of 1979 programme can be executed by co-ordinating the activities provided for in the programme with the work of the global centre for human settlements and other United Nations bodies, by mobilizing resources for use in the field of human settlements and by establishing, organizing and consolidating the constitutive organs of the newly established Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

Noting with satisfaction the information and suggestions contained in the document entitled "Human settlements: Proposed medium-term plan 1980-1983" (E/CN.14/HUS/30);

1. Endorses those parts of the Commission's programme of work and order of priorities for 1978 and 1979 which relate to human settlements as reflected in Document E/CN.14/TECO/35/Rev.1 and annexed to Document E/CN.14/HUS/30;
2. Decides to adopt the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 as contained in Document E/CN.14/HUS/30, on the understanding that it will be more fully elaborated in the light of comments and information received from member Governments as specified in paragraph 3 below;
3. Decides further that each Government of State members of the Commission will be issued with copies of Document E/CN.14/HUS/30 and that within three months of the adoption of this resolution, they will send the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee a report containing comments on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and information on the human settlements situation in the country, drawing particular attention to the difficulties encountered and suggesting fields where priority action is needed;

4. Urges all Governments to set up permanent national advisory committees or similar machinery in the field of human settlements to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Review the goals and objectives of national policies and strategies relating to human settlements;

(b) Identify weaknesses and suggest possible solutions;

(c) Collect and analyze information on all aspects of the development of human settlements;

(d) Propose fields in which priority action is needed and maintain contact with the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements directly and through the intermediary of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

Resolution 3 (I)

MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PART OF THE WORK PROGRAMME WHICH RELATES TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Having considered the secretariat documents entitled "Historical content of the work of ECA, and resource implications of Habitat recommendations on human settlements" (E/CN.14/HUS/27) and "Human settlements: Proposed medium-term plan 1980-1983" (E/CN.14/HUS/30) and section A of the document on the financial implications of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements (E/CN.14/HUS/31);

Noting with concern the shortage of resources now available for the implementation of that part of the work programme which relates to human settlements in the region;

Recognizing the urgent need to take steps to ensure the more effective mobilization of financial resources and to channel them into programmes relating to human settlements;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 and in particular its section IV concerning organization at the regional level in which it was recommended, inter-alia, that the budgetary and personnel resources available to each regional secretariat unit should consist of those available from the regular budgetary resources and those redeployed from the aggregate posts available to the central secretariat, voluntary contributions, including those made available to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as well as selected resources currently available to each region;

Recalling further that in its resolution 32/162, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, that during the period 1978-1980 a significant portion of all posts of the Centre would be assigned to the regions for work on regional human settlements questions;

Reaffirming Commission resolution 316(XIII) of 1 March 1977, which inter alia, invites member States of the Commission and the appropriate organs of the United Nations system to assist the Executive Secretary in providing the required resources for the operations of the unit servicing the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

Noting with satisfaction that the pledging conference convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to increase the financial participation of African Governments in the implementation of the work programme of the Commission met with such success that a trust fund for African development was established at United Nations Headquarters;

1. Appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

(a) To use his good offices to ensure the rapid implementation of those parts of General Assembly resolution 32/162 which concern the deployment of resources to the regional economic commissions;

(b) To give special consideration to the urgent needs of the African region for staff and other resources to be redeployed from the United Nations system;

2. Requests the specialized agencies, international financial institutions, donor countries and other technical assistance agencies to strengthen their contribution in support of the Human Settlements Unit both at the secretariat and at the subregional levels, as specified in Document E/CN.14/HUS/27;

3. Urges Habitat, Centre for Human Settlements and the Economic Commission for Africa to give priority to the mobilization of human and financial resources and to their deployment to the five Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Commission so that the Governments of countries in the various subregions may be provided with advisory and technical assistance in the field of human settlements as soon as possible;

4. Requests the Governments of member States, regional financial institutions and economic groupings to pledge funds to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development so that more funds can be made available for the purposes of the regional programme on human settlements;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to redouble his efforts to mobilize additional resources and to increase the share of human settlements in the funds available under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

6. Also urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to keep track of the progress made in the regional programme on human settlements and to report to the Intergovernmental Regional Committee at its next session on the application of this resolution.

Resolution 4 (I)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Noting that there is no single sector of human activity in which construction and building materials do not play a part and that the construction and building materials industries are always the first to act in creating a framework and conditions conducive to the full development of those sectors called upon to establish or improve the structures underlying economic development and to satisfy social or cultural needs (production infrastructure and equipment, housing, services and infrastructure for the majority of the people, etc.),

Stressing in particular the basic importance of building materials as intermediary production factors in achieving the economic, social and cultural purposes of construction and in improving the situation in respect of human settlements and reducing the disparities between town and countryside to an acceptable level,

Convinced that in most African countries despite the very considerable effort deployed by their authorities, a lack of coherent policies, strategies and programmes has created a very worrying situation in the construction and building materials sector, which is reflected not only in a constant outflow of hard currency now used to import building materials and their components, technology, machines, etc., but also in the unsatisfactory use of the natural, human and financial resources available locally,

