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Committee of the Whole

Conakry (Guinea), 16-23 April 1984

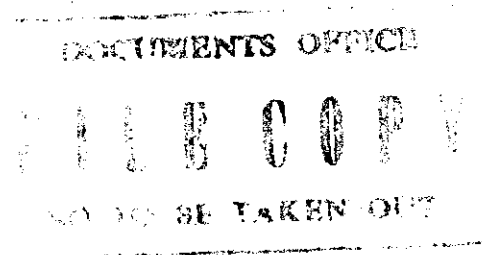
Item 11 (b) of the provisional agenda

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Nineteenth session of the Commission
and tenth meeting
of the Conference of Ministers

Conakry (Guinea), 26-30 April 1984

Item 8 (VII) (b) of the provisional agenda



**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING
OF THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT**

(Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 16-19 January 1984)

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The second meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment was held at ECA Addis Ababa, from 16 to 19 January 1984.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe.
3. The following countries were represented at the meeting by observers: Cuba, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Poland, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yemen Arab Republic.
4. The following United Nations organs, organizations and bodies were represented at the meeting: the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Office (ILO).
5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was also represented at the meeting.
6. The following inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attended as observers: the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and Shelter-Afrique.
7. The following officers were elected:

Chairman	M. Buyoya, Directeur de Cabinet au Ministère des Travaux Publics, Burundi
First Vice-Chairman	Ms. Lebohlang Letsie, Under Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Lands, Botswana
Second Vice-Chairman	M. Thierno Oumar Bah, Secrétaire Général, Guinea
Third Vice-Chairman	Mr. Siléschi Teferra, Acting Head of Physical Planning, Central Planning Supreme Council, Ethiopia
Rapporteur:	Mr. Abdi Djamah Robleh, Chef Division Construction, Djibouti

B. AGENDA

8. The Joint Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the meeting (item 1)
 2. Election of officers (item 2)
 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (item 3)
 4. Human Settlements
 - (a) Progress report
 - (b) Perspective on human settlements activities during the biennium 1984-1985

5. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH)
6. Environmental matters
 - (a) Progress report
 - (b) Country reports from member States on follow-up action for ECA resolution 412 (XVI) - Development of Environmental Protection Legislation in the ECA region
 - (c) Regional programme for the protection and restoration of the environment after earthquakes
7. Any other matters
8. Adoption of the report and closure of the Session

9. In adopting the above agenda, the Committee agreed, at the request of the delegation of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea, to discuss under agenda item 6 measures for the protection and restoration of the environment in the event of disasters such as earthquakes.

10. Concerning the organization of work, the Committee decided to bring its deliberations to an end on Thursday 19 January 1984 in view of the designation of Friday 20 January, 1984 as a public holiday in Ethiopia.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

11. The meeting was opened by the Honourable Tabitha Siwale, Minister of Land and Urban Planning, United Republic of Tanzania, who was the out-going chair-person. She called upon Mr. Tadesse Kidane Mariam, Head of the Construction and Physical Planning Sector (with the rank of Commissioner) of the Revolutionary Socialist Government of Ethiopia to make a statement. He started by welcoming the delegates on behalf of his Government and pledged its co-operation to both ECA and the Joint Committee. He noted the inter-relatedness of human settlements and the environment and categorized the problems facing Ethiopia in this field as those associated with the planned development and management of both rural and urban settlements; the inventory, development, rational utilization, protection and management of the natural resources of the country such as soil, water, forests, wildlife, minerals etc.; and the building up of the institutional capacity to evolve appropriate policies, strategies, targets and action programmes in the spheres of human settlements and environment. He added that these problems notwithstanding, there was a political will and firm commitment on the part of the leadership in Ethiopia to the cause of planned development and management of human settlements and protection of the environment.

12. The Commissioner recalled the resolutions of the first meeting of the Joint Committee and hoped that the current meeting would review the state of implementation of those decisions. He also highlighted some of the steps the Government of Ethiopia had taken to implement the decisions of the first meeting. These included the establishment of seven regional planning offices to plan the comprehensive development of the various parts of the country and the elaboration of Ethiopia's ten-year perspective development plan to guide its short-and medium-term development efforts in which human settlements and environmental concerns had been given important emphasis.

13. Finally, the Commissioner recalled Resolution 7 of the last meeting concerning increasing international support for the victims of Apartheid, drew the Committee's attention to the racist South African regime's recent eviction order against over 3000 African inhabitants of Eastern Transvaal and called on the Committee to give this

development due attention in its deliberations.

14. In an opening statement read on his behalf by Mr. W. Wamalwa, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa noted that the interest shown by the majority of the region's member States in the meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment demonstrated their awareness of the seriousness of the problems associated with human settlements and the environment, and the need to formulate and implement appropriate solutions. Recalling the considerable growth of the population in the countries of the region and its distribution over the national territories, he stated that if current trends were not reversed, by the year 2000 one African out of two would live in the city and that the urbanization rate of five countries was expected to be higher than 80 per cent. The priority areas for human settlements activities decided by the Joint Committee at its first meeting, that is, spatial planning, housing finance and construction industry development, therefore remained valid and needed to be pursued.

15. As far as the environment programme was concerned, the main matters to be discussed at the current meeting dealt with several priority areas which were identified in the Lagos Plan of Action. ECA was developing for implementation, activities for combating desertification in the Eastern and Southern African subregion with the financial and technical co-operation of concerned United Nations bodies and some bilateral donor countries. Environmental education and training needs constituted another priority area for the development of trained manpower for environmental assessment and management of the various development projects that could have an impact on the African environment during the Third United Nations Decade, 1980-1990. ECA had also embarked on the preparation of a directory of national environmental specialists and institutions with environmental capabilities to promote technical co-operation among member States for solving their most urgent environmental problems.

16. In conclusion he urged the Joint Committee to devote special attention to the problem of inadequate resources experienced by the secretariat of ECA in the implementation of the Committee's decisions and come out with a satisfactory solution.

17. In an address read on his behalf by Mr. Mungai, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) observed that despite the adoption of an International Development Strategy for the past two decades and the growing concern for the quality of life in human settlements, little progress had been made in providing appropriate shelter for the masses of people, particularly the poor. The human settlements sector had been accorded low priority by governments because most decision-makers perceived the sector, and particularly housing for the poor and disadvantaged, as mainly a social-cum-welfare sector, in which the government provided costly services to the least advantaged members of society. Failure to invest in the provision of adequately sound shelter did not amount to a saving of national resources, as was commonly believed. On the contrary, it led to substantial increases in government expenditures in such fields as health and welfare, expansion of prison facilities and even national security. He therefore called on African governments to accord the human settlements issue the priority it deserved in national development plans.

18. Turning his attention to the subject of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987), the Executive Director recalled that the objective of the Year, as embodied in United Nations resolution 37/221, was to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of all the poor by the year 2000. This objective was expected to be achieved through various activities to be undertaken by governments and non-governmental organizations during three distinctive time periods - from 1984 until 1987, during 1987 and between 1988 and the year 2000.

19. In the implementation of its work programme UNCHS (Habitat) had continued to devote special attention to the problems of the African region. The Centre was executing 66 projects in 35 countries with a total budget of nearly 42 million US dollars. Other activities of the Centre in the region included organization of expert group meetings, preparation and dissemination of technical publications and organization of training programmes.

20. In conclusion he extended an invitation to the delegations represented at the meeting to participate in the forthcoming annual session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements to be held in Libreville, Gabon from 30 April to 11 May, 1984.

21. In a statement read on his behalf by Mr. M.L. Allouane, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for Education, Science, Culture and Social Affairs, the Acting Secretary-General of the OAU stressed the perfect co-operation between OAU and ECA and the identical viewpoint of the two organizations in the sense that they both recognized that the primary objective of all development could only be the creation of a material and cultural environment favourable to the development of the individual and to creative participation. The participation of peoples in the development process could be active only if the structures in which they lived were adequate. For that reason, OAU welcomed the initiative taken by ECA in organizing the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

22. He was also gratified to note a tendency towards modernity and social wellbeing which preserved the African socio-cultural identity and which was reflected in the protection of the environment and the improvement of human settlements without sacrificing the necessary industrialization. He drew attention to the serious impact of the urban explosion on such sectors as food, education, health, housing, social stability and general policy and welcomed the successful initiatives taken by certain States to deal with this situation.

23. Finally, he emphasized the importance of the questions that the Joint Committee would have to tackle and pledged the determination of OAU to co-operate in seeking solutions to them.

24. The out-going chair-person of the Joint Committee, Madame Tabitha Siwale, then made a few remarks, expressing her gratitude to the out-going bureau, the secretariat and the member States of the Commission for the strong support and co-operation given to the Chair-person during her tenure of office. She further expressed thanks to the speakers who had made statements at the opening ceremony. She proceeded with the election of officers and then congratulated the new Chairman, Mr. Buyoya, and his bureau.

25. The newly elected Chairman, Mr. Buyoya, expressed his gratitude for his election and sought the co-operation of the delegates so that the Joint Committee meeting could reach a successful conclusion a day ahead of schedule in view of the designation of Friday, 20 January 1984 as a public holiday in Ethiopia. He expressed condolence to the delegation of Guinea on behalf of the meeting, for the recent earthquakes there which had necessitated the inclusion of a new agenda item on a regional programme for the protection and restoration of the environment after earthquakes.

I. Plenary Session

Human settlements

26. The representative of ECA introduced document E/ECA/HUS/6 which gave an overview of the main activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Commission during the period August 1982 to December 1983 with regard to the resolutions on human settlements adopted by the Joint Committee at its first meeting and approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its ninth meeting. These activities were discussed under five sub-headings, namely, spatial planning, building materials and construction industries development, human settlements financing mechanisms, public participation in housing development and co-operation between ECA and other United Nations and international organizations. In implementing resolution 4(I) on spatial planning ECA directed its attention at analysing training needs in the major disciplines necessary for the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies and programmes. In this connexion information on training programmes and needs in the countries was assembled through a questionnaire survey. Subsequently an expert group meeting was organized to draw up guidelines for the formulation of policies for the organization of training facilities and programmes for human settlements personnel in the African region.

