

**SYNTHESIS OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA
IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE) REGION***

Summary

The main objective of this preliminary report is to highlight the main trends and issues of concern in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as identified in the national reports received so far from ECE Countries by UNCHS (Habitat). The commitments and strategies of the Habitat Agenda, which are the core-negotiated agreements of Habitat II, provide the framework for the assessment. For each of the commitments covered, the synthesis highlights key issues from the 25 national reports so far analysed, with an emphasis on progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends and emerging issues, policy and legislative changes since Habitat II, institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered and lessons learnt, with emphasis on sustainability and impact. The presentation is organised in six chapters: shelter; social development and eradication of poverty; environmental management; economic development; governance; and international cooperation, as per the guidelines for country reporting issued by UNCHS (Habitat) in October 1999.

Revisiting the Istanbul commitments is a powerful reminder of the strength of the goals set at the Habitat II Conference and a way to assess the extent to which further action is required to implement them. Progress has been made in many countries, but more intensive action is needed in all areas.

The purpose of the regional meeting to be held in Geneva on 18-20 September 2000, is not only to review progress made but also to identify and agree on concrete initiatives for extending and strengthening action to implement the Habitat Agenda commitments and achieve its goals in the ECE region.

* This document has not been formally edited.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, endorsed important changes in the approach to human settlements, acknowledging the need for guiding urbanisation, rather than preventing it. 171 governments adopted the Habitat Agenda - a global call to action. The Habitat Agenda highlighted that the benefits of economic growth should be spread equitably among all, and that fulfilling the basic requirement in terms of housing, employment and services for the people should rest upon a national consensus where supportive policy frameworks recognise and strengthen action by local levels of government, civil society and communities.

2. As elaborated in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Global Plan of Action, the objectives of the Habitat Agenda, and the strategies for their implementation revolve around two main themes: (a) Adequate shelter for all and (b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world. By adopting the Habitat Agenda, the international community endorsed the Agenda's key objectives of enablement, participation, partnerships, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation and international cooperation, as well as specific commitments and strategies. United Nations Member States committed themselves to implementing the Habitat Agenda through local, national, sub-regional and regional plans of action and developing policies and programmes for adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements. The overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda is thus dependent on countries implementing their local and national plans of action and monitoring progress towards achieving objectives by means of appropriate indicators.

3. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Conference, the General Assembly in

paragraph 12 of its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II. The Organisational Session of the Preparatory Committee which was held in Nairobi in May 1999, as a follow up to General Assembly resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, adopted the criteria on scope of the review and appraisal process to be conducted at the Special Session.

4. To help organise in-country activities and make national reports broadly congruent and directly relevant to the Habitat Agenda, 20 key items have been identified in a consultative process (in line with resolution 17/1 of the United Nations Commission on Human settlements) as universal priorities from the commitments and strategies adopted in Istanbul in 1996. Although they vary in breadth, the commitments and strategies have a clarity of intent that would assist in keeping preparation and debate clearly focused, with priorities and specific performance objectives against which progress can be measured.

5. Guidelines for national reporting on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda were sent out to Member States and Habitat Agenda Partners and United Nations' agencies and organisations in October 1999. Reminders of the deadlines for submission of the national reports were also sent in December 1999, February and June 2000.

6. The main objective of this preliminary report is to highlight the main trends and issues of concern in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as identified in the national reports received by UNCHS (Habitat) and discussed during the Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva on 19 September 2000. Twenty-five reports have been received from the ECE region. An effort has been made throughout the report

to link trends and solutions highlighted by individual ECE countries to broaden issues equally detectable in neighbouring countries or in the region as a whole. (The list of countries, which have submitted their reports, is attached as annex 2.)

7. The synthesis follows the universal-reporting format that was provided to national governments in the guidelines for country reporting. The commitments and strategies of the Habitat Agenda, which are the core-negotiated agreements of Habitat II, provide the framework for the deliberations. For each of the commitments covered, the report considers progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends and emerging issues, policy and legislative changes since Habitat II, institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered and lessons learnt, with emphasis on sustainability and impact.

8. The synthesis is organised in six chapters corresponding to the Guidelines for Country Reporting: shelter; social development and eradication of poverty; environmental management; economic development; governance; and international co-operation.

Chapter 1

Shelter

9. Housing conditions and policies differ in the countries of the ECE region. Despite the fact that most countries have comprehensive policies in place, there is need for promoting housing reforms for achieving social equity and improving the quality of life.

