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COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

This report covers coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations since the fifteenth session of the Commission.

It is arranged by the substantive areas for coordination and highlights the most important instances of inter-agency, intergovernmental and non-governmental cooperation during the reporting period.

* HS/C/16/1.

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with its previous resolutions which urged coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies and organizations in the field of human settlements development, the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session and in its resolution 14/18 on coordination matters, requested the Executive Director to continue to pursue efforts for, inter alia, coordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system in activities relating to the organization of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to report the results of such coordination to the Commission at its sixteenth session.
2. Pursuant to the above resolution and because of the primacy and inclusive nature of the Habitat II process over the past biennium, cooperation with external bodies has tended to focus primarily on the Habitat II process. The Habitat II secretariat consequently cooperated with various United Nations agencies and organizations to implement the preparatory processes of the Conference, with maximum synergy from the United Nations system.
3. During the preparatory process, the United Nations system participated actively in all the Habitat II Preparatory Committee meetings, including the sessions of the informal drafting group, during which the draft Habitat Agenda was negotiated and consolidated. Many United Nations agencies and organizations also organized thematic seminars, colloquiums, round tables, workshops and other meetings to promote the Habitat II preparatory process in all the regions.
4. During the Conference itself, the United Nations system was eminently represented both in the proceedings of Committee I, where the Habitat Agenda was finally negotiated, and at Committee II, the "partners' forum", where partners' hearings were held. United Nations agencies organized or co-sponsored a wide variety of parallel activities, ranging from the series of Dialogues for the Twenty-First Century, to seminars, round tables and exhibitions.
5. The following report reviews cooperation with United Nations agencies, and also highlights their areas of focus in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
 - I. COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF HABITAT II AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA
6. The inputs of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the Habitat II preparatory process included, inter alia, organizing a colloquium on future changes in the urban employment structure, in Turin. ILO also organized the dialogue on economy and employment in the near future at the Habitat II Conference. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, ILO will concentrate on the expansion and protection of employment and work, including poverty reduction.

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) sponsored and hosted, in the preparatory process, a colloquium on working towards a city of solidarity and citizenship, in Paris. During the Conference, it organized the dialogue on citizenship and democracy in the twenty-first century, the exhibition on revitalization of the inner city and the video presentation on vernacular housing in Africa. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, UNESCO will cooperate in the preservation and conservation of settlements of historical and cultural value and in networking with education and scientific institutions related to human settlements.

8. For the preparatory process, the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a colloquium on alternative sewerage for large cities. In the Conference, it organized the dialogue on health in cities of tomorrow and a workshop on environment, habitat and health. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, WHO will integrate its global strategy for health and environment, through inter-agency partnerships, with related programmes in other organizations, with a focus on environmental health in human settlements.

9. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mobilized resources to promote South-South cooperation in the preparatory process and provided financial assistance to developing countries in the preparation of their national plans of action, including financing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries exchanges of innovations and best practices for Habitat II. UNDP co-sponsored the International Colloquium of Mayors, held in Accra in August 1994, as a contribution to both the World Summit for Social Development and Habitat II, the City Summit. It supported UNCHS (Habitat) efforts to incorporate the relevant recommendations of previous United Nations conferences into the global plan of action for Habitat II. In addition, UNDP organized several parallel activities at the Conference, for which it produced a series of publications. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, UNDP will promote people-centred development through support to thematic, multisectoral programmes of national Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other partners through its network of country offices.

10. The World Bank committed \$1 million to the Habitat II preparatory process, to support in-country preparatory activities including national consultations, the analysis of housing and urban indicators and the dissemination of best practices. The Bank also sponsored regional thematic conferences and seminars dealing with urban land management and urban finance, including the global conference on urban finance held in September 1995 in Washington, D.C. The World Bank also organized the Habitat dialogue on finance and cities in the twenty-first century during the Conference. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, the Bank's efforts will focus on supporting the provision of basic urban services, urban environmental improvement, strengthening urban finance and reducing urban poverty in developing countries.

11. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) participated in the Conference and its preparatory process with a series of substantive inputs. Its focus in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will be in the provision of technical assistance and policy advice on public-private collaboration, with a view to increasing private sector funding for housing and infrastructure.

12. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with UNDP, provided financial support to the World Resources Institute (WRI) for the preparation of the WRI report World Resources 1996-97, which focused on urban issues and constituted an important contribution to the Habitat II preparatory process. UNEP jointly organized with UNCHS (Habitat) the international conference: "Managing Water Resources for Large Cities and Towns". Its activities at the Conference included, inter alia, the seminar on environmentally sound technologies and a forum on implementing the urban environment agenda, jointly with UNCHS (Habitat). UNEP also supported the joint publication of the book Making Cities Work on the role of local authorities in improving the urban environment. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the main contribution of UNEP will be to complement the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) in the priority areas of environmental assessment, planning and management.

13. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) actively participated in the Habitat II preparatory process and at the Conference in Istanbul, articulating water resource management as one of the key sets of issues in the Habitat Agenda. WMO collaboration also included the implementation of Habitat Agenda in the area of urban water resources management and household water security in Africa, as part of the Secretary-General's Special Initiative on Africa. WMO also contributed to Habitat staff resources in Geneva. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, WMO programmes will focus on the linkages between, and the impact of, urbanization on, inter alia, climatology, meteorology, operational hydrology and water resources.

14. The main inputs of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the preparatory process included an international colloquium on industrialization and urban development and a meeting on urban industrial development for African cities. UNIDO also contributed to the conference on sustainable urban development held in Berlin. The contribution of UNIDO to implementation of the Habitat Agenda includes working with policy-makers, city mayors and planners and the private sector to enhance the productivity of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

15. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will cooperate with other United Nations agencies in analysing and monitoring major trends in urbanization, including the impact of urban policies in relation to changes in the global economic environment.

16. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will concentrate on the coordination of disaster mitigation, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including resettlement initiatives.

17. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, the World Food Programme (WFP) will explore the potential of food aid in areas undergoing crises and will also assist in the design and implementation of country strategies for sustainable human settlements development.

18. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conducted an International Workshop on Children's Rights after Habitat II: A Forward-Looking Workshop for the Creation of Child-Friendly Cities, and, during the Habitat II

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Conference, organized an exhibition and workshop on children's rights. UNICEF, ILO and UNCHS (Habitat) jointly launched the urban poverty forum at Istanbul, as a follow-up to the first International Conference on Urban Poverty held in Recife, in March 1996. To help implement the Habitat Agenda, UNICEF will develop a support network to benefit the urban poor.

19. The main input by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the preparatory process involved symposia, co-sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, on habitat and population linkages and internal migration and urbanization in developing countries: implications for Habitat II. UNFPA also made a financial contribution to the Habitat II secretariat to support one staff position for the Habitat II preparatory process. During the Conference, UNFPA organized panel discussions on the above topics. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, UNFPA will concentrate on poverty alleviation and eradication through suitable reproductive health programmes and research into linkages between population, migration and urban growth and their implication for human settlements.

20. The input of the United Nations University (UNU) to the preparatory process included international conferences on world cities and urban future, and human settlements in the changing global political and economic processes. In implementing the Habitat Agenda, UNU will continue work in the dissemination of research methods and tools relevant to urbanization and urban development.

21. The main input of the United Nations Fund for Women/International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UNIFEM/INSTRAW) to the Habitat II Conference was through their parallel events, which included a forum on sharing local power, and expert group meetings on women in human settlements in conflict zones and rights to land and property.

22. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) mobilized financial support to fund five volunteers to contribute to the work of the Habitat II secretariat in the preparatory process, including their participation in the Habitat II Conference. In the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the UNV programme will cooperate with other United Nations system partners in capacity-building to combat poverty, and in reinforcing UNV partnerships with civil society in both the public and private sectors.

23. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) participated in the dialogue on land and rural-urban linkages. In November 1996, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) participated in the World Food Summit in Rome, linking the issues of global food security with the themes of the Habitat Agenda.

24. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organized two round tables on European urban research and consultations on Habitat II, in collaboration with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD).

25. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights contributed to the Conference by organizing a round table on the human right to adequate housing and a special event in observation of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. It will integrate strategies of the Habitat Agenda with

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ongoing and future human rights activities and establish field advisory services and technical assistance.

