

(d) The application of technology to, and scientific research for, the prevention and control of natural disasters, or a mitigation of the effects of such disasters, including arrangements to disseminate effectively to all countries the fruits of research from satellites and other sophisticated technology with a view to strengthening international co-operation to determine the causes and early manifestation of impending disasters, and the development and improvement of early warning systems;

(e) National and international programmes designed to train relief personnel;

(f) Measures to be taken in the initial emergency or post-disaster phase directed at immediate relief operations and short-term low-cost rehabilitation measures, including the deployment of mobile transportation units and the means to assess the extent of damage and the amount of assistance needed in this first phase;

(g) The study of long-term plans for the reconstruction and development of disaster areas, and the affected countries as a whole, bearing in mind the principle that the problems of reconstruction are inseparable from the problems of economic development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, where appropriate, to study and recommend in his comprehensive report, taking into account past practices, the most effective measures and means to meet requests for technical assistance by States members of the United Nations system in elaboration of their planning of national preparations to meet natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations;

7. *Urges* that requests submitted by Governments for assistance under General Assembly resolutions 2435 (XXIII) and 2608 (XXIV) be given prompt and appropriate response in regard to the amount and type of assistance requested;

8. *Also invites* the United Nations Development Programme to give serious consideration to the possibility of meeting requests for assistance which countries stricken by natural disasters may submit for the express purpose of the rehabilitation and development of the stricken areas without prejudice to the utilization of funds already earmarked for projects of the Programme;

9. *Further invites* the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international credit organizations and development agencies to give serious consideration to requests for assistance from the Governments of countries affected by natural disasters relating to their programmes for reconstruction and development and without prejudice to the requests submitted by them prior to the natural disaster that are still under consideration.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2718 (XXV). Housing, building and planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965 and 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Mindful of the dedication of the Governments, on the threshold of the 1970s, to create conditions of social justice, stability and well-being for all and to

ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development,

Further recalling paragraph 71 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade⁴⁷ relating to the policy measures in the housing sector,

Considering that a greater effort needs to be made to provide effective international assistance for the improvement of the situation with regard to housing and human settlements in most developing countries,

Bearing in mind that the interregional seminar on the improvement of slums and uncontrolled settlements, held at Medellín, Colombia, from 15 February to 1 March 1970, identified the problem of human settlements as one which requires national and international solutions through the adoption of a global strategy,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problems and priorities in human settlements,⁴⁸

1. *Recommends* that Member States, with the assistance, upon request, of the United Nations bodies concerned and in the context of their over-all economic and social development planning, should formulate definite and long-term housing, building and planning policies and programmes for the improvement of human settlements, devoting particular attention to:

(a) Comprehensive measures to solve the problems of rapid urbanization, housing and uncontrolled human settlements, thereby achieving more rational urban growth patterns;

(b) Steps for a rapid and significant improvement of housing, community facilities and environmental sanitation in rural areas;

(c) The application of comprehensive planning approaches to integrate the physical, economic, social and administrative aspects for improvement of human settlements in both rural and urban areas;

(d) The evolution and application of regional planning for balanced rural and urban development, especially in developing countries;

(e) The development of the building industry and building technology, including research and training;

(f) The review, if necessary, of the legislative framework governing land tenure, the transfer of land and buildings in urban and rural areas, and the planning of over-all patterns of land use and appropriate infrastructural facilities;

2. *Further recommends* that Member States and the United Nations organizations concerned should undertake the following measures for the amelioration of conditions in the field of housing and human settlements:

(a) The elaboration by each country of its national policies and programmes for the development of housing and of a network of human settlements during the 1970s, fully integrated into national development plans, including, if necessary, the elaboration of legal, institutional and physical arrangements relating to urban and rural land use;

(b) The establishment of national and regional centres for studies in planning, designing, social and administrative aspects and experiments in low-cost housing techniques and activities, including increasing use and application of indigenous and, as appropriate, new building materials and local skills;

⁴⁷ Resolution 2626 (XXV).

⁴⁸ A/8037.

(c) The development of national institutions for training in regional and physical planning, housing and building;

(d) The acceleration of domestic savings through the establishment of appropriate financial practices and specialized institutions, including co-operatives, for financing the housing and construction sector;

(e) Measures for environmental improvement, particularly those that shape the future structure of human settlements;

(f) The expansion of low-cost housing, through both public and private programmes and on a self-help basis, including co-operatives, and the advancement of pilot and demonstration projects on such housing;

3. *Invites* developed countries and the international organizations concerned, especially the financial institutions, to provide during the 1970s increased assistance—technical as well as financial—to the developing countries for the purposes enumerated in paragraph 2 above, in accordance with the priorities they have determined for their development;

4. *Further invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to consider additional innovative approaches for the improvement of housing and human settlements;

5. *Recommends* that, in the elaboration of the work programmes in the field of housing, building and planning within the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particular attention should be paid to programmes and projects of interest to the developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General also to make available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment his report on the problems and priorities in human settlements;

7. *Considers* that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should play a major role in the formulation and co-ordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements as well as a catalytic role in their implementation and that, as such, it should be strengthened as a matter of high priority both by a greater allocation of resources and by additional personnel;

8. *Further considers* that it is desirable to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of housing, building and planning;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit as soon as possible to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an analytical review and progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking full advantage of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2719 (XXV). Technical assistance in the field of drug abuse control

The General Assembly,

Noting with grave concern the spread of drug abuse in many parts of the world and its disastrous impact on individuals and nations,

1. *Strongly endorses* the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1532

(XLIX) of 24 July 1970 and 1559 (XLIX) of 11 November 1970, which provide, *inter alia*, for the establishment of a programme of action aiming at the implementation of short-term and long-term policy recommendations to deal with drug abuse, as proposed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment, as an initial measure and as a matter of urgency, of a United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to be made up of voluntary contributions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to proceed immediately towards the implementation of the above decisions;

4. *Appeals* to Governments, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, and to foundations as well as to the public in general, to lend their full support to the above-mentioned efforts.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2720 (XXV). Technical assistance in the field of narcotic drugs

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1559 (XLIX) of 11 November 1970,

Considering that addiction to narcotic drugs is becoming an alarming problem in many countries of the world,

Considering that the measures that have been taken against illicit trade and traffic in narcotic drugs have not been successful in arresting widespread addiction,

Noting that the term "drug abuse" has been defined in paragraph 20 of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its second special session,⁴⁹

Taking into account that on the whole addicts in all countries constitute a danger to society at large,

Calls upon Member States and appeals to non-member States to consider seriously the possibility of enacting adequate legislation providing severe penalties for those engaged in illicit trade and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2721 (XXV). Human rights and scientific and technological developments

The General Assembly,

Believing that a proper balance should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity, as well as improvement in the general conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 2450 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 on human rights and scientific and technological developments,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 14 (XXVI) of 26 March 1970,⁵⁰

⁴⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (E/4931).*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/4816), chapter XXIII.*