27. With regard to the development of the building materials and construction industries, the Committee had decided through resolution 5(I) that ECA should continue the implementation of activities already started. The document gave a summary of the activities that had been undertaken regarding the provision of advisory services to member States, the development of cement production in the West African subregion, promotion of the development of other building materials, the promotion of building and building materials research and reformulation of building codes and regulations. The ECA representative drew special attention to the project for the transformation of existing housing and building research centre at Cacavelli, Lomé (Togo) into a sub-regional building and building materials research centre and noted that five countries had already confirmed their decision to participate in the project. He regretted however that the extrabudgetary resources which had been provided, principally by the United Nations Development Programme, for the implementation of activities in the field of building materials and construction would cease to be available after April 1984.

28. The Secretariat of ECA was able to implement only one element of the resolution 6(I) on human settlements financing mechanisms, and this was achieved through co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements which provided the financial resources to enable the Secretariat render assistance to a member State which had submitted a request.

29. The document also elaborated on the efforts made by the secretariat to strengthen co-operation with organizations of the United Nations System, notably the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), and also with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

30. In conclusion the document drew attention to the constraint posed by the lack of adequate extrabudgetary resources to the smooth implementation of the resolutions of the Joint Committee and called upon the Committee to give serious consideration to this problem during its deliberations.

31. The representative of ECA also introduced document E/ECA/HUS/8 which dealt with human settlements activities planned for implementation during the biennium 1984-1985. The priorities which had been set by the Committee were aimed at bringing about an improved system of human settlements development in relation to socio-economic development, including an effective support system in terms of trained personnel, financing and construction services. Since the priorities were built on basic issues which influenced integrated human settlements development, improvement on those lines had a lasting relevance even if, at a future date, some new elements of demand for human settlements called for new priorities. Continuity of actions based on the existing priorities was therefore fundamental to the successful implementation of the basic strategy implied in the formulation of those priorities.

32. The activities planned for the 1984-1985 biennium had been grouped under two headings corresponding with the two programme elements assigned to the ECA in its work programme, namely, "Policy development and institution building", and "Efficient resource development and utilization". Under the first programme element, two sub-programmes, on human settlements policy formulation and human settlements planning and programming, respectively, were envisaged. Emphasis would be directed at studies on existing spatial planning methodologies and the preparation of a model of improved methodology for consideration by member States.

33. Under the second programme element, that is efficient resource development and utilization, four sub-programmes on human settlements personnel training, financing of human settlements development, building materials and construction industries development and public participation in human settlements development were envisaged.

34. In addition to the two main programme elements referred to above, the document also outlined the activities that would have to be undertaken, particularly at the national level, in connection with the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

35. Inadequate financial resources had been the single major bottleneck to the implementation of some of the earlier decisions of the Joint Committee. The situation would further deteriorate during 1984-1985 because of the termination of the UNDP funding for the ECA Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme, the depletion of bilateral assistance for this programme and inadequate pledging by member States at the pledging conference which took place at Addis Ababa in April/May 1983. The document, therefore, called on the Joint Committee to address itself specially to finding ways and means of implementing its decisions and work programme.

36. In the discussions which followed the above presentation, the delegates took note of the regrettable phenomenon in most African countries that Governmental actions did not match the policy intentions and there was a hiatus in implementation due to want of political will and commitment, apart from the problem of lack of resources. As a result there was wastage of valuable man-days and material resources in planning without implementation. Effective planning required a total commitment to all related responsibilities and actions.

37. It was emphasized that physical planning could be directed at achieving cost-benefit balances at the human settlement level by integrating urban and rural settlements in a regional planning context. Efficient human settlement planning could be used to reduce energy consumption, achieve an efficient transportation network, and minimize the use of other resources.

38. Reference was made to the high costs of buildings and building materials in Africa and the over-reliance on imported materials and foreign building concepts and practices. National policies on building materials development were generally seen in a commercial perspective and not from a social angle. Nothing much would be possible if Governments did not come forward with their own initiative or did not get directly involved in the developmental process. The development of a strong viable local building materials industry was hampered by a deliberate indifference to local problems and possibilities of local solutions to them because of vested interests in favour of continued dependence on imported materials and expatriate services.

39. The secretariat pointed out that the ECA building materials and construction industries development programme had been designed to overcome these handicaps in order to enable the region progress rapidly towards achieving self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Valuable services at considerable cost had been rendered to the member States under this programme which was mainly financed by UNDP and to a smaller extent by bilateral assistance from India, the Netherlands, Burundi and Togo. Barring some exceptions, follow up actions by the member States on work initiated by ECA has been lacking, thus negating the value of the time and resources already spent. A case in point was the study tour in India organized by ECA for a Group of African policy makers and experts in the field of building materials and construction industries for promoting the development of local building materials and related technologies and construction services. However, it was lack of response from most African countries that had resulted in a final decision on the part of the UNDP to cease funding the ECA regional programme from April 1984. In effect this decision would deny the countries of ECA's services, since ECA's resources position would not enable it to carry out the programme on its own.

40. ECA felt that the time had come for the Governments themselves to take the initiative and organize local programmes for the development of the sector. ECA would be glad to assist in specific projects on request but these projects would have to be sponsored by the Governments themselves. A case in point was the reformulation of building codes and regulations on which ECA had done a lot of spade work and further action would be possible on the basis of Governments' support only. Such was the position with regard to the promotion of building materials research centre and of pilot plants for popularizing some local building materials like lime-pozzolana and rice husk ash cement. A plea was made to the member States to devise a solution to the problem of resources in order to continue the development programme.

41. The representative of UNESCO made a brief presentation, at this juncture, endorsing the importance of the development of the ECA programme and referred to the recent ECA - UNESCO discussions on the possibilities of agency co-operation for organizing a regional symposium devoted to the strengthening of national potential for construction technology development and also the problems of urban settlements. He also gave an overview of the activities undertaken in Africa by UNESCO in the social and human sector during the period 1981 through 1983. These activities were related to the following elements of the UNESCO work programme: advancement of knowledge and the general understanding of the interactions between man and his environment and the long-term consequences for the human environment, of the choice of values which motivate development policies; the cultural dimension of human settlements; and training of human settlements administrators, engineers, architects and town planners. Training courses were organized in the United Republic of Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali the Sudan, Tunisia and Zaire. Activities planned for implementation in Africa during the 1984-1985 biennium concern the establishment of the basis for the integrated planning of littoral zones, training in planning and management of urban systems, as well as training of specialists in the planning of littoral and insular zones.

42. The ECA representative referred to possibilities of project co-operation with ILO, FAO and UNCHS, which would be elaborated in the deliberations of the subcommittee on Human Settlements later in the day.
43. The Honorable Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania commended the ECA on the feasibility study carried out in Tanzania on the development of a subregional pilot plant cum-demonstration project for lime-pozzolana and said that the Government would take a decision soon on the ECA proposal.
44. The representative of Shelter-Afrique presented a note entitled "Shelter-Afrique at a glance" which gave an overview of the nature, purpose, membership, administration, management and operations of that organization. Shelter-Afrique which is a housing development and finance institution with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya aims to assist its member governments with the formulation of coherent and effective housing policies and with their implementation through provision of financial and technical support to national housing institutions for approved projects of benefit to the appropriate target groups. Apart from simply financing construction of shelter through national housing institutions, Shelter-Afrique would be concerned with the whole issue of habitat and housing in Africa. Shelter-Afrique is a share-holding company and has three categories of shareholders: All African countries (class A), African regional and subregional institutions (class B), and non-African organizations and other individual entities (class C). The current membership comprised 23 shareholders in the class A category and 2 in the class B category. The note stressed the commercial character of Shelter-Afrique and the determination of the Board of Directors that the Company would be run as a viable commercial concern for the benefit of the shareholders while meeting the needs of the homeless in Africa. Recalling that only 23 African countries had become members of Shelter-Afrique, the representative urged the remaining 27 African countries to join this regional Company and contribute to its success.
45. The representative of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) made a brief presentation on the objectives and activities of his organization. IULA is a professional organization in the field of local government with members, comprising local government organizations, individual cities, local government training schools and Ministries of local government, in about 70 countries in all parts of the world. One of the main objectives of IULA is to upgrade the quality of local and regional governments so that they could better carry out their functions. It had organized training courses for senior officials from developing countries concerned with decentralized government during the past twenty years. In co-operation with the local Government Association of Zimbabwe, IULA would organize a conference in Harare on the theme "Challenges for Local Government in Africa" from 6 to 9 March 1984. Apart from subjects such as housing finance, training and the functions of local government associations, the Conference would discuss the formation of an African Section of IULA. The International Union of Local Authorities looked forward to a close co-operation with the member States of the Economic Commission for Africa in the execution of their policies and programmes for a more effective local administration.

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (item 5)

46. Introducing document E/ECA/HUS/7, the representative of ECA noted that a sizeable proportion of Africa's population lived under indigent (shelter) conditions that could be best be termed homeless. This phenomenon pertained to both urban and rural sectors of the region. For the rural areas, man-made and natural disaster had been the major causes of homelessness. With prolonged drought, desertification had taken root particularly in the Sahel, rendering several rural people homeless. Another source of natural disaster which had been a major cause of homelessness in both rural and urban localities was cyclonic storms. These had caused devastating effects on

several landed property and left many people homeless. A third cause of homelessness which could be associated with both urban and rural areas in Africa was man-made disaster, particularly political and racist aggression with the attendant refugees. Several refugees are homeless in the African region.

47. The urban areas however, had their characteristic homeless population living mainly in squatter and slum areas of urban Africa. In cities where the problem assumed gross dimensions, street living, sleeping in street drains, discarded boxes, wrecked ships, etc., were not uncommon. The homeless problem of urban Africa was a direct result of the process of urbanization and natural population growth. It was surprising that despite the glaring indigent living conditions, the plight of the homeless had not attracted enough attention of most governments.

48. Experience gained since 1976 indicated that with renewed political commitment, international co-operation and assistance, the homeless could be housed effectively. It was suggested in the document that much of the efforts to provide shelter for the homeless should be centred on the following areas:

(a) Training (the homeless people) to produce local building materials and to perform simple building operations;

(b) Technical assistance - in the form of artisans and building foremen, to organized groups of homeless people;

(c) Demonstration projects in the production and use of local building materials to provide shelter and low-cost sanitation systems;

(d) Financial assistance to procure limited but essential tools, equipments and materials;

(e) Organization (particularly of the homeless) into manageable target groups;

(f) Co-ordination with universities, research institutions and international organizations and popularization to maintain a continuity of the shelter programme;

(g) Peri-urban land-use planning to facilitate both the acquisition of building plots and provision of essential services in the future.

It was also suggested that each government should establish a department under the ministry responsible for housing to co-ordinate all the activities connected with the IYSH programme.

