

10. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to co-ordinate further the activities of the Programme with those of other organizations of the United Nations system, to co-operate appropriately with the organizers of the international initiatives on the future of the forests, and to report thereon to the Governing Council;

11. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the need for additional resources to assist developing countries in dealing with serious environmental problems, and urges the Executive Director of the Programme, in consultation with Governments and the international organizations concerned, to accelerate and intensify his efforts in that field;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments that continue to contribute to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly those that have increased their contributions, and urges those Governments that have not yet paid their pledged contributions to the Fund for 1985 or made pledges for 1986 to do so in the near future.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/201. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,⁹¹ and the relevant recommendations for national action⁹² adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 39/169 of 17 December 1984,

Taking note of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/3 of 10 May 1985,⁸⁸

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

Recognizing the need to identify priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. *Takes note with concern* of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;⁹³

2. *Takes note also* of the statement made on 25 October 1985 by the observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization;⁹⁴

3. *Rejects* the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements, and other plans and actions creating conditions leading to the displacement and exodus of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories;

4. *Expresses its alarm* at the deterioration, as a result of the Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;

5. *Affirms* that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic

development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To organize, by April 1987, a seminar on priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including a comprehensive general housing programme, as recommended in resolution 8/3 of the Commission on Human Settlements;

(b) To make the necessary preparations for the seminar, providing for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(c) To invite experts to present papers to the seminar;

(d) To invite also relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the preparations for the seminar;

(f) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the seminar.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/202. Human settlements

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements and 34/116 of 14 December 1979 on the strengthening of human settlements activities,

Conscious of the very substantial gap between the resources available through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the needs of developing countries requesting assistance from the Centre,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session,⁹⁵

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress which the Commission and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), have continued to make in providing guidance and assistance to Governments in their efforts to provide adequate shelter and services to their people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to accord the requisite priority in their development and development assistance

⁹¹ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

⁹² Ibid., chap. II.

⁹³ A/40/373-E/1985/99

⁹⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Second Committee, 17th meeting, paras. 93-99.

⁹⁵ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1).

programmes to human settlements activities as a proved means of promoting economic and social development, as well as to the fair distribution of the benefits of such development to all segments of the population;

4. *Takes note* of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/12 of 8 May 1985⁸⁸ and, in that context, urges the international community, including multilateral institutions and agencies, to consider, as appropriate, more flexible strategies in lending for human settlements projects and programmes;

5. *Commends* those Governments and others that have made voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, particularly those that have done so on a regular basis, and *appeals* to those that have not contributed to do so at the earliest opportunity;

6. *Decides*, in accordance with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/4 of 8 May 1985,⁸⁸ to designate the first Monday of October of every year as "World Habitat Day".

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

B

BIENNIAL CYCLE OF SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it provided for the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and specified the duration of the term of office of members of the Commission,

Recalling also its decision 38/429 of 19 December 1983 on the rationalization of the work of the Second Committee and its resolution 39/170 B of 17 December 1984, in which it required the Commission on Human Settlements to consider adopting a biennial cycle of sessions,

Taking note with satisfaction of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985⁸⁸ on a biennial cycle of sessions for the Commission,

Having considered the recommendation of the Commission that the duration of the term of office of its members should be changed from three to four years in recognition of the change to a biennial cycle of sessions,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Human Settlements contained in its resolution 8/1 that, beginning in 1987, its sessions will, on an experimental basis, be held only in odd-numbered years;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission on Human Settlements contained in its resolution 8/1 to hold a special session of shorter duration in 1988 devoted exclusively to ensuring effective follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, will be observed in 1987;

3. *Decides* that, beginning with the terms of office commencing on 1 January 1987, membership in the Commission on Human Settlements will be for a term of four years instead of three.

*119th plenary meeting
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⁸⁶ A/40/689.

C

CO-ORDINATION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system,⁹⁶

Taking note of the view on co-ordination expressed in Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/13 of 8 May 1985,⁸⁸

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary machinery relevant to its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, taking into account Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 35/77 C of 5 December 1980 and 37/223 C of 20 December 1982, and to keep the matter under review for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1987 on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into consideration the follow-up of the cross-organizational programme analysis in human settlements by the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/203. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/221 of 20 December 1982, 38/168 of 19 December 1983 and 39/171 of 17 December 1984 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting with satisfaction that more than one hundred and fifteen countries have designated official national focal points for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, that many countries have already launched intensive national programmes for the Year and reported thereon to the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session, and that more than one hundred and sixty projects for the Year are under way in sixty-five countries,

Expressing its appreciation to the twenty-nine developing countries and five developed countries that have already made or pledged voluntary contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recognizing that an estimated one quarter of the world's population does not have adequate shelter and lives in extremely unhealthy and unsanitary conditions and that the programme for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless provides a necessary and unique opportunity for countries to review their prospects and priorities for shelter and settlements and to develop, before or during 1987, new national policies and strategies for improving shelter for, and the neighbourhoods of, the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000,

Noting that most of the voluntary contributions pledged to date have been pledged by developing countries and that further voluntary contributions are now needed in order to carry out effectively the overall plans endorsed by the General Assembly for activities to be undertaken before and during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,⁹⁷

⁹⁷ See A/38/233-E/1983/74 and Corr.1