26. UNCHS and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) collaborated closely on the organization of two high-level meetings on developing a strategy for the effective participation of the African region in the preparatory process for Habitat II. In addition, the ECA Council of Ministers endorsed the Johannesburg Declaration of African ministers responsible for human settlements, which set out a collective strategy for effective African participation in the Habitat II process.

27. Collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) during the biennium focused on the Forum of Ministers for Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI). During the Regional Ministerial Meeting for Habitat II in Santiago, November, 1995, a Regional Plan of Action was adopted and subsequently presented at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul. The Centre and ECLAC are in the process of formulating a strategy for the implementation of this Regional Plan of Action.

28. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) made substantial contributions to the preparatory process for Habitat II and to the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum was held in March 1996 in Bangkok with the theme, "Habitat I to Habitat II: What Have We Learnt?". ESCAP also produced the publication Living in Asian Cities, which was launched during the Habitat II Conference. ESCAP is now organizing a second Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, which will serve as a forum to discuss follow-up actions to Habitat II.

29. Cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) centred mainly on activities dealing with issues of decentralization and participation in urban development and management. The Commission participated in the various regional meetings dealing with the preparatory process of Habitat II, including the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices, held in Dubai in November 1995.

30. Cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) focused on the organization of regional meetings for the Habitat II preparatory process. The Commission co-sponsored with Habitat the Fourth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Human Settlements in European Countries with Economies in Transition, in Budapest, in June 1995, at which the Budapest Declaration was adopted. The declaration formulates common goals and commitments to be implemented in connection with the Habitat Agenda.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN UNCHS (HABITAT) AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS EFFECTED THROUGH PROGRAMMES

31. In the period under review, the Women in Human Settlements Development Programme (WHSDP) collaborated, inter alia, with UNEP, in a joint special event on land and property rights for women at the Habitat II Conference; working together with UNIFEM and UNICEF, WHSDP jointly developed a programme on women in crisis, involving employment work in Burundi, Ethiopia and

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Rwanda; and with INSTRAW, WHSDP held a special event on women in human settlements and conflict zones. In addition, WHSDP participated in the Beijing Conference.

32. In relation to the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, UNCHS (Habitat) contributed to the preparation of the mid-term review of the New Agenda and the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly and participated at the Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development. The Centre is also involved in the current United Nations New System-wide Initiative on Africa and has prepared a special programme to assist African countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

33. In the area of statistical activities, the Statistics Programme continued its collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information in support of the Centre's activities. In collaboration with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, it has produced the fifth issue of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics.

34. The Urban Management Programme (UMP) supported several city consultations, demonstrations, seminars and workshops at the city, national, regional and interregional levels on land management, poverty alleviation and urban environmental management. In collaboration with the World Bank, UNCHS (Habitat) has prepared and distributed several policy and research papers on key urban management issues.

35. During 1995, the Community Development Programme (CDP) concluded its operational activities in Bolivia, Sri Lanka and Zambia. Most of these activities are today continuing with the support both from the Governments and from non-governmental organizations. During 1995, the programme hosted four subregional workshops on civic engagement in settlements development. The programme is continuing its operational activities in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and Uganda.

36. In the area of disaster mitigation, UNCHS (Habitat) has carried out advisory missions and executed technical assistance projects on disaster mitigation, reconstruction and development with UNDP, UNV, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNEP, UNHCR and WFP in countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. The Centre continues collaborating with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the secretariat of the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction in achieving the objectives of the Decade. Moreover, jointly with UNV, the Centre has established the Disaster Management Programme (DMP) and participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the Relief to Development Continuum.

37. The Indicators Programme benefited from both bilateral and multilateral support in its latter phase (1994-1996), through which national consultancies in many cities were implemented as part of in-country preparations for Habitat II. The Governments of Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United States of America provided substantial operating funds to support indicators collection. The programme has also collaborated with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in the formulation of sustainable development indicators, culminating in the

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designation of UNCHS (Habitat) as the lead agency to contribute to the work programme in indicators relating to chapters 7 (Human settlements) and 21 (Solid wastes and sewage-related issues) of Agenda 21.