49. The ECA proposals on the preparations for the African component of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) evoked great interest in the context of the rural to urban migration trends, the growing pressure of rapid urbanization without a corresponding pace of development of infrastructure and employment opportunities. The problems of the homeless were assuming serious proportions and covered a wider gamut including displaced persons on account of natural calamities and political situations. A new dimension to this problem, according to one delegation, was the effect of seismic changes which were now being experienced with relatively increased frequency. The havoc created by the recent earthquake of severe intensity in Guinea and parts of the United Republic of Tanzania and Madagascar had resulted in, besides great loss of life, destruction of a large number of dwellings. Some delegates felt that while the ECA document had listed earthquakes among the natural disasters which had an impact on

homelessness, the gravity of the problem had not been sufficiently emphasized in it. It was stressed that seismic events had become a definite factor of homelessness in Africa and there was a need for specific attention to this problem in the proposed programmes for IYSH. This suggestion was accepted.

50. It was also suggested that IYSH should be utilized by the organizers as an opportunity to disseminate information on all problems relating to homelessness so that each government might determine, in the light of the local factors and their priorities, the specific measures to be taken. The delegates agreed on the importance of sensitizing the governments to the various aspects of the problems of the homeless and motivating them to adopt appropriate national policies to solve the human settlements problems.

Environmental Matters (item 6)

51. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document E/ECA/ENV/14 which contained executive summaries of the reports of three environmental workshops held since the last Joint Committee meeting as well as follow-up action on three ECA resolutions on environmental matters. The progress report also contained the ECA work programme harmonized with the UNEP System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP) for the 1984-1985 biennium as Annex I and a draft questionnaire for the preparation of a directory of national environmental specialists and list of institutions on environmental matters in Africa as Annex II.

52. The first report presented was document E/ECA/ENV/7 on the ECA/UNEP/UNSO/ETMA Regional Workshop on Combating Desertification in Africa which was held at Khartoum, Sudan on 23-28 October 1982. It was pointed out that the workshop was one of the outputs of a joint inter-agency, bilaterally funded ECA project to implement its resolution 446(XVII) on Combating Desertification in Africa, adopted at the eighth ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1982. The ECA project began with a joint ECA/UNEP/UNESCO mission to five countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) in the Kalahari Desert area from 6 June - 9 July 1982 through funding from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). The purpose of the mission was to assess the state of desertification and drought in the area, survey land use practices and resource management, evaluate national institutions and manpower capabilities to monitor, assess and manage the desertification process and to suggest strategies for involving the local population in combating desertification. It was further stressed that the mission report was ECA's input to the Khartoum Workshop and that the report indicated that although the Kalahari Desert area was not as vulnerable as the Sudano-Sahelian region to drought and desertification, the causes of desertification were similar - deforestation and over-population - and all the countries visited had established national action plans dealing with measures for soil conservation, afforestation, water resources development and range management to combat desertification.

53. Concerning the Khartoum workshop, it was pointed out that the main focus was to discuss the difficulties encountered in implementing national programmes, by examining specific case studies and by developing strategies to make use of successful experiences to enhance the national capabilities to combat desertification. Much emphasis was put on a practical approach to problem solving at the Workshop. For example, the United States of American Agency for International Development (USAID) - sponsored Environmental Training and Management in Africa (ETMA) programme provided a work book with comprehensive global literature on combating desertification; it also collaborated with the University of Khartoum's Institute of Environmental Studies and the Sudan

Ministry of Agriculture's Desertification Control Unit (DECARP) to arrange a day-field trip to a village, Sheikh El Sidiq, about 80 km North in the Sahara Desert to demonstrate conservation of forests and soils and proper land-use management under traditional customs and practices. Furthermore, five case studies on desertification control activities (three in the Sudan, one each in Mauritania by ETMA, and in Northern Kenya by UNESCO's Integrated Project on arid land (IPAL) project as well as 11 country reports on the status of the national effort, besides the Kalahari Desert mission report, were discussed at the workshop.

54. The report of the Khartoum workshop also pointed out certain problem areas to be taken into account in combating desertification, such as: the use of desert shrub for fencing arid areas to enclose cattle, protect forest nurseries and food crops as a wasteful contribution towards deforestation; bush clearing to eradicate the resting places of tse-tse flies; the practice of shifting cultivation and rotation of crops in the gum belt in the Sudan; the need to provide alternatives for desertification control measures involving fuel wood and renewable sources of energy; over-grazing and alternative means of livelihood; agro-forestry techniques; the need for public awareness campaign for the caring of trees in tree-planting schemes and for desertification information dissemination; and the need to take the socio-economic conditions and the cultural traditions of the area into consideration for public participation in combating desertification. Finally, six major recommendations were made in the Khartoum report on, creating institutional machineries, developing national action plans, provision of alternative measures, exchange of information on successful experiences, development of environmental training for manpower and on strengthening of financial resources for combating desertification in Africa.

55. The representative of the Secretariat then introduced the second report, document UNEP/WG.78/4, concerning a meeting of experts from African Governments and the scientific community to develop a programme of action for environmental education and training in the African region resulting from a UNEP meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 12-15 April 1983. He pointed out that the meeting was organized in response to UNEP Governing Council decision 10/25A of May 1982 on this topic as well as ECA resolution 474(XVIII) of April 1983 resulting from recommendations of the first Joint Committee meeting held in July 1982.

56. The report of the meeting was in three parts, namely, the background, the framework for and the proposed activities of the programme of action. The background for environmental training and education activities in Africa was presented by 12 review papers on the perception and meaning of environmental education and training in pre- and post-independent Africa by African experts. The framework for developing objectives and strategies for the programme of action was based on nine review papers on "trends, needs and priorities for environmental education and training in Africa". The third part of the report on the programme of action, including the tabular presentation in the report which indicated the objectives, strategies, time frame, main actors and outputs, dealt with the following nine programming areas for the African region:

- (i) Development of environmental education and training (EET) at all levels;
- (ii) Identification and collection of instructional materials and the development of resource centres for EET;
- (iii) Strengthening of teacher education and training for EET;
- (iv) Incorporation of environmental components into training programmes for professionals;

- (v) Sensitization of decision-makers and professionals to incorporating environmental concerns in policy making;
- (vi) Development of manpower for, and research in EET at university level;
- (vii) Incorporation of environmental components into national education systems;
- (viii) Promotion of environmental awareness among African youths especially for conservation education; and
- (ix) Publication and exchange of information of EET in Africa.

57. The attention of the delegates was drawn to the request by the Executive Director of UNEP for ECA member States to send in their responses and comments to him on the proposed Programme of Action for Environmental Education and Training as contained in the report (UNEP/WG.78/4) which was sent to them immediately after the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council meeting in May 1983.

58. On the third report presented, the representative of the Secretariat stated that the ECA/UNEP Regional workshop on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and environmental criteria for the sitting of industry held at ECA, Addis Ababa from 27-30 June 1983, was to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge on existing practices and experience on EIA in the African context. The government experts from industries and national environmental secretariats discussed the suitability of the UNEP Guidelines document of the same title, to the African conditions. It was noted that the UNEP Guidelines recommended three steps to establish effective environmental impact assessment of industrial development projects, namely, institutional arrangements for a review office and a regulating agency; development of methodological procedures for national environmental experts to carry out the EIA study on both the physical and the socio-economic environment for likely impacts and thirdly, the need for expertise (and training) on the techniques used for the EIA study which ranged from simple flow charts with input/output data to more complicated models of interacting matrices using computer data banks.

59. The EIA report highlighted some of the problems encountered during the development of industries in the African region, namely: the need to maintain the independence of a review office for effective implementation of its duties, especially when the government as regulating authority is the developer; EIA must take account of multi-disciplinary concerns of various government ministries involved in the industrial development project; the EIA process in the African context can only achieve modest options on the choice of technology and of alternative raw materials for environmentally sound development; the need for a national dossier of experts in various fields to carry out EIA studies as a multidisciplinary team on any one project; removal of conflicts between EIA study and feasibility studies carried out by developers to promote the industrial project; and the need for information dissemination on industrial technology to assist African countries to integrate environmental considerations into development activities.

60. The representative of the Secretariat then drew the attention of the delegates to the harmonization of the ECA Work programme and Priorities for the Environment in Africa programme, with the UNEP System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP) Budget programming activities for the 1984-1985 biennium, tabulated in Annex I of the Progress Report (document E/ECA/ENV/14). He requested member States to indicate during the discussions, their areas of interest on the ten major programming areas of UNEP to which the ECA environmental activities were aligned, for future planning action by the Secretariat.

61. Finally, the representative of the Secretariat provided information to the meeting on the implementation of three ECA resolutions discussed in the document E/ECA/ENV/14. On ECA resolution 473(XVIII) of April 1983, on the climatic situation and drought in Africa, the secretariat had already had three inter-agency meetings in preparation for the Scientific Round Table Conference planned for 20-23 February, 1984 at ECA. The first inter-agency meeting was held at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva in July 1983 to plan a strategy to implement the resolution 473(XVIII) with the co-operation of the United Nations system and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The next meeting was held at WMO, Geneva in October 1983 to consider the climatic aspects of drought in Africa for trends, periodicity and causes. This was followed by a multi-disciplinary meeting on the impacts of drought on the social, economic and cultural systems in Africa at UNEP, Nairobi in December 1983. Member States were requested to accord high priority to nominating experts to the Scientific Round Table even though ECA could only provide financial assistance to LDCs countries to participate in the meeting.

62. On ECA resolution 412(XVI) of April 1980 on the development of environmental protection legislation in the ECA region, he said that the resolution was the topic of agenda item 6(b) which dealt with follow-up action on the End-of-Project Report (document E/CN.14/ECU/5 - E/ECA/ENV/3) on the joint ECA/UNEP project of the same title. He pointed out that in the letter of invitation to the Joint Committee Meeting, member States were requested to send in a short country report on their national efforts to implement resolution 412(XVI) on reviewing their national environmental legislations pertaining to the sectors of development discussed in the report. To date only Egypt, Togo and Senegal had sent in their country reports to the secretariat. It was hoped that the other delegates had brought their country reports to provide a healthy discussion for exchange of experience on the topic.