Recalling, in particular, Commission resolutions 209 (IX) of 14 February 1969 on housing, building and physical planning and 319(XIII) of 1 March 1977 on accelerated industrialization in Africa and resolution 8(IV) adopted by the African Ministers of Industry in November 1977 on the construction industry and building materials industry development programme;

1. Notes with satisfaction and approval the co-ordinated action undertaken by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of African Unity to assist African countries in achieving self-reliance in this sector as soon as possible;

2. Invites the Governments of African countries:

(a) To accord absolute priority to the development of the construction and building materials sector;

(b) To use the recommendations formulated by the Meeting of African Experts on Building Materials held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 21 July 1978 ^{1/} as a framework for their programmes and activities;

^{1/} See the Document entitled "Report of the Meeting of African Experts on Building Materials" (E/CN.14/HUS/24).

- (c) To continue their individual and collective support of the various activities undertaken and programmed in this field by the Economic Commission for Africa in co-operation with other international and regional organizations, in particular by:
- (i) Approving within a reasonable span of time the Programme for the Development of the Construction and Building Materials Industries scheduled to be implemented in the following two main phases:
 - the preparatory assistance phase (July 1978-June 1979);
 - the complete-project phase (July 1979-December 1981);
 - (ii) By providing the Economic Commission for Africa, at its request, with the statistical and other data it needs to implement the above-mentioned Programme;
 - (iii) By allowing the Commission to use, even though only temporarily, the services of their national experts for work in respect of which their competence is required.

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to have the implementation of the building materials and construction development programme, which was hitherto the responsibility of the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section, entrusted henceforth to the Human Settlements Unit;

4. Urges the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to continue to ensure greater co-ordination of its efforts, within the framework of the new institutional arrangements adopted by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, with those of other international and regional organizations to assist African countries in the fields recommended by the Meeting of African Experts on Building Materials held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 21 July 1978. ^{2/} The efforts referred to include planning and programming; the creation or strengthening of institutions and development machinery; the identification, evaluation and execution of national and subregional pilot projects and the search for sources of financing;

5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to provide the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements with a report on progress in this sector at the next session of the Committee.

Annex

Compendium of constitutive institutional
arrangements for the Intergovernmental
Regional Committee on Human Settlements

At its first session the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements decided on the arrangements governing its operation and on the nature and role of its subsidiary bodies. Its decisions in this respect are as follows:

I. In application of resolution 316 (XIII) of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements shall be the specialized regional organ responsible for policies and programmes relating to human settlements. Its terms of reference and the resources at its disposal are specified in United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162 and resolution 316 (XIII) of the Conference of Ministers 1/. In order to comply with the provisions made therein, its internal organization and its organization in respect of the constitutive legislative bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa would have to be as follows:

- (i) The Intergovernmental Regional Committee shall be composed of representatives of all States members of the Commission. It shall meet annually. Its work shall be directed by officers elected for the period of one session, who shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the following session. The officers may be re-elected. They shall include a chairman and four other officers representing the subregions of the Economic Commission for Africa.
- (ii) Organization in respect of the constitutive legislative institutions of the Economic Commission for Africa: The Intergovernmental Regional Committee shall have certain specific duties, including
 - (i) the duty of submitting its regional policy to the responsible bodies in the United Nations through the intermediary of the regional economic commission and to the Commission on Human Settlements and
 - (ii) the duty of participating actively in the co-ordination of human settlements programmes and policies at the regional and subregional levels.

However, where the Executive Committee of the Commission is concerned, some formula must be found whereby the Intergovernmental Regional Committee can be represented in it in such a way as to ensure (i) that those aspects of its policy which are directly related to other sections in the Commission's programme of work receive all the attention they deserve and that, conversely, the Executive Committee is kept informed of and participates in the implementation, in so far as concerns it, of decisions which have a direct impact on the regional or subregional situation with regard to human settlements and (ii) that its decisions are submitted to the Commission's Conference of Ministers for consideration and inclusion in the Commission's programme of work and priorities.

For the purposes of carrying out its specific tasks, the Committee decided:

- (a) That the Technical Committee of Experts of the Commission, whose role

1/ See Documents E/CN.14/HUS/19 and 25

is to assist the regional economic commission in the formulation and implementation of its programmes of work, should extend its activities to human settlements;

- (b) That a human settlements unit should be established within the secretariat of the regional economic commission. In United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162, it is recommended that the Intergovernmental Regional Committee should be served by a human settlements unit established within the secretariat of the regional commission and that the principal functions of that unit will be to serve the regional committee, to review progress in the implementation of regional programmes; to promote the active collaboration of governmental representatives in activities related to human settlements; to assist Governments of countries in the region in the formulation of their requests for assistance from the appropriate bilateral and multilateral bodies; to establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with regional units of the specialized agencies; to formulate, implement and supervise regional and subregional programmes and projects, especially regional training programmes and to execute regional human settlements projects.

During its fourth session held in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 24 February to 3 March 1977, the Commission's Conference of Ministers adopted these recommendations in its resolution 316 (XIII), in which it also requested that the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section should become the Human Settlements Unit and that the present staff of that section should constitute the basic staff of the Unit, which would be strengthened by budgetary resources derived from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and from extra-budgetary resources.