38. UNCHS (Habitat), through the Settlement Infrastructure and Environment Programme (SIEP), has continued active cooperation on the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and similar groups, such as the Inter-Agency Group for Water in Africa. It was designated lead agency for World Water Day 1996 and organized local, regional and global observances. It organized the International Conference on Managing Water Resources for Large Cities and Towns, Beijing, March 1996, and with UNEP and the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, convened the dialogue on water for thirsty cities at Habitat II. UNCHS (Habitat) continues to participate in the WHO/FAO/UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control (PEEM), is collaborating with non-governmental organizations in the field of waste management and has developed a community-based environmental management information system (CEMIS) in close partnership with non-governmental and community-based organizations.

39. The International Forum on Urban Poverty (IFUP) was launched in June 1996 in Istanbul and aims at promoting exchanges between local and international actors in the struggle against urban poverty. The Centre will host the secretariat of the Forum, as well as manage the database on urban poverty reduction practices.

35. Through its training and capacity-building programmes, the Centre has continued to work closely with UNDP, the World Bank and other organizations in areas such as municipal and metropolitan governance and urban management information systems, as well as with UNEP on training in environmental law.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

40. UNCHS (Habitat) has strengthened its collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). A three-year joint CARICOM/OECS/UNDP/UNCHS (Habitat) programme on human settlements development and related environmental management in the Caribbean was launched in 1995, coordinating technical resources at the subregional level and extending support to several national initiatives in CARICOM/OECS countries. In September 1995, UNCHS (Habitat) sponsored a ministerial meeting in Barbados which, *inter alia*, examined the complexities of human settlement issues in small island States.

41. Through cooperation with the League of Arab States Habitat continued its efforts to strengthen activities with the Arab world, particularly in the preparatory activities for the Habitat II Conference. Several subregional meetings were held and culminated in the thirteenth session of the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction (CAMHR), held in Cairo on 13 and 14 November 1995, which adopted the Cairo Declaration on Habitat II.

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42. UNCHS (Habitat) continued its collaboration with the Organization of American States in the development and application of building codes and settlements planning tools for disaster mitigation. In addition to country-specific activities, the collaboration extends to the overall review of building codes in the Caribbean region.

43. UNCHS (Habitat) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) cooperated closely in preparations for the Habitat II Conference and in regional and subregional ministerial meetings to formulate consolidated regional positions and strategies on Habitat II. The OAU Council of Ministers, in its 63rd Ordinary Session, held in February 1996, adopted resolution CM/RES/12(LXIII) on the follow-up to Habitat II. The implementation of the joint OAU/UNCHS (Habitat) project FD-GLO-93-F01 has continued apace and efforts are in progress to revitalize this cooperation by strengthening the capacity of OAU to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in African countries, including exploring the possibility of establishing an OAU environmental fund to assist in the resettlement of African refugees and displaced persons.

44. UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with the African Development Bank has centred around discussions on a draft cooperation agreement. The opportunity for future cooperation with the Bank has been opened up with the approval of the Bank Group's Urban Development Policy.

45. Although direct cooperation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference is limited, UNCHS (Habitat) is active in implementing technical cooperation projects in the Organization's member States, covering a full range of human settlements activities.

46. Collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank was extremely fruitful during the preparation for Habitat II Conference. The bank set up a task force to articulate civil society's position in the Latin American and Caribbean region for inclusion in the Regional Plan of Action adopted in Santiago in November 1995.

47. The Asian Development Bank made substantial contributions to the preparatory process for Habitat II Conference and, in cooperation with the Urban Management Programme (UMP), organized two key regional meetings. UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with the Asian Development Bank in providing technical assistance to member States has been strengthened and joint projects undertaken. In addition, the Bank and UMP have initiated consultations on financing an urban sector capacity-building programme in six developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

48. UNCHS (Habitat) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), along with the Habitat Solidarity Programme, and the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), have produced a directory of non-governmental organizations in OECD member countries which are active in the field of urban development. As part of the preparatory events for the Habitat II Conference, the Development Assistance Committee of OECD co-sponsored a round table on urban good governance and participatory development, Berlin, 1995, and produced a report which was distributed at the Conference.

49. UNCHS (Habitat) has strengthened its cooperation with the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique), particularly during the preparatory period of the Habitat II Conference. Shelter-Afrique co-sponsored the African subregional preparatory meetings and collaborated with several organizations to bring together the expertise, experience, innovations and best practices from developing countries. Shelter-Afrique has also published, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, Continental Shelter Atlas for Africa (1996).