63. In conclusion, he pointed out that ECA resolution 474(XVIII) of April 1983 on strengthening of environmental capabilities and of regional co-operation on environmental matters in Africa, which emanated from the first meeting of the Joint Committee, stressed the need for ECA member States to develop their national environmental manpower capabilities, especially for implementing the programme for the United Nations Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990. As a result, the secretariat was seeking advice on the completion of a draft questionnaire (in Annex II of document E/ECA/ENV/14) for the preparation of a Directory of environmental specialists and list of institutions on environmental matters in Africa. Particular attention was to be paid to a consensus for deciding on the criteria for becoming an environmental specialist on the Africa environment as indicated in section G of the document. It was pointed out that this exercise was jointly being carried out with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi through its regional co-operative programme as defined by the sub-regional Environment Groups (SREGs) which worked closely with the ECA MULPOCs (Multinational Programming and Operational Centres).

64. Concerning the additional agenda item 6 (c) on a Regional Programme on protection and restoration of the African environment after earthquakes, the representative of the Secretariat pointed out that this matter would be discussed more fully at the ECA/UNDRO/OAU Conference on Natural Disasters to be held from 23 to 25 February, 1984 after the Scientific Round Table Conference on climate and drought in Africa. The Joint Committee might be expected to make recommendations to that meeting after presentation of the topic by the representative of Guinea.

65. During the general debate following the presentation of the working documents at the plenary session, the following environmental issues were raised by the participants (the documents were discussed in greater detail at the sub-committee level):

- (i) To reinforce the introduction of the new agenda item for the environment programme, the representative from Guinea stressed the need for a regional programme of action for the protection and restoration of the environment after earthquakes. He pointed out that the first record of an earthquake in Guinea was in 1892 and there have been 20 serious ones since. The impact of earthquakes and other seismic activities provides the link between human settlements and the environment in the destruction of shelter, disruption of living conditions and in the degradation of the environment,
- (ii) The Honourable Minister from the United Republic of Tanzania informed the Joint Committee of the establishment of a National Environmental Protection Council whose main functions will be to co-ordinate environmental matters between ministries and to regulate environmental legislation policies, norms and standards. A similar body is under formulation for land use planning.
- (iii) The representative from Ethiopia supported the delegate from Tanzania in expressing the view that proper physical planning at the national level should include environmental protection and management. At this stage of Africa's development, physical planning should emphasize methodologies for the collection of data on the natural environment to deal with degradation of ecological zones, demand for fuelwood, forest products, farming land and other resources, especially those such as wildlife and fisheries which are shared with neighbouring countries. Even though it is known that the implementation of development projects in Africa fail for lack of financial resources and skilled manpower, there is an urgent need for a commitment by African Governments to solve the impasse. This involves a political will and the incentive for action.

II. Environment Sub-Committee

66. The Sub-Committee on environmental matters discussed agenda Item 6 (a), (b) and (c) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sileshi Teferra, Acting Head of Physical Planning Department, Central Planning Supreme Council, Ethiopia. Mr. Simon Carew of the Sierra Leone delegation was elected Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee's meeting.

Protection and restoration of the environment after earthquakes

67. The delegation of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea was requested to introduce the new agenda item, on a "Regional Programme on the Protection and Restoration of the Environment After Earthquakes". The representative of Guinea said that the two earthquakes which struck the Koumbia region of Guinea, 400 kilometres north of the capital, Conakry, on the 22 and 23 December 1983, came as a surprise to the scientific community. The earthquake registered 6.3 on the Richter scale with an intensity of 11 at the epicentre at the foot of the Fouta Djallon massif. Most seismologists had thought that West Africa was not a high risk area for such seismological activity as compared to North Africa and Rift Valley countries in East Africa. Nevertheless, the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea had been experiencing earthquakes, the first significant one having been recorded in 1911. The phenomenon was also recorded in 1914, 1922, 1927, twice in 1928, 1930, 1932, 1935, twice in 1939, twice in 1961, and finally in December 1983. Continuing, the representative of Guinea mentioned other areas in West and North Africa that had experienced severe earthquakes, namely, Agadir (Morocco) in 1960, El Asnam (Algeria) in 1954 and 1980, Mauritania, in 1971, Mali in 1976 and Ghana, in 1962.

68. The impact of the Koumbia earthquake in December 1983 on the human environment had been very severe. Large landslides caused entire villages to disappear resulting in 20,000 people being rendered homeless with the destruction of the social infrastructure and the environment. There was, he said, need for a regional programme for the protection and restoration of the environment against earthquakes and other seismic activities along the lines of the programme to combat drought and desertification in the CILSS (Permanent Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought) member States and in the Sudano-Sahelian zone. Emphasis should be on the promotion of research activities on natural disasters and the setting up of a network of stations to monitor seismic activities. Restoration efforts should centre around technical matters for the construction of buildings to withstand seismic activities in earthquake zones. It was suggested that ECA assist member States in seeking additional finance for such a regional programme since West Africa is now added to the earthquake prone zones in Africa.

Report of the ECA/UNSO/UNEP/ETMA

Regional Workshop on Combating Desertification in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/7)

69. During the discussion on the report of the Khartoum workshop (document E/ECA/ENV/7), one delegation pointed out that there was too much emphasis on the causes and effects of desertification in the recommendations of the workshop, as indicated in the report. Emphasis should be placed on assessment and evaluation of natural resources through programmes for taking national inventories such as the area of grazing land available with suitable species of grasses for cattle, the carrying capacity of different soils for land use planning, etc... Another delegation pointed out that in the Kalahari Desert area, degradation of the land by open cast mining and the deleterious effects of polluting gases emanating from mining industrial projects such as copper/nickel smelters in Botswana, were destroying the native vegetation, and should be taken into account as a cause of desertification to be added to the list of over-population, over-grazing, deforestation and soil erosion.

70. It was noted that high forested countries such as Gabon and the Congo in the tropical belt were not affected by drought. However, rapid exploitation of the high forests encouraged the spread of savanna bush fires, with an increased frequency of dust-laden winds, soil erosion and the destruction of wild life. The Nigerian delegate pointed out that the encroachment of the desert in the northern region of his country affected five States during the 1968-1973 drought but during the last drought in 1982/1983, eight States were affected. The main effects of desertification in that country were soil erosion and destruction of wild life but these were being controlled by tree planting on the eroded slopes of hills and through the establishment of shelter belts in sand dune areas. The delegate stressed that there was need for desertification information dissemination and exchange, establishment of monitoring stations for data collection on the desertification process, control of liquid wastes in human settlements, all of which should be backed by appropriate legislation.

71. Several delegations pointed out that bush fires during this spate of drought was seriously damaging deforested areas and economic tree crops near coastal areas especially in Guinea, the Ivory Coast and the Congo. This was a new contributory factor to the desertification process, especially through devegetation and loss of wild life. Some participants also recommended that ECA and other organizations of the

United Nations system should co-operate with subregional organizations, such as the Niger River Basin Authority and the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) to which several member States affected by desertification belong in developing subregional programmes, such as the reafforestation of large river banks and valleys. It was unanimously agreed that in combating desertification and for the training of manpower required, member States should be guided by the principle of self-reliance as expounded in the Lagos Plan of Action. In this regard, member States must first develop their own capabilities for co-operation between themselves and with subregional organizations before seeking international aid from the North. Regional co-operation among African member States could be promoted through exchange of expertise and information on desertification control. Some delegations also proposed a pledging conference to assist those countries affected by desertification in Africa to be organized by ECA and OAU.

72. The recommendations and resolutions of the Khartoum workshop as found on pages 26-30 of the report (E/ECA/ENV/7) have been attached to this report after incorporation of the above amendments as Annex I.

Report of ECA/UNEP

Workshop on Industrial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Criteria for the sitting of Industry (E/ECA/ENV/11)

73. At the start of the deliberations on this subject one delegation stated that perhaps one of the biggest problems facing the African region regarding this issue was the lack of awareness in both the public and private sectors involved in industrial development. There was a tendency for environment protection measures to be regarded as "anti-developmental". Short-term economic benefits tended to be given priority over considerations of adverse long-term effects of environmental pollution and degradation. An appeal was made for more stress to be put on environmental education.

74. The recommendations of the workshop were accepted by the sub-committee, with a few observations. It was noted that since the concept of "environment" was a relatively new one in Africa, the national infrastructures and techniques for environmental impact assessment were either unavailable or extremely weak, and that there was therefore a need for manpower training for in-depth analysis. This point, it was stated, should be reflected in the recommendations.

75. Another point, raised in the recommendations of the workshop was that contained in its second-preambular paragraph which referred to the lack of awareness in African countries of the importance of environment impact assessment. The Sub-committee agreed that the words "lack of awareness" should be changed, since indeed, there was an awareness of the problem. The very fact that the present meeting was taking place demonstrated this awareness. There may not be a "recognition of much importance" of the issue, but there certainly was an awareness.

76. Several delegations stressed the importance of international assistance in the fields of training and co-operation and requested that this aspect should also be incorporated in the recommendations. There was also need for co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant UN bodies in the provision of available competencies in the form of technical assistance to African Governments. It was also suggested that the recommendations should include an appeal

to UNEP and ECA to co-operate more closely in carrying out field missions to member States with a view to helping them identify and propose solutions to problems and also for UNEP to make available to member States, details of training facilities. The recommendations on para. 73-76 of the report (E/ECA/ENV/11) have been attached to this report after incorporation of the amendments and suggestions as Annex II.

Country reports on follow-up of ECA resolution 412(XVI) - Development of Environmental Protection Legislation in the ECA region (E/CN.14/ECU/5 - E/ECA/ENV/3)

77. The following country reports were presented on the implementation of ECA Resolution 412(XVI) of April 1980 on Development of Environmental Protection Legislation in the ECA Region. Three country reports (Egypt, Togo and Senegal) had already been submitted to the secretariat before the meeting and their summaries are included here:

78. Gabon : The Honourable Minister representing the Republic of Gabon stated that there were legislative texts in existence in his country dealing with issues of pollution and the protection of the environment. The Government of Gabon was also in the process of preparing a white paper, the recommendations of which would be embodied in a comprehensive legislation for the protection of the environment and of nature.

79. Kenya : The representative of Kenya stated that in 1974, his Government established a National Environment and Human Settlements Secretariat, whose main function was to co-ordinate with certain Ministries on environment - related issues. However, there is as yet no legal mandate by which it co-ordinates with other agencies, but a bill entitled "national environmental enhancement and management" has already been drafted and it will be introduced into the Kenyan Parliament very soon. At present, there are two inter-ministerial Committees, namely, Committee on the Environment and Committee on Human Settlements. There is a group of experts on environmental impact assessment. The Secretariat has six divisions, namely Natural resources management; Pollution control and environmental health; Environmental education and information; District environmental assessment programme; Planning and Human Settlements division.