Under its terms of reference, the Human Settlements Unit should have the capacity to carry out those technical functions in the absence of which the Intergovernmental Regional Committee will be unable to assume its regional responsibilities. The Unit must also co-ordinate the policies and programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa with those identified by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements.

Its task in respect both of the Committee and of the Economic Commission for Africa suggests that it should be granted sufficient freedom of action and that the working tools it needs should be placed at its disposal within the secretariat.

II. Rules of procedure based on the respective terms of reference of the constitutive bodies to be established by virtue of the regional arrangements in the field of human settlements

- (i) The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements is assigned terms of reference in General Assembly resolution 32/162 and in resolution 316 (XIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

It is, however, necessary to spell out the rules of procedure governing its internal organization and operation. Since the Committee is one of the constitu-

tive bodies of the Commission, its rules of procedure must be similar to those of the Commission but with some modifications as required by the specific nature of its terms of reference. The Intergovernmental Regional Committee is, inter alia, responsible for the regional programme and projects relating to human settlements.

According to the custom of the Economic Commission for Africa, it must therefore submit the decisions it takes in this field to the Commission's Conference of Ministers for consideration and inclusion in the overall programme of work of the Commission. In carrying out this task, the Human Settlements Unit must abide by the rules of procedure in force in ECA.

- (ii) The Human Settlements Unit to be set up within the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, whose basic staff will comprise the staff of the present Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the ECA/UNIDO Joint Industry Division, shall have the task of serving the Intergovernmental Regional Committee and of providing it with technical support in the formulation, execution and evaluation of programmes and projects.

In performing its work on programmes and projects, the Committee must have the capacity to negotiate the assistance needed for their implementation with countries or organizations which are especially concerned with such problems, such negotiations to be conducted in agreement with the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with a mutually determined procedure.

In carrying out these terms of reference, the Human Settlements Unit must enjoy as much freedom of action as possible within the restructured secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Committee therefore requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to embark on the action needed to obtain authorization and resources for the establishment and operation of this unit.

- (iii) Working groups specialized in human settlements shall be set up by the Human Settlements Unit to study problems relating to the regional policy or to the programme of work or special aspects of the policy or programme.

III. Suggested regional organization and rules of procedures

In summary, it may be said that with a view to complying with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission's Conference of Ministers and with the general provisions applying to the Economic Commission for Africa, the regional organization in the field of human settlements will be as follows:

- (i) Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements:
 - (a) Membership: The Committee shall be composed of representatives of all the member States, who should be high officials responsible for making decisions relating to human settlements. The Committee shall elect five officers;

(b) Meetings: The Committee shall meet annually at a venue decided upon during the preceding plenary session;

(c) Rules of procedure: The Committee's rules of procedure shall be similar to those of the Economic Commission for Africa but shall take account of the Committee's own terms of reference and of the special responsibilities of its officers;

(d) Functions: The Committee's functions are defined in General Assembly resolution 32/162 and in resolution 316 (XIII) of the Commission's Conference of Ministers.

(ii) Human Settlements Unit: 1/

Composition: Created within the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa by applying budgetary allocations from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and extra-budgetary resources 2/ to the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, this unit shall be placed under the direction of a high-ranking professional staff member.

Functions: 3/ Since the Unit's main function is to assist the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements in fulfilling its terms of reference, the Human Settlements Unit shall be required:

- (a) To serve the intergovernmental regional body. In addition, under the jurisdiction of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee and within the framework of the activities of the regional economic commission, the Unit is expected:
- (b) To review progress in the implementation of regional programmes;
- (c) To promote the active collaboration of representatives of Governments of member States of the Commission in activities related to human settlements;
- (d) To assist Governments of countries in the region in the formulation of their requests for assistance from the appropriate bilateral and multinational bodies;
- (e) To establish close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with regional and subregional units of specialized agencies;
- (f) To formulate, implement and supervise regional and subregional programmes and projects.

1/ Formerly known as the Technical Unit on Human Settlements (see Document E/CN.14/HUS/19, paragraph 11).

2/ See the document containing an assessment of minimum staffing needs.

3/ General Assembly resolution 32/162 and resolution 316 (XIII) of the Commission's Conference of Ministers.

(iii) Working groups specializing in human settlements:

- (a) Membership: These working groups shall be composed of national experts and/or of representatives of technical or administrative offices of the Governments of member States, who shall be chosen by their respective Governments on the basis of the study topics on the agenda;
- (b) Meetings: Meetings of the working groups shall be convened by the Human Settlements Unit whenever they are needed and it is possible to hold them;
- (c) Rules of procedure: The rules of procedure of the working groups shall conform to those in use at ECA;
- (d) Functions:
 - (i) Carrying out sectoral depth studies on human settlements in the region;
 - (ii) Formulating appropriate recommendations concerning action to be taken to improve conditions in the sectors studied;
 - (iii) Providing background material for studies which might be assigned to national experts or to institutions or universities in the region;
 - (iv) Helping Governments to improve on the way in which they handle national problems relating to human settlements and to strengthen the facilities at their disposal.