IV. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER PARTNERS

A. Background

50. By its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 34/114 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly recommended that cooperation should be sought, at the global and regional levels, with non-governmental organizations and requested the Executive Director to undertake the preparation of a biennial report in 1982 on activities and collaboration between the Centre and non-governmental organizations. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations has increased considerably since the Netherlands meeting in 1992, where modalities for cooperation were agreed upon. The meeting of Governments and non-governmental organizations held during the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements accelerated the greater involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process of Habitat II. This cooperation also covered a wide range of partners from civil society: local authorities, the private sector, parliamentarians, foundations, women's groups, youth for Habitat II, trade unions, professionals, academies and human solidarity groups. This interactive partnership was evident in the design of the Conference, in that Committee II, the "partners' committee", was specially created for partners' hearings on, and commitments to, the Habitat Agenda.

B. Cooperation with partners in the context of the Habitat II Conference

1. Local authorities

51. Under the Lisbon Protocol of March 1995, local authority associations assumed a major role in preparations for the Habitat II Conference. In line with this protocol, they formed a global network called G4+ and organized the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, a parallel event to the Habitat II Conference. The participants stressed their role in the development and future of human settlements and announced the establishment of a permanent coordinating structure, to be known as the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination, to coordinate their partnership with the United Nations system and with other international agencies. The group met in Paris in September 1996 to prepare its constitution and plan its strategies on human settlements development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. They also decided to co-locate their office with UNCHS (Habitat) in Geneva.

2. Non-governmental and community-based organizations

52. A total of 2,266 non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Habitat II Conference, comprising 402 from Africa, 400 from Asia and the Pacific, 670 from Europe, 256 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 101 from the Middle East and 386 from North America. The international non-governmental organization community organized a successful non-governmental organization forum at the Conference, in which approximately 9,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations participated. It was in this forum that the non-governmental organizations formulated their Committee II presentations and also selected representatives of non-governmental organizations to join with Governments and other partners in the negotiations of the drafting of the Habitat Agenda. Some 15 non-governmental organization caucuses made formal presentations to Committee II.

3. The private sector

53. The private sector, in both developed and developing countries, was actively involved in the Habitat II process. The sector, composed of a wide variety of organizations with a diverse set of interests, organized a private sector forum during the Conference with over 320 participants in attendance. Their declaration recognized that public-private partnerships not only foster sustainable cities, but also generate profitable opportunities for business through increased productivity, a better educated and dynamic work force and improved infrastructure.

4. Parliamentarians

54. The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat participated in the preparatory process of Habitat II and emphasized the public policy and legislative aspects of human settlements development. Their forum, which was also the eleventh meeting of the group, attracted the participation of 269 parliamentarians. They defined their role as a major partner in promoting the necessary legislative reforms for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Centre is collaborating with the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in their follow-up activities, including regional meetings of parliamentarians focused on implementing the Habitat Agenda.

5. Foundations

55. The Ford Foundation made a grant of US\$ 700,000 to support preparations for the Habitat II Conference. This grant greatly facilitated developing country preparation for and participation in the Conference. The Rockefeller Foundation also supported the Conference's preparatory process, through a grant made to UNFPA. Representatives of foundations organized a forum with the participation of 290 delegates, representing 210 foundations from 54 countries. The foundations' declaration envisaged a long-term action plan for the implementation, at international and national levels, of the Habitat Agenda. In November 1996, the foundations held a follow-up meeting in Paris to discuss the modalities of establishing an international task force to coordinate their efforts in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

6. Women's groups

56. The centre collaborated actively with a number of women's groups at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995 and facilitated the formation of the Huairou Commission to monitor compliance with the requirement for a gender perspective and the equitable participation of women in both the Habitat II process and implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The centre also collaborated with the Women, Homes and Community SuperCoalition made up of women non-governmental organization networks, which formulated women's priorities on issues addressed by the Habitat Agenda.

7. Youth for Habitat II

57. UNCHS (Habitat) provided a separate platform for youth groups to develop procedures which would help them play a relevant role in the processes of human settlements planning, development and management. During the Habitat II process, six regional youth networks were established to participate in the formulation of the Global Plan of Action.