80. Ethiopia : The representative of Ethiopia said that although progress had been made, there were no comprehensive environmental laws in Ethiopia. Environmental - related issues were however being given high consideration. Progress had been made in environmental education. He cited a joint Ethiopia/UNESCO/ECA Seminar on environmental education for the incorporation of environmental education at higher level such as teacher training institutes and at the university. He also mentioned the role being played by the Ethiopian mass media in raising the awareness of the people in environmental questions. Finally, he said that a proposal had been made to the Council of Ministers for the establishment of a National Environmental Committee. The approval of the Council of Ministers was being awaited.

81. Guinea : The representative of Guinea informed the meeting that his country had always attached great importance to environmental dimensions of socio-economic planning. Within this framework, environmental protection legislation had always been part and parcel of economic development policy. However, it had not been thought necessary to establish a separate machinery, like a ministry, to be responsible for environmental problems because sectoral activities were all conceptualized on the basis of an environment protection policy, particularly in afforestation and industrial pollution control.

Since 1975, a law on bush fire prevention has existed which imposes serious fines on offenders. Treeplanting is now an annual occasion for the family and for dignitaries. In 1983, a bigger dam was completed for the control of industrial wastes from bauxite and marine pollution at the ports from ships loading bauxite is now reduced.

82. United Republic of Tanzania : The Honourable Minister from the United Republic of Tanzania emphasized that the development of rural and urban settlements embraced both the natural and man-made environment, a situation which demanded prudent care for the human environment in the development process. In this respect the Tanzania Government recently established a National Environment Protection Council which would be responsible for national environment policy, co-ordination of environment activities, conducting environmental education programmes, enhancing the advancement of scientific knowledge on the environment and encouraging the development of appropriate technology.

83. Botswana : The representative of Botswana informed the meeting that the country was fortunate to be chosen by UNEP as one of the pilot countries under that Organization's Clearing House facilities programme, to study a series of environmental problems with a view to drawing up a comprehensive long-term environmental management plan for the country. Botswana also hosted the UNEP meeting for the Regional Office for Africa's Southern African Subregional Environmental Group (SASREG) whose purpose was to identify priority environmental problems. One of the priority issues was the need to update environmental legislation and to identify effective means of enforcing environmental laws. In this respect there was also the need for a central environment authority such as the recently established Inter-ministerial Co-ordinating Environmental Sub-Group (ICES) comprising of technical officers in the Government.

84. Nigeria : There was a pre-colonial "Town and Country Planning Law" which dealt with the indiscriminate cutting down of trees in government forestry reserves and wild life hunting in forestry reserves. Also recently there was a "land use decree" vesting land in the hands of the State governments with a view to judicious use of land and its maximum utilization. In June 1983 the Lagos State government enacted a law which stipulated an appropriate fine against :

- (a) bush burning or burning of refuse near residential areas;
- (b) indiscriminate dumping of refuse; and
- (c) noise pollution.

85. Togo : There is not, as yet, any particular machinery of institution responsible for the foundation of environmental legislation. The Presidency of the Republic is presently carrying out this responsibility through ordinance and decrees. Environmental considerations are only beginning to be integrated into the government's programmes.

86. Senegal : The Senegalese parliament passed an environmental code in 1982 that deals specifically with pollution and other environmental protection considerations. The areas of concern include marine and atmospheric pollution, soil degradation, wild-life protection, education, and human settlements.

87. Egypt : The constitution does not make provision for environmental considerations but a committee on environmental affairs under the Minister of Cabinet affairs in the Prime Minister's Office is presently handling such duties.

Report of meeting of experts from Governments and the scientific community to develop a programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa (UNEP/WG.78/4)

88. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the document, a summary of which, he said, was contained in document E/ECA/ENV/14. After this introduction, one delegation wanted to know whether the resource centre mentioned in programme area No.2 of the regional programme for environmental education and training for Africa (document UNEP/WG. 78/4) would be a regional or subregional centre. Another delegation wished to be informed of the results of the pilot project for establishing institutes for environmental education.

89. In reply, the Secretariat informed the sub-committee that as a result of a joint UNEP/ECA Mission to several countries in April 1982, it had been concluded that it was not necessary to set up new institutions. What was needed was the strengthening of national centres and the existing ECA-sponsored institutions to undertake those functions.

90. The recommendations to African Governments on the development of a Programme of Action on Environmental Education and Training in Africa, in para. 73-76 of the report are attached to this report as Annex III.

UNEP statement

91. Following the consideration of the above report, the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa addressed the sub-committee. The Regional Office for Africa he said, had, following consultation with some countries, initiated a programme to promote subregional co-operation on environmental matters in the Africa region. For this purpose, the Africa office had identified seven Subregional Environment Groups (SREGs) whose initial activity would be to consider priority environmental problems as identified by the countries, examine current national actions used to address them, and formulate additional strategies to promote subregional co-operation based on mutual sharing of existing knowledge of management experiences in order to support programmes based on self-help projects.

92. The UNEP representative stated that so far this year (1984) the Regional Office for Africa had brought together all of the countries of the Subregional Environment Groups (SREGs) in workshops. These workshops, he said, had assisted the countries in the subregions in establishing contacts, and in identifying their major national and common priority subregional environmental problems. It was intended that the SREGs would work closely with the ECA MULPOCs and be in a position to provide services with respect to development programmes, as required, for subregional bodies such as SADCC and ECOWAS. The Subregional Environmental Groups would take into account the environmental implication of the Lagos Plan of Action. The UNEP Regional Office for Africa had also established working relationships with the relevant sections of OAU and ECA for the promotion of co-operation on environmental matters in the Africa Region.

93. In conclusion, the representative of UNEP said that the Regional Office for Africa was planning a special Expert Group Meeting for African high level academic institutions within the context of the SREGs, to hold consultations on major environment problems and to identify ways in which they could help in dealing with the problems relating to the environment. Following this meeting, the SREGs (sub-regional environmental groups) have planned a subsequent meeting with representation of their governments at high level, to consolidate the programme and strategies which have been considered for promoting co-operation.

Progress report on ECA environmental activities (E/ECA/ENV/14)

94. Concerning the harmonization of the ECA work programme on environmental matters with the UNEP System-Wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP) as analysed in Annex I of the Progress Report document (E/ECA/ENV/14), member States were asked to submit their programming areas of interest to the ECA or to UNEP. This would be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of projects on environmental activities during the 1984-1985 biennium.

95. There was no comments on the information given by the Secretariat on the preparations for the implementation of ECA resolution 473(XVIII) on the climatic situation and drought in Africa. Member States were requested to send in the names of their national experts to the Scientific Round Table Conference as soon as they returned home. Similarly, on the implementation of ECA resolution 474(XVIII) on strengthening of national environmental capabilities, member States were requested to send any comments they might have on the draft-questionnaire in Annex II of the Progress Report (E/ECA/ENV/14) to the ECA Secretariat or to the UNEP Regional Office for Africa.

96. Further discussion on the new agenda item 6 (c) concerning a Regional Programme for the protection and restoration of the environment after earthquakes, centred around the drafting of recommendations on the topic which had been introduced earlier by the Guinean delegation. The representative of the Secretariat reiterated that the ECA/UNDRO/OAU Conference on Natural Disaster Prevention could be the forum for a fruitful discussion of the topic by the experts on the causes, definition and scope of impact of natural disasters. The draft resolution which was drawn up by the representative of Guinea and Congo and the rapporteur was adopted by the Joint Committee at its final plenary session after amendments (see Resolution 1 (II)).

III. Human Settlements Sub-committee

97. The deliberations of the sub-committee were carried out under the Chairmanship of Ms. Lebohang Letsie, Under Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Lands, Botswana. The representative of the secretariat acted as rapporteur for the sub-committee.

98. The discussions were based on the three documents relating to human settlements presented at the plenary session and a special document on a project proposal of the ACCI/Task Force on Science and Technology for Development on local building materials. The major issues that came up during the discussions are summarized below.

Shelter for Africa's homeless population (E/ECA/HUS/7)

99. Homelessness is generally caused by natural and man-made disasters - prolonged drought and desertification, cyclonic storms, seismic events, floods, and wars and political oppression. Homelessness under the conditions in most of the African countries had a larger connotation than a literal interpretation of the term. Accordingly, a limited set of conditions which may constitute a basis of global actions may not entirely suffice in the region's context of problems of the homeless. For example,

the havoc caused a few years ago by floods in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia rendering nearly 20,000 persons homeless and the recent earthquakes in Guinea rendering an equal number homeless at one stroke and earthquakes in the United Republic of Tanzania and Madagascar were major causes of homelessness which needed to be taken into account for designing special programmes of action. The alarming trends of rural to urban migration, insufficient employment opportunities, lack of access to land and finance for building, and government policies towards temporary self-settlements were all to be seen as part of a larger social problem requiring social and political solutions. Governments must recognize homelessness as a national problem and take measures on a longer perspective, as was being done as a matter of course, in the field of education, health, etc. Indeed, the need for Governments' initiative and support was greater in the case of the homeless. The consensus of opinion was that Governments should take a social view of the developmental needs in respect of the homeless, evolve a special policy in that regard, incorporate its components as part of national social legislations and allocate financial and material resources.

100. It was also agreed that appropriate building codes and regulations, promotion of building skills and local production of materials and their use in settlements could be important aids to the development of settlements programmes for the homeless. At the same time, the delegates were concerned that the real problem in respect of local building materials was not so much a question of the need to develop technologies as the need for deliberate policies and encouragement of their utilization in construction. The general apathy to their utilization needed to be overcome by positive examples of their use in governments' own constructions. All African countries should endeavour to use local building materials in all their construction.

101. It was noted that in several African countries, agencies and institutions like commercial banks, industrial and commercial establishments which benefitted most from urbanization contributed the least to the development of housing for the populace. It was therefore necessary to explore possibilities for mobilizing resources from such sources to supplement the governments' resources and efforts in the provision of settlements for the homeless. Incentives and programmes to draw on such resources should be seriously considered by governments since financing was one of the major problems facing implementation.

102. In the context of a suggestion that at the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Settlements, the African countries should be ready with a plan of action, the four point plan proposed in the ECA document E/ECA/HUS/8 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was adopted after some discussion with a decision to add as a further element, "social planning for the homeless". It was mentioned that such an approach had already been adopted in some African countries. It was agreed that the four point plan was a feasible basis on which member States could evolve their own programmes, taking into consideration the specificity of local needs.