10. The demand for new housing in most of the countries in the region is relatively low compared to that in other regions. It is projected that on average, the region will register some 5.4 million

additional households annually during the next decade. Some 1.9 million of this increase will take place in North America; another 2.3 million in Eastern Europe; and some 1.2 million new households are expected in Western Europe. Most of the increase in the number of households is due to reduced household sizes, rather than to population growth (see Table 2 in Annex 1). Projections for the following decade (2010-2020) indicate that annual household growth will decline to 4.1 million.

11. Trends in housing demand in the various sub-regions vary significantly. The demand for new housing units is highest in Israel and Turkey. This demand is also high in North America, the Russian Federation and in the Central Asian republics, while it is relatively low in the remaining countries. The decline in population and household growth rates in some countries has led to a situation where some countries actually experience a decline in annual needs for new housing. In Austria for example, it is expected that the future annual need for new housing will be in the range of 45,000 units, nearly 25 per cent less than the demand at the end of the last decade. The main shelter issue in most of the countries in the region, however, is not construction of new units. Instead, most countries focus on urban renewal, concentrating on greater housing diversity, with consideration of conservation of historic sites and cultural heritage and on renovation, modernisation and thermal insulation of existing dwellings. In some countries the problem is the degraded modern housing stock. In the 1960s large apartment blocks in the suburbs were all the rage. Now these houses are being torn down to make room for more attractive housing.

12. The conservation, renovation and modernisation is probably the main area of activity in the shelter sector in Western Europe,¹ and even more so in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)² where the quality of many old dwellings is generally poorer than in many countries in Western Europe. The Polish Government has, for example,

developed a support programme for the renovation and modernisation of residential buildings. In Germany, assistance in recent years has concentrated on modernising the building stock in eastern Germany, resulting in the closing of the housing quality gap. In Canada the Modernisation & Improvement Programme enhances the quality of life for social housing tenants by improving the social housing stock to meet the shelter needs of social housing clients.³ Nearly 25% of the UK housing stock is more than 90 years old. Less than 1% lacks "basic amenities" but there are more than 7.8 million households living in housing which fails quality standards or needs repair or modernisation. The UK Housing Policy Statement "Quality and Choice: A Decent Home for All" was published in December 2000, with the objective "to offer everyone the opportunity of a decent home and so promote social cohesion, well-being and self-dependence".⁴ Most countries have increasingly experienced renovation/upgrading of entire neighbourhoods, in some cases eventually leading to displacement of the original occupants, due to increased rental costs. Several countries, such as Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France and Finland amongst others, have completed work or are working on legislation to facilitate the process of urban renewal.⁵ Related to the civil unrest in the Balkans some countries are engaged in revitalisation of settlements, in particular, repairs and renovations following war damage, etc.⁶

13. The bulk of the demand for housing comes from urban areas. In fact, all of the sub-regions within the ECE region experience absolute decreases in their rural populations⁷ and even in the number of rural households.⁸ Many of the new housing units that are currently being constructed in the region are thus built in already built-up areas. There is a growing demand for more spacious and qualitatively better housing. Several countries, for example Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, have for some time experienced the trend where two or more smaller apartments are being merged into

one larger one, at the same time as household sizes are declining. The net result is fewer dwellings for more households, who want to stay in the inner-city areas. The answer in many countries has been to increase densities. New storeys are added to older dwellings, dwellings are enlarged in other ways, or previously under-utilised attics and basements are being converted into dwelling space. At the same time, new buildings are constructed in-between existing buildings.⁹

14. On the other hand, in the UK there is a general trend for households to move out from the city centres and inner cities to suburban or more rural areas. These trends will require around 4 million more dwellings by 2025, of which 70% will be for single person households. The outward migration is leading to a very low effective demand for the existing housing stock, leading to "hard to let" social housing and "area abandonment".¹⁰

15. In Denmark the co-operative housing sector has experienced the greatest growth in recent years. Co-operative apartments are mid-way between owner-occupancy and tenancy. The member of the housing co-operative does not buy the dwelling, but a share of the capital of the co-operative which comprises the value of the property. The purchase of the share gives the buyer the right to use the apartment.