8. Trade unions

58. The trade unions' forum met in Istanbul and adopted a joint position paper on the Habitat Agenda entitled "Global Plan for Shelter and Employment" and committed themselves to be proactive partners in its implementation.

9. Professionals

59. Researchers and professionals, seeking new partnerships in civil society for capacity-building in cities, appealed to Governments and international organizations to support a global planning observatory, as a means of bridging the gap between short-term and long-term development objectives.

10. Academies

60. The steering committee of the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues in collaboration with the Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences, Sweden, organized the academies' forum in Istanbul and their presentation to Committee II emphasized the role of science and technology in enhancing the development of the modern city.

11. Human Solidarity

61. The Forum on Human Solidarity made a thought-provoking presentation to Committee II, focused on the capacity of the human spirit to cope with rapid global urbanization and its implications. It was decided to convene regular dialogues on human solidarity among world leaders at significant venues to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

C. Other initiatives promoted by the Centre, which involved the partners

1. Best practice initiative for improving the living environment

62. This initiative was launched as part of the preparatory process for Habitat II, to demonstrate concrete solutions to some of the pressing challenges facing an urbanizing world. Non-governmental community-based organizations, local authorities and private sector organizations are active partners in this effort. A major landmark in this effort was the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices. This collection of best practices solutions is now included in a database prepared by a non-governmental organization, the Together Foundation, to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned through a network of Governments and other partner organizations worldwide.

2. Non-governmental organizations in national committees for Habitat II

63. During the Habitat II process, of the 110 national committees established for the preparation of national plans of action, 53 included non-governmental organizations. Almost all committees had representatives of professional and academic organizations and most had representatives of local authorities.

3. Istanbul dialogues

64. The Centre collaborated with a wide range of non-governmental organizations, eminent personalities and several partners to organize dialogues to discuss and conceptualize the trends for the future of human settlements in the twenty-first century. A total of 10 dialogues were convened in Istanbul and their main findings, presented in Committee II, contributed substantively to the Habitat II Report.

D. UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with non-governmental organizations through programmes

1. UNCHS (Habitat) technical cooperation programme

65. The UNCHS (Habitat) technical cooperation programme is increasingly involving non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in programme design and execution. The UNCHS (Habitat) non-governmental organization partners in its operational activities in Africa include, inter alia, the Development Workshop in Angola, the Centre for African Settlement Studies and Development (CASSAD) in Nigeria and Shelter Forum in Kenya. In the Asia and Pacific region collaboration with non-governmental organizations in project implementation is in progress in Afghanistan with Oxfam, CARE and national non-governmental organizations; in Myanmar with various community-based organizations, women's groups and religious organizations; and in Indonesia with the National Cooperative of Development Consultants (ASPEK). In Latin America and the Caribbean, the refugees resettlement project in Guatemala is being executed with the participation of local non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. Urban development programmes and housing finance activities in Chile and other countries of the region have been implemented in close collaboration with a network of research, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations such as the Unión Interamericana para la Vivienda (UNIAPRAVI).

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2. Urban Management Programme (UMP)

66. UMP involves a broad range of non-governmental organizations and municipalities in all parts of the world.

3. Poverty reduction programme

67. In the framework of the poverty reduction programme, there is strong collaboration with the Ford Foundation and non-governmental organizations such as the Rural and Urban Planning Network in Southern and Eastern Africa, the African Research Network for Urban Management (ARNUM) in Kenya, the International Centre for Prevention of Crime (ICPC) in Canada, the Fundación Carvajal in Colombia and the European Forum for Urban Security in France.

4. Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)

68. SCP involves non-governmental and community-based organizations in city-level activities, with a focus on capacity-building in environmental planning and management. Examples include the Tanzanian Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO), the Polish Ecological Club, the Association of Chemical Industries in Talcahuano, Chile, the Research Centre of the Suez Canal Authority in Egypt and the Urban Development Bank in Nigeria.

5. Indicators Programme

69. The Indicators Programme is collaborating with national scientific and policy research institutions to create regional networks for the collection of indicators and for their interpretation as inputs to urban policy.

6. Research and development

70. The Centre collaborates with a wide range of institutions in carrying out its programmes. For example, for the preparation of An Urbanizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements, 1996 the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) played an important role and coordinated the inputs of various research institutions. The Centre collaborates with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) in developing strategies on land policies.