Progress report on human settlements activities during the biennium
1982-1983 (E/ECA/HUS/6)

103. The ECA representative, presenting the document E/ECA/HUS/6 on the subject recounted the three priorities set by the Committee at its last meeting and mentioned that the activities undertaken were based on them and were aimed at a perspective of continuity in order to achieve tangible results at national level over a period of time. Unfortunately, resource constraints within the secretariat and the absence of any pledging by member States for human settlements activities at the last ECA Pledging Conference had come in the way of implementation of all the activities decided at the last

meeting of the Committee. A point of major concern was the depletion of the extra-budgetary resources which were hitherto available. It was necessary for governments to share the initiative and support the financing of the activities. Similarly there was scope for enlarging co-operation with other United Nations organizations and in this connection the secretariat had had some discussions with FAO, UNCHS (Habitat), UNESCO and ILO.

104. In the discussion that followed the presentation, several delegates expressed serious disappointment over the lapse in implementation of approved resolutions and programmes and felt that ECA should make an effort to increase the regular budgetary resources of its Human Settlements Section. The problems in bringing this about were brought to the attention of the sub-committee. One delegate referred to the number of pilot projects in the field of human settlements undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) in African countries and wondered why there could not be a systematic dissemination of information on such experiences for the benefit of other countries as this could help in the efficient management of available resources. Such an action in respect of land tenure, land acquisition and allocation, infrastructure development, financing of housing schemes, training, etc., would have been of great help to countries in designing, for example, specific programmes for the homeless, since many countries faced identical situations.

105. One delegate referred to a resolution adopted at the first meeting of the Committee calling upon the Governments to take certain actions themselves and submit a report on actions taken at the second meeting. Barring one or two exceptions, few governments had acted upon the resolution to submit a report.

106. The representative of ILO took the opportunity to recount ILO's activities during the last 20 years in the field of construction skills training and the more recent efforts in respect of improvement of the standards of project management, appropriate technology development and strengthening of the capacity of indigenous contractors. ECA had participated in the last-mentioned project activity carried out through a regional meeting convened by ILO in Zimbabwe in 1982 which led to the formulation of guidelines for contractors. ILO had been running two month training programmes for trainers at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania on management of construction projects. Presently, it was operating some national projects for upgrading local contractors. He mentioned that improvement of construction sector capacity was an area with specific possibilities of co-operation with ECA. This offer was welcomed.

107. The representatives of UNCHS (Habitat) briefed the sub-committee on their organization's activities in the field of human settlements training. This was one of the major areas of UNCHS' responsibilities. Long-term support to training personnel connected with UNDP projects and bi-annual short-term courses in co-operation with the World Bank, were cited as some of the activities UNCHS was engaged in to assist countries. They referred to the training facilities available in the region and requested African countries to submit their nominations for training in good time in order not to risk losing funds which were allocated on a yearly basis. UNCHS (Habitat) currently had training programmes with the ARDHI Institute in the United Republic of Tanzania and was planning similar programmes in Zaire and Zimbabwe. They also mentioned that UNCHS (Habitat) had, within the framework of UNDP country programmes, approximately one million United States dollars available in the training and fellowship components during the biennium 1984-1985.

108. The Committee noted with interest Algeria's experiences regarding the development and implementation of human settlements policies and programmes, her capabilities for dealing with seismic events, and her readiness to disseminate detailed information on her experiences and assist other African countries in dealing with problems relating to the fields cited above. The importance of a systematic exchange among member States of each other's policies, programmes and experiences was strongly emphasized and was cited as an area for ECA assistance.

109. The representative of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) mentioned that Habitat International Council of which he was President, had planned 20 case studies of successful and less successful efforts in human settlements undertaken by non-governmental organizations and private groups, and offered to communicate the results of the study to the African governments. The Committee noted the initiative of IULA to create an African Section which would carry out training programmes for local government officials in co-operation with existing national institutes. It was hoped that member States would take advantage of the conference to be held in Harare (Zimbabwe) in March 1984 to finalize an operational plan. The Committee also welcomed IULA's interest for co-operation in local government participation in the development of human settlements, local building materials, financing mechanisms and pilot projects.

ACC project on local building materials (E/ECA/HUS/9)

110. The ECA representative, introducing the document E/ECA/HUS/9, recounted the background to the formulation of the project proposal, its relevance to the African region's specific problems of development of a self-reliant building materials industry and ECA's involvement in the project by virtue of its work during the last five years to assist member States in the development of building materials and construction industries. He explained the salient features of the project, its cost and time factor and its potential for supplementing the efforts of Governments in this field. He commended the proposal for the Committee's endorsement so as to set in motion the next phase of project actions and also recommended the adoption of national programmes within the framework of this regional project. The Committee endorsed the proposal for further actions by ECA.

Perspective on human settlements activities during the biennium 1984-1985

111. Introducing document E/ECA/HUS/8, the ECA representative mentioned that the set of actions proposed under specific heads constituted a logical and step by step programme in relation to the priorities agreed upon at the last meeting. It would normally be necessary to adopt the plan in its entirety and put it into effect through well-linked regional, subregional and national level actions. However the unsatisfactory resources situation demanded a more modest approach without prejudice to the basic relevance of the proposed plan and suggested that the Committee critically examine the plan in terms of the more pressing priorities and modify it to match with available resources for implementation. Concerning building materials and construction industries specifically, attention was drawn to the high cost of building materials and construction, over-reliance on certain materials and neglect of the possibilities of using local materials, poor performance of existing plants and the need for strengthening local research facilities and indigenous construction capacities. The Committee also noted the development work carried out since the last five years by the ECA in respect of each of these aspects and the proposed outline of actions for 1984-1985.

112. In the discussion which followed, several delegates supported the proposals and remarked favourably on the relevance of the plan of action but expressed serious reservations on the capacity and means of its implementation. Taking into account the dwindling resources at the disposal of the ECA Human Settlements Section, the sub-committee decided that the plan suggested by ECA should be adopted on a modified basis to cover primarily the following areas which required urgent attention:

(a) Designing of guidelines to assist member States in the formulation of a comprehensive human settlements policy with emphasis on the needs of the economically weaker section of the population, including appropriate measures for land development and allocation and related infrastructure facilities for housing;

(b) Undertaking of studies and pilot projects in human settlements development including low-cost housing and local building materials;

(c) Compiling and disseminating information on the policies, programmes and experiences of the various member States so as to promote a process of co-operation and sharing of knowledge and experiences, thereby assisting in optimum utilization of available resources;

(d) Assistance in the achievement of cost reduction in construction through appropriate measures including reformulation of building codes and regulations and development of local building materials and related raw materials and technologies and their effective utilization;

(e) Assistance in strengthening and improving national capacities for human settlements planning and implementation and construction services through appropriate training programmes;

(f) Assistance in the establishment/improvement of national human settlements training facilities.

113. While the above plan of action was primarily intended to be executed by ECA, it was stressed that the active involvement of the member States in the activities and their political and other support to ECA, and the co-operation of other United Nations/International organizations would be vital to the successful implementation of the Plan of action.

IV. Plenary Session

114. After the completion of the work of the two sub-committees, the Joint Committee met at plenary to deal with the remaining items on the agenda for the meeting. Before calling for deliberations on agenda item 7, the Chairman gave the floor to the Honourable Minister from Gabon to make a statement. The Minister apologized for the late arrival of his flight which had caused the Gabonese delegation to miss the introductions to the various documents and the lively discussions that had followed. On environmental matters, the Minister confirmed the country statement already made by the Gabonese delegation on the development of environmental protection legislation (see para. 78 of this report) and he supported the new agenda item introduced by the Guinean delegation on the impact of earthquakes on the environment. He also expressed his condolence to the Government and people of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea for the loss of lives and the damage to property caused by the recent earthquakes in that country.

Concerning human settlements development, he stated that his government had embarked on a programme of urban renewal and town planning with the construction of 400 units of housing per year for low income groups using mainly low-cost, local building materials.

Any other business (item 7)

115. At the request of the Chairman, the representative of ECA introduced the agenda item and recalled Resolution 1(II) of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements which, inter alia, requested all African member States of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements to hold preparatory discussions with the Human Settlements Section of ECA at least two days prior to the meetings of the Commission on Human Settlements in order to ensure concerted approach and actions, bearing in mind the decisions and priorities outlined by the Regional Committee. After discussions, it was agreed that the African member States of the Commission on Human Settlements should meet in Libreville two days before the opening of the forthcoming meeting of the Commission in order to consolidate their strategies on matters pertaining to developing countries such as, adaptation of community needs to human settlements development, improvement of traditional housing in consonance with modern modes of life, manpower training and research on renewable sources of energy.

Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (item 8)

116. The rapporteurs of the Environment and the Human Settlements sub-committees presented the draft reports of their respective sub-committees to the Joint Committee at Plenary. After discussions and amendments, the reports, including the recommendations and resolutions, were approved by the meeting. The report covering the deliberations at plenary of the Joint Committee was also discussed, amended and approved.

Closing session

117. The Chairman of the Joint Committee expressed his thanks to the delegates and the secretariat for their co-operation in discussing current issues on the environment and human settlements and in arriving at the various decisions taken at the meeting. He drew particular attention to the need for African countries to strengthen Shelter Afrique and for UNCHS (Habitat), OAU, UNEP, and ECA to co-operate more closely to solve Africa's problems in these areas.

118. On behalf of the delegates, the Honourable Minister from Gabon proposed a vote of thanks to the host Government, the bureau and the secretariat for the very satisfactory way in which the meeting had progressed and for the benefits derived from the meeting by the participants.

119. The Chief of ECA Environment Section expressed, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, warmest appreciation to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia for the hospitality shown to the delegates during the meeting. He also thanked the Chairman and his bureau, the interpreters and translators and all others working behind the scene, for the successful conclusion of the second meeting of the Joint Committee.