16. In several countries a dual housing market has developed. Expanding regions are suffering from a growing housing shortage with particular shortages of rented housing, while many other towns and cities have a housing surplus. For example Finland is experiencing strong migration to growth centres from other parts of the country. Half of the migrants choose to move to the Helsinki metropolitan area. As a consequence of this migration, regional housing market differences have grown. Housing prices and rents in growth urban areas are high and it is particularly difficult to find rental apartments. In Sweden, economic recession, low inflation and high

interest rates have led to extremely low levels of housing construction, rising housing costs and sharpening of regional inequalities in the housing market. About 10.000 housing units will have to be demolished in municipalities experiencing population loss and economic decline, while at the same time 25.000 housing units will have to be built each year in growth regions.¹¹

17. Several countries have reported that they have or are in the process of improving access to housing by implementing "one-stop-shop" options for clients looking for housing. Such facilities/offices collaborate with local daily newspapers to ensure an up-to-date source of information about available dwellings. In addition, they may provide information about finance options.¹² Similar offices may facilitate the construction of new dwellings (and reduce the volume of illegal construction) by reducing the amount of documentation required.¹³ In the Maltese Islands preparations for merging the Social Department and the Housing Authority are underway in a "one-stop-shop" approach to speed up the processing of applications.

18. Another trend in all countries in the region is the ageing of the population, with its related consequences for the type of dwellings required, for example improved accessibility. With growing numbers of older people demand for smaller housing units close to services in densely developed inner cities will rise. The problem is most acute in some Southern European countries, which had relatively youthful population in the past.¹⁴ While some 20 per cent of the population in Europe are more than 60 years old in 2000, the figure is projected to increase to 26.7 per cent in 2025. Similar figures for North America are 16.3 per cent and 24.4 per cent respectively.¹⁵

19. In France the elderly and disabled are granted subsidies and/or assistance to improve or adapt their homes to their particular requirements. In Canada supportive housing for the elderly combines

personal support services and homemaking in congregate residential buildings. It serves the population of low-income elderly who are physically and/or cognitively impaired. The programme enables them to remain "semi-independent" within their own housing unit. Immigrant senior citizens usually live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, are uninformed about services which they are entitled to and do not have a good command of the language. To call attention to the position of immigrant senior citizens in the Netherlands, the Dutch Habitat Platform selected housing for immigrant citizens as one of its two biannual themes in 1999. In 1998, Sweden adopted a National Action Plan on Policy for the Elderly, the main concept being to enable the elderly to continue living in their accustomed surroundings and in their own homes as long as possible and therefore a special home adaptation grant is given to adapt housing to special individual needs.

20. According to the national reports received, there are no laws or regulations targeted at specific groups (for example women). Experience from the past, however, indicates that the vagueness of policies has at times facilitated further marginalization of women and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.¹⁶

1.1 Provide security of tenure

21. In North America and in many countries in Western Europe there is focusing on strategies to combat homelessness. According to an official Swedish Government Report presented in the spring of 2000, the majority of homeless people are concentrated in the larger cities and the majority of the homeless under 30 years of age are women. Several innovative policies and programmes have been initiated in these countries, with a particular focus on prevention, that is by addressing conditions that cause homelessness. Homelessness is a social problem that requires a different approach beyond merely providing housing. One example of such programmes is the

“Step by Step Plan for the Reintegration of Homeless” in Austria which has been expanded to the whole city of Vienna in 1998 (the experience was submitted as Best Practice for 2000).¹⁷ The programme actively approaches tenants in danger of eviction and has helped to avoid evictions in 75% of the cases. In Germany progress has been made with regard to the quality of the local support systems and social agencies aiding the homeless resulting in better co-operation and greater professionalism.

22. In countries with economies in transition where social protection has declined considerably, there is a strong need to address the situation of tenants, as housing markets are becoming increasingly commercialised. Those in the process of paying for their homes are equally threatened: for example, “out of the approximately 4 million households in Hungary, 140,000 are more than six months in arrears with National Savings Bank housing loans and face the threat of foreclosure procedure that would end in eviction. In half of these cases, the legal procedure has already started and many thousand households face imminent foreclosure. There are also some 100,000 households which are in serious arrears with utility companies.”¹⁸ In Poland, the rents and service charges are too high for poor people. Notwithstanding the housing allowances, some households cannot afford such expenditures, which, in extreme cases, lead to evictions. There has been an increase in evictions in Poland: in 1997, 4146 evictions were carried out and 5428 evictions were conducted in 1998. One of the main housing problems in Latvia is the extremely high prices of services in relation to people's monthly income, therefore the government has determined a "rent ceiling" to regulate the prices of service delivery.¹⁹

23. The ECE strategy on Human Settlements refers to the need to ensure security of ownership in land (and property), of investing in real estate and establishing modern land and administration systems.²⁰

Because of the mass privatisation process in Eastern Europe — which has resulted in a complex mixture of public and private ownership, owner-occupied and rental dwellings under one roof — there is a need for governments to provide an adequate regulatory framework for private sector activities.²¹ It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership forms, and analyse legal conditions of condominiums and their organisational and management frameworks.