7. Training and capacity-building programmes

71. These programmes concentrate on the training of trainers and local officials with a focus on non-governmental and community-based organizations and local government collaboration in local development and has expanded its programmes for local government capacity-building in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other partners.

8. Women in Human Settlements Development Programme (WHSDP)

72. The activities of WHSDP are undertaken in active collaboration with community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations, especially from the South. The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) Women and Shelter Network, Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS International), the International Council of Women (ICW), the Women, Houses and Community SuperCoalition and members of the Huairou Commission are partners in incorporating a gender perspective into policy formulation and

development, capacity-building and networking. The programme also collaborates with the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), INSTRAW, UNIFEM and UNEP within the United Nations system.

9. Settlement Infrastructure and Environment Programme (SIEP)

73. SIEP has collaborated with many non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in water and solid-waste management, environmental health, urban energy, transport and waste-recycling technologies. Plan International and the Stockholm Environment Institute are among some of the important partners in this area.

10. Community Development Programme (CDP)

74. CDP is collaborating with many non-governmental organizations in national and community-level capacity-building exercises. Research in supporting programme development and implementation is being carried out with selected universities and research institutions in various parts of the world.

11. Settlement Upgrading Programme (SUP)

75. SUP has cooperated closely with universities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and research associations in carrying out its activities.

12. Disaster Management Programme (DMP)

76. In the framework of the DMP, non-governmental organizations are collaborating with the Centre in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

E. Information dissemination

1. Media and Habitat II

77. The Centre's cooperation with the mass media extends to several non-governmental organizations and the private sector, whose efforts constitute a significant input into the dissemination of human settlement-related information on a global scale. The centre also edits, prints and disseminates NGO News on Human Settlements, a newsletter that carries information and updates on new developments among non-governmental organizations dealing with shelter and urbanization issues.

2. World Habitat Day

78. In 1995 and 1996, non-governmental organizations worldwide participated significantly in the celebration of World Habitat Day. In 1996, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless memorial prize was awarded to a non-governmental organization, Fundación Servicio de Vivienda Popular (SERVIVIENDA) in Colombia, for its outstanding work in providing low-cost houses to the urban poor. In addition, five of the ten Habitat Scrolls of Honour for 1996 were awarded to the representatives of various partner groups in Canada, China, Somalia, Thailand, the United States of America and Zambia for their efforts in the provision of housing-related services.

3. World Water Day

79. As the designated United Nations agency for the observance of World Water Day in 1996, UNCHS (Habitat) organized awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with such major water non-governmental organizations as Africa Water Network (AWN), the International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (IRCSA) and Centro de Investigaciones (CIUDAD) in Ecuador.

F. Follow-up arrangements

1. Partners' activities in collaboration with the centre

80. All the partner groups described in section 2 above are in the process of preparing work-plans for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Following the Habitat II Conference, the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities established a secretariat. The foundations met to establish an international task force to monitor progress in human settlements development, and the Huairou Commission, formed by women's groups in Beijing, has met on several occasions to discuss the status of Habitat II follow-up. In addition to these groups, the International Facilitating Group (IFG), which was formed for the preparation of the Habitat Conference by the community of non-governmental and community-based organizations, decided to continue its functions and to establish a "Habitat Watch", to monitor the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The African non-governmental organization caucus under the umbrella of IFG also prepared a detailed action plan for the post-Istanbul period and a meeting of African non-governmental organizations was organized in Nigeria. In order to facilitate further development of the partners' plan of action and to enable them to prepare for their participation in the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Centre organized a consultation in Geneva at the end of January 1997.

2. Partner groups

81. In order to strengthen and expand collaboration in the Conference's follow-up activities, 10 partner working groups have been established within the Centre to collaborate with each group of the Habitat II partners on their priorities and programmes for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the context of the UNCHS (Habitat) programme of work. Consultations are in progress with each group of partners to determine the most efficient modalities for this collaboration.

3. Database and non-governmental organization directory

82. During the Habitat II process, the 2,400 non-governmental organizations and partner groups active in the field of human settlements were included in the non-governmental organization database and directory. A comprehensive second edition of the Directory of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Field of Human Settlements is being compiled and will be put into the web-site in collaboration with Rooftops, a Canadian non-governmental organization.