120. The Chairman then declared the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment closed.

ANNEX I

Recommendations and resolutions of the regional workshop on combating desertification in Africa^{1/} as endorsed by the Joint Committee

Recommendation 1. Institutional arrangements for desertification control in the Kalahari desert region

Participants from Africa south of the Equator, having seen activities being carried out in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, mindful of the persistent drought conditions prevailing in the region and in view of the urgency for countries in the region to monitor activities and execute programmes for desertification control, recommend, through the present Workshop, that programmes like those assisted by UNSO, UNDP and USAID/ETMA and the United Nations specialized agencies in the Sudano-Sahelian region, be established and strengthened in the Kalahari desert region without delay. At the subregional level, the inter-governmental organization, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) could form the basis for co-operating with UNSO in establishing a subregional office similar to that arranged by CILSS at Ouagadougou;

Recommendation 2. Programming and project formulation for desertification control

While some countries had drawn up plans aimed at combating desertification, it would be desirable if the United Nations organizations and ECA assisted member States which had not already done so, in drawing up national action plans; in devising systematic programming and project monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the projects listed in each country's action plans, actually took care of all aspects of environmental protection and improvement in the dry lands; and in identifying problems encountered in project execution with a view to eliminating them as soon as possible. It was, therefore, recommended that countries such as Nigeria that did not receive adequate aid or assistance in combating desertification should be considered for immediate assistance. Furthermore, the workshop requested that an interdisciplinary interagency team of experts led by UNSO, should carry out a survey of the northern Darfur region which had been most seriously affected by desertification in the Sudan, identify solutions to the problems of combating desertification in the region;

Recommendation 3. Improvement of desertification control measures by provision of alternatives for local energy supply

To prevent deforestation of natural woodlands, government institutions should encourage assistance programmes involving the local inhabitants to:

(a) Plant fast-growing exotic and appropriate native forest tree species for supplying fuelwood, charcoal, fodder and shelter;

^{1/} See E/ECA/ENV/7

- (b) Utilize the other new and renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and biomass energy;
- (c) Utilize biomass residues for energy supply, such as the cotton stalks, groundnut husks, molasses, bargasse and others;
- (d) Use alternatives such as kerosene, LPG, and biogas for their energy needs so as to minimize the consumption of fuelwood;
- (e) Modernize the kilns used in production of charcoal;
- (f) Introduce modern fuel-efficient stoves;
- (g) Undertake surveys of the requirements for fuelwood and residue-fuel resources in each country;
- (h) Carry out a survey to estimate the sustainable forest and residual fuel resources.

United Nations organizations and other international organizations such as USAID/ETMA, should participate in financing and planning special training courses for the departments which work on new and renewable resources of energy in African countries. The different African States should give high priority to integrated programmes including afforestation especially in the regions threatened by desertification.

Recommendation 4. Mannpower training for desertification control

- (a) The Workshop recommended to the organizers that a combined workshop on desertification control for all the three subregions in the African continent be held yearly and that the next workshop be held in Malawi;
- (b) Since many countries suffered from lack of trained personnel, the Workshop called upon the appropriate United Nations and other world organizations to help in training African nationals in the field of conservation;
- (c) Extension and mass education programmes in African countries should be strengthened through the supply of audio-visual aids and transport;
- (d) Recognizing that some countries of the region had developed advanced methods of desert control under African conditions, the Workshop recommended that appropriate activities such as technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) be developed which would make it possible to share experience and knowledge with those African countries which did not have such expertise;
- (e) The exchange of visits by the personnel involved in the control of desertification should be organized among African countries through the help of international organizations such as ECA, FAO, UNEP, UNSO, etc.

Recommendation 5. Financing of desertification control projects

(a) The Workshop noted that finance was a major factor limiting project execution in all the Sudano-Sahelian and southern African countries. While assistance was being sought from United Nations organizations, the Workshop recommended that African Governments should ensure that adequate budgetary allocations were made in support of their anti-desertification programmes; they should also enlist bilateral sources of funding as developed countries preferred to deal directly with Governments;

(b) The Workshop recommends that funding agencies and fund mobilizing agencies should pool resources to back projects on desertification i.e. integrate their efforts instead of each agency supporting a different project.

Recommendation 6. Control of over-grazing and development of alternative or supplementary livelihood systems

Although the destocking of herds may be a means of combating desertification, the workshop stressed that it was necessary to provide the pastoralist with alternative or supplementary livelihood systems where herds were reduced deliberately or because of drought and the disappearance of vegetative cover. Combating desertification, which was a form of environmental protection and enhancement, should, therefore, be accompanied by ecologically-sound development programmes. Those could include such schemes as:

(a) The planting of Acacia Senegal for the production of gum arabic to provide farmers with cash income;

(b) The introduction of fishing where possible;

(c) The development of other food production activities such as poultry raising and the construction of small earthen dams for rainfall harvesting to encourage small-scale vegetable farming;

(d) Research and pilot projects for grazing other drought-resistant plants with cash value, such as, jojoba and quayule;

(e) Creation of seasonal employment in gum collecting for farmers and marketing of cattle for destocking by nomads to prevent migration from the rural to the urban areas.

Recommendation 7. Extension of AGRHYMET network in Africa

The Workshop noted that, with the assistance of WHO and UNSO, national meteorological services in the Sudano-Sahelian region had been making efforts to establish and strengthen their networks of agro-meteorological stations. The Workshop recommended that such efforts should be continued and extended to other parts of Africa especially countries in northern Sahara and Kalahari desert areas in order to assess better drought occurrences in Africa and increase the potential for drought prediction.

Recommendation 8.

In addition to the above seven recommendations which were approved at the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, the following were added:

(a) For the control of over-grazing by livestock in arid lands, an inventory of national lands for additional grazing land resources should be undertaken. The suitability of the herbaceous species and the carrying capacity of such lands should also be assessed,

(b) In addition to over-grazing, over-population, deforestation and soil erosion as the main causes of desertification, the Joint Committee identified two other causes, namely: bush fires accentuated by the current prolonged drought; and devegetation by deleterious gases from industrial mining.

Resolution 1. Regional co-operation in combating
desertification in Africa

The Regional Workshop on Combating Desertification in Africa,

Expressing its thanks to the Government of the Sudan for the hospitality it has extended to the participants in hosting the meeting,

Expressing its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environmental Training and Management Programme for Africa for the support they have extended towards the organization of the workshop,

Recognizing that the cutting of trees and woody shrubs and over-grazing are the major cause of desertification in Africa and that measures should be taken to reduce these activities,

Emphasizing that a reduction of these practices cannot be achieved without developmental measures for alternative or supplementary source of energy and livelihood systems to meet the energy and food requirements of the people,

Noting with appreciation the assistance which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office has been providing the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions in combating desertification through concrete projects and assistance in planning and programming,

Notes with appreciation the role being played by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization in the Sudano-Sahelian region and other regions in Africa towards the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and in the fight against drought,

1. Urges that the Governing Councils of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly seriously consider the inclusion of the United Republic of Tanzania in the scope of definition of the Sudano-Sahelian region and make it eligible to receive assistance, through the Sudano-Sahelian Office on behalf of the Environment Programme, in combating desertification;

2. Requests the relevant organs of the United Nations to expand the scope of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and establish a similar operation to assist the countries, members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in combating desertification including the problems of drought, in a similar manner to the way it is assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

3. Suggests that the ECA and the OAU organize pledging conferences to assist African member States affected by drought and desertification.

Resolution 2. Exchange of information on desertification control

The Regional Workshop on Combating Desertification in Africa,

Recalling decision 10/18 paragraph 5 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and welcoming the efforts of the Programme to carry out a survey to prepare a directory of national and international institutions and specialists involved in training, research and implementation of anti-desertification activities in Africa, in order to facilitate the process of exchange of information and expertise among the African countries threatened by desertification,

1. Urges the Governments of African countries to provide relevant information to the Environment Programme or to the Sudano-Sahelian Office, as appropriate, on institutions and specialists of their respective countries on desertification and drought;

2. Recommends that the participants draw to the attention of their Governments the importance of filling out the desertification questionnaires circulated by the Executive Director of the Environment Programme to assist him in undertaking an assessment of the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification since its adoption in 1977 and in determining whether such anti-desertification measures have been effective or should be modified and what new measure should be undertaken.

ANNEX II

Recommendations of the ECA/UNEP regional workshop on Industrial Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Criteria for the Siting of Industry ^{1/} as endorsed by the Joint Committee

The group of African government industrial experts attending the ECA/UNEP regional workshop on "Industrial Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Criteria for the Siting of Industry" holds at ECA, Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 June, 1983.

Having carefully studied the UNEP "Guidelines for industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for the siting of industry", expresses their appreciation for UNEP's effort in preparing these guidelines and for making them as flexible as possible to apply to national industrial planning processes;

Recognizing the fact that due importance is not being laid by African countries on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for sound environmental management in all the sectors of development;

Considering that most African governments do not, as yet, have environmental guidelines for assessing the impact of industrial activity on the physical and human environments;

Further recognizing the present need for African governments to establish guidelines for industrial development that will ensure the sound environmental management of scarce national resources;

Further considering the long-term heavy costs that the neglect of the practice of environmental impact assessment might entail;

1. Strongly recommend to African governments to immediately take precautionary measures for environmental protection in industrial development by:

(a) Creating an awareness among their national experts and planners of the close relationship between the different sectors of development and environmental issues;

(b) Develop national institutional structures that will review the UNEP guidelines for "industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for siting industry" with the view to adapting their principles into national industrial development planning;

(c) Develop legislative instruments to ensure the implementation and enforcement of national guidelines so developed;

(d) Ensure that the application of existing industrial codes by developers is reviewed in terms of the national guidelines so developed.

^{1/} See E/ECA/ENV/11.

2. Further recommends that the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

(a) Intensify their effort towards ensuring environmentally sound industrial development by assisting member States of the Africa region in developing national guidelines for industrial environmental impact assessment and for environmental criteria for the siting of industry, and in mobilizing other international resources for this purpose.

(b) Co-operate more closely in carrying out field missions to African member States with a view to helping them identify and propose solutions to their industrial problems;

(c) Assist African governments to develop their manpower training capability for carrying out environmental impact assessment through environmental education and training programmes.

ANNEX III

Recommendations of the meeting of experts from governments and the scientific
Community to develop a programme of action for environmental education
and training in Africa¹ as endorsed by the Joint Committee

The recommendations to Governments presented here aim at assisting Member States in developing environmental education and training programmes which are in line with their socio-economic development and to increase awareness of the concept that environmental protection and development are compatible. The primary responsibility for promoting awareness about environmental problems through environmental education and training, planning and implementing such programmes, lies first and foremost with Governments. International organizations, regional institutions and others can only play a supportive and technical role, in their respective specialized areas. Co-operation among Governments, national, subregional, regional and international institutions is therefore vital for the successful implementation of this programme of action.