24. The long term objective of housing privatisation in the Eastern European countries is the development of a market-oriented housing system as a more effective way of organising production, distribution and maintenance of housing. The general tendency has been to reduce government spending and to shift responsibility for social policy to local level and housing maintenance costs to private owners. Similarly, many buildings in the Czech Republic are in an acute state of disrepair. In most countries of Eastern Europe and the CIS, the rate of home-ownership has increased considerably. In the Russian Federation for example, some 61 per cent of the housing stock has now been transferred to private ownership, although not necessarily owner-occupiers.²² In Slovenia and Latvia, owner occupied housing has become the most dominant form of tenure (82% in Slovenia and 70% in Latvia) due to the privatisation of housing.²³ In Latvia, it is determined by law that tenants who live in buildings to be privatised are protected for seven years, including protection from eviction.

25. The Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development issued in October 1999 with the active participation of ECE officials calls for a commitment to provide effective legal security of tenure and access to property for all men and women, including those living in poverty or other disadvantaged groups. Tenure is defined in the annex of the declaration as “the way in which the rights,

restrictions and responsibilities that people have with respect to the land are held. Different forms of land tenure such as ownership, leasehold and different types of common, communal or customary land tenure may be recorded in the cadastre.²⁴

26. Several of the countries in the Balkans and in Caucasus have experienced civil strife during the last few years, with large populations being international refugees or internally displaced persons. In these countries, the issue of secure tenure is of major importance, the governments and people in these countries face real challenges in this area in the years to come. In the Republic of Macedonia the refugee crisis increased the need for the production of social housing and the Government of the Republic of Croatia is faced with the need for reconstruction as well as creation of conditions for the re-development of the war-torn parts of the country, as well as resolving the status of displaced persons and refugees. In Kosovo for instance, the entire land registration system has to be totally recreated, following the destruction caused during the recent conflict.²⁵ In Croatia the "Reconstruction Programme" and the "Homelands War Victims Housing Provision Programme" tries to ensure adequate housing for the inhabitants whose right to adequate housing has been threatened.²⁶

27. To support transition to a market economy, countries of Eastern Europe and the CIS are engaged in establishing land registration systems, which will guarantee title to land and real property. The backlog in registration of property rights is a major constraint in the development of real estate and housing markets, particularly in the urban areas of these countries.²⁷ A number of other countries in the region are also engaged in developing or improving national Cadastre. In Greece, for instance, almost half of the country has been surveyed in the development of a national Cadastre. It is planned that the Cadastre will be enforced by 2005.²⁸

28. Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of market-oriented reforms in economies in transition. During the privatisation of housing in Slovenia evictions have occurred due to lack of tenancy rights in former public rental housing. There is thus a need to provide assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastre and land registration systems and sharing information and experience of modernising land administration systems through education and training; research and development; exchange of experience; transfer of technology; and standardisation.²⁹

29. Despite the fact that demand for additional new housing is decreasing in most ECE countries, considerable shortage of affordable housing is experienced in such countries as the Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland and the Russian Federation, as housing costs rise faster than inflation.³⁰ In Slovenia for example, house-price-to-income ratio in Ljubljana is the highest compared with other Central and Eastern European capitals. House prices increased by 70% from 1993 to 1999, while the average income has only increased by 4%.³¹ In the Czech Republic, low-income families and young people are forced to live in combined households as they have poor prospects of obtaining their independent accommodation on the housing market.

30. The same economic growth that is fuelling the high-technology sector is driving up housing costs in both central cities and suburbs, and is contributing to a worsening of the affordable housing crisis. In the USA for instance, all but four of 25 metropolitan areas identified as top high-technology markets had rent increases greater than inflation. Rents increased by more than 20 percent between 1995 and 1999 in Denver and the San Francisco Bay area, while they rose by more than 15 percent in Boston, Kansas City, Atlanta, Seattle, San Diego and Chicago. Similarly,

in Finland, there is an increased need for rental housing, as new housing in growth areas is too expensive for people on average incomes. It is being acknowledged that such rental housing could be financed through state-subsidised or interest-subsidised loan schemes.³² Germany introduced in 1998 a comparative rent system so as to close the gap in living standards between eastern and western Germany. In the Netherlands the government encourages people to buy their own homes, not as a goal in itself, but as an instrument to support the various objectives of housing policy, such as the promotion of mobility, improvement of the quality of housing and the living climate in districts and neighbourhoods, and supporting the independence of house buyers. The Netherlands has paid considerable attention to the quality of the housing stock. Five main considerations are listed in the Housing Act, on which the quality requirements of the Building Decree are based: safety, health, usability, energy conservation, and the environment.