Governments should:

(a) Adopt over-all comprehensive approaches to the solution of environmental problems facing each country, as well as to the enhancement of the environment, by promoting the necessary prerequisites for environmental education, including comprehensive environmental policy, legislation, financial, organizational and other measures, taking into account the recommendations of the Tbilisi Conference;

(b) Declare commitment and take practical steps to develop environmental education and training programmes within the framework of national plans for education in line with socio-economic development needs (e.g. specifying a clear commitment to environmental education and training in national development plans and explicitly incorporating its concepts and practices into educational programmes);

(c) Take into account the interest of all segments of the community to identify and assess national needs, priorities and problems for effective implementation of environmental education and training in each country, in the light of the availability of resources such as financial, human, material and other learning resources for various levels of the education systems, both formal and non-formal;

(d) Establish specific national institutional co-ordination machinery, such as an environmental protection council or national environment secretariat (with a clear mandate) to serve as a focal point and thereby spearhead national and local activities in environmental education and training necessary for effective development;

(e) Establish steering committees for promoting environmental education and training at the local, district, provincial and national levels. Membership in these committees should include representation from community-based groups for environmental action and non-governmental organizations involved in promoting, planning, implementing and evaluating training programmes;

1/ See UNEP/WG.78/4

(f) Promote regional co-operation in the use of national institutions with adequate facilities in environmental training for the training of trainers by extending such facilities for the use of nationals from other African countries; this can be facilitated by regional and international fellowship programmes for staff and student exchanges;

(g) Promote interdisciplinary curricula based on specific environmental concerns of the particular country as well as on the general environmental/developmental issues pertaining to the continent;

(h) Review their educational curricula as necessary, for an integrated interdisciplinary approach to promoting environmental awareness and action, by creating a horizontal integration of the teaching-learning processes around local environmental topics while ensuring a vertical linkage for continuity and coherence in the formal and non-formal education processes at the same time;

(i) Promote the use of new methods developed under the International Environmental Education Programme of UNESCO and UNEP, as appropriate, by emphasizing pupil discussion and participation and a problem-solving orientation, focussing on specific local environmental problems and the acquisition of the necessary techniques and technology for solving them;

(j) Accord priority to the incorporation of environmental components in the training of educationalists, decision-makers, policy-makers, administrators and professionals whose work affects the environment as part of inter-disciplinary training;

(k) Incorporate environmental education in appropriate mass media education programmes, by the use of films, cassettes, discussion groups in educational broadcasting (radio, television) and support the development of popular environmental education materials such as comics, magazines and posters, at all levels of formal and non-formal education;

(l) Support the development of environmental education and training courses, with emphasis on methodology as appropriate, seminars, workshops and symposia for various target groups such as decision and policy-makers, professionals whose activities have an environmental impact, scientists and environmental specialists, technicians, vocational workers, youth leaders, mass media specialists and others;

(m) Support local institutions such as universities, research institutes, etc., in research and publications for environmental education and training at all levels of education systems;

(n) Increase awareness among all sections of the community, in particular the rural population, regarding environmental issues and concerns, through the media and by the use of out-of-school educational methodologies such as the performing arts and literacy programmes;

(o) Promote environmental consciousness among politicians and in the deliberations of their key policy-makers, political gatherings, in order to create a new environmental dimension for out-of-school activities;

(v) Promote research into local traditional conceptions and approaches to environmental management as a basis for formulating sound approaches to adapting environmental education and training to suit local conditions;

(q) Promote exchange of information and experience among African countries regarding environmental education and training by making use of all available information data banks in the United Nations system, study tours, dissemination of publications, etc.;

(r) Incorporate the concept of environmental education and training in regional conferences of ministers responsible for education, development, planning and environment, and in subregional meetings of socio-economic groupings and organizations.

RESOLUTION 1 (II)

Regional Programme for the protection and restoration of the environment
after earthquakes

The Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and
Environment,

Considering the dramatic character of natural disasters in general and of earthquakes in particular, that results in the loss of human lives and considerable damage in the area of human settlements and the environment,

Considering that natural disasters and earthquakes, while rendering thousands of people homeless and destroying flora, fauna and environmental artifacts, often results in irreparable destruction of precious elements of the environment and human settlements,

Taking note of the diverse communications that have surely indicated that after the earthquake of Koumbia in the Republic of Guinea, no part of our continent is excluded from earthquakes,

Conscious of the existence of effective methods of forecasting earthquakes that have been scientifically and technically proven, so as to protect and restore the environment and human settlements in case of an earthquake,

1. Recommends the establishment of a Regional Programme for the protection and restoration of the environment and human settlements in case of natural disasters and earthquakes in Africa,
2. Invites the Executive Secretary of ECA to carry out studies aimed at defining the objectives and content of such a Regional Programme and explore the institutional, technical and financial means of realizing such a programme rapidly,
3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to submit, to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, recommendations on how to implement such a programme and report to the Third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

2nd meeting,
19 January 1984

RESOLUTION 2 (II)

International year of shelter for the homeless

The Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/321 of 20 December 1982 on the ~~International Year of Shelter for the Homeless~~,

Recalling also resolution AHG/117 (XIX) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its nineteenth ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 11 June 1983,

Further recalling the overall plans for the activities before, during and after the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the priorities for national and international action during 1983-1984, as adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixth session,

Taking note of the situation of the homeless population in Africa as embodied in the document entitled "Shelter for Africa's homeless population - preparations towards the International Year of Shelter for the homeless", 1/

Noting with concern the incidence of earthquakes in some countries of the region and its impact on increasing the problem of homelessness,

Convinced that urgent concerted actions are needed to provide shelter for the homeless and to improve the quality of the Shelter Conditions,

1. Adopts the following plan of Action:

- (i) declaration of a special national policy on specific housing programmes for the homeless;
- (ii) institution of special programmes that would make land available to the homeless for shelter development;
- (iii) preparation of schemes to provide occupational training to the homeless as a means of increasing local job opportunities and also enabling them to erect their own shelter;
- (iv) preparation of national plans for building shelter and related services;
- (v) social planning to cover the needs of the homeless;

2. Calls upon the member States to implement the national components of the above plan;
3. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to assist the governments of member States, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects to improve the Shelter Conditions of the homeless;
4. Requests the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat), within the framework of its assistance programme to African countries, and in the context of the implementation of programmes for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, to strengthen activities geared to the provision of shelter, infrastructures and services for the homeless;
5. Appeals to other concerned organizations of the United Nations System, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase, and gear their assistance to African countries to the improvement of shelter conditions of the homeless.

2nd meeting,
19 January 1984.

RESOLUTION 3 (II)

Promotion of local building materials

The Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Recalling its resolution 5 (I),

Recognizing the need to promote the use of local building materials as a means of conserving scarce foreign exchange hitherto spent on building materials imports,

Taking note of the project activities so far carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa through its building materials and construction industries development programme to assist African countries in developing viable local building materials industries.,

Taking note also of the project proposal of the ACC 1/ Task Force on Science and Technology for Development on "Local building materials - Africa" as presented in document E/ECA/HUS/9 2/ and for which FAO has been designated as lead agency,

Expressing satisfaction that this project is being built on the foundation already laid by the above-mentioned ECA development programme;

Convinced that this project on local building materials would strengthen efforts under-way in the countries of the region to deal with the chronic problems of high cost of materials and their shortage and promote effective utilization of locally available resources,

Further convinced that the general apathy to the utilization of local building materials would be overcome by positive examples of their use by governments,

1. Adopts the project proposal on "Local building materials - Africa" and calls for its speedy implementation,
2. Invites African governments to actively support the implementation of the project by,
 - (i) providing facilities for successfully carrying out required project activities in the countries;
 - (ii) undertaking national projects geared to the promotion of local building materials with the assistance of the regional project, if required;

1/ ACC - Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of the United Nations.

2/ Brief note on proposed regional project on "Improvement of local building materials" sponsored by ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development.

(iii) setting examples by using local building materials in their construction projects;

3. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to play an active role in implementation of the project as a continuation of its assistance in this field to member States;

4. Requests FAO, ILO, UNCHS (Habitat), UNESCO, UNIDO and other concerned organizations of the United Nations System to ensure the success of the project by actively assisting in the implementation of project activities falling within their special fields of competence;

5. Requests the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development to assist in mobilizing the financial resources needed for implementation of the project.

2nd meeting,
19 January 1984.

RESOLUTION 4 (II)

Perspective on Human Settlements activities during the Biennium 1984-1985

The Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Taking note of the proposals for activities to be carried out during 1984-1985 submitted in the Secretariat's document E/ECA/HUS/8,

Recognizing the relevance and importance of the proposed activities in the context of the priorities set by the Committee at its first meeting,

Concerned about the dwindling resources at the disposal of the ECA Human Settlements Section and its operational constraints on this account in successfully implementing the project activities agreed upon,

Realizing the consequent need to redesign the activities for 1984-1985 to match the reduced availability of resources for implementation,

Focussing on the more pressing areas of attention in which the member States require assistance during the biennium 1984-1985,

1. Decides that the ECA activities in human settlements during the biennium 1984-1985 in this context should primarily cover the following:

- (i) preparation of guidelines to assist member States in the national formulation of comprehensive human settlements policy with emphasis of attention to the needs of the economically weaker sections of population including appropriate measures for land development and allocation, and related infrastructure facilities for housing;
- (ii) undertaking of studies and pilot projects in human settlements development including low cost housing and local building materials;
- (iii) compilation and dissemination of information on the policies, programmes and experiences of the various member States in human settlements development so as to promote a process of co-operation and sharing of knowledge and experiences, thereby assisting in optimum utilization of available resources;
- (iv) preparation of guidelines for achievement of cost reduction in construction through appropriate measures including reformulation of building codes and regulations and development of local building materials and related raw materials and technologies and their effective utilization;
- (v) assistance in strengthening and improving national capacities for human settlements planning and implementation and construction services through appropriate training policies and programmes;
- (vi) assistance in the establishment/improvement of national human settlements financing facilities.

2. Requests the member States to support the ECA through greater political and organizational commitment and active involvement in implementation;
3. Calls upon the ECA and interested other organizations to draw up schemes for implementation in mutual consultation and co-operation;
4. Specially requests ECA to make a renewed effort to mobilize required financial and manpower resources through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to reinforce the operational capacities for effective field service to member States;
5. Requests UNCHS (Habitat) and other United Nations and international organisations to continue to extend organizational co-operation and support to the ECA and the member States for the implementation of the plan of action.

2nd meeting
19 January 1984.