31. It has been acknowledged by many stakeholders that secure tenure is not a panacea but part of an integrated approach of improving the access of the urban poor not only to improved shelter and access to basic services, but also to informal and formal employment opportunities, as well as direct political representation. Some countries have experienced low levels of funding for initiatives addressing this area, such as reintegration programmes. These funding problems have been identified as obstacles in the process of ensuring that people obtain secure tenure.

1.2 Promote the right to adequate housing

32. The right to housing has had a more prominent place in many of the countries of the ECE region than most other parts of the world. Although the right to housing *per se* has not necessarily been part of national legislation with specific focus and

provisions, it has been addressed in most cases within the framework of general legislation covering areas such as real estate, property and housing loans. Some countries have specific legislation, such as tenants' protection laws. Furthermore, many countries have a strong history of social housing policies. Many of the countries in Western Europe continue to place a strong emphasis on social housing to address the needs of the most disadvantaged groups. The state-subsidised (social) rental housing stock plays a key role in safeguarding access to reasonably priced housing for low-income earners and those who urgently need housing. This is done through, for instance, various forms of housing subsidies and housing allowances, as in Austria, Croatia, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Poland, the Czech Republic and The Netherlands.³³ In Croatia the first phase of the "Welfare-Supported Housing Construction Programme" was launched in mid 2000. The programme assists families not able to purchase apartments in accessing long-term loans. The programme also envisages local authorities purchasing apartments for their welfare beneficiaries with subsidised rents through social welfare.³⁴

33. The role of civil society, which has traditionally been relatively strong in the ECE region, is increasingly being recognised in the review and formulation of legislation as well as in policy development and implementation.³⁵

34. European Union (EU) countries are presently working on an EU charter on fundamental rights for its possible integration into the next EU Treaty. The right to housing is contemplated to be included in the proposed charter.

35. Several countries in Western Europe have been or are in the process of implementing new legislation to improve the situation of homeless people.³⁶ In Finland a new action programme is currently being prepared to reduce homelessness. In many

Western European countries homelessness is considered a social problem, which requires a different approach than merely providing housing. In the Netherlands for example several municipalities are working in conjunction with housing associations and care providers that can offer suitable housing to this group. Some countries are targeting refugees and asylum-seekers with a view to ensuring improved integration of these disadvantaged categories in local housing markets.³⁷ Other policy changes include the amendments to legislation governing tenancy and the non-profit housing sector in an effort to target low-income people.

36. In many countries in Eastern Europe, social housing policies were removed after the collapse of centrally planned systems. In many countries in transition such as Bulgaria and Croatia, the registered need for social housing exceeds available stock as the transition to market economy resulted in radical reduction of state subsidies and shifted the whole burden of housing costs to the households, leading to unaffordable prices of houses for the majority of the population. In Slovakia, it is estimated that approximately 5 - 6% of the apartment stock will remain in municipal ownership and used for social rental housing in the Republic. This is however, insufficient considering the income level of many of the low-income households.³⁸ The government in Macedonia has abandoned its construction of social housing. However, the government encourages construction of social housing indirectly, by allocating resources for housing to low-income groups.³⁹ Other countries in Eastern Europe are currently focussing on social housing after some years of neglect. Lithuania, for instance, has reported that it is placing a major focus on the promotion of funding for social housing development⁴⁰ and Hungary has introduced reform of the housing subsidy financing system.

37. Through the activities of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights, the impact of mass housing privatisation on the enjoyment of housing rights has been reported for a number of Eastern European countries with transition economies. Such reports compare international human rights standards binding on the countries against actual state policies and people's experience.⁴¹

38. Refugees from conflicts in the Balkans and the Caucasus, as well as the victims of recent earthquakes in Turkey and Greece face particular problems in access to adequate housing. In Turkey for instance — in addition to the many who died and were injured in the two major earthquakes that occurred in 1999 — some 800,000 people became homeless, and some 200,000 dwellings were destroyed. Within three months, the Turkish, with help from other Governments, constructed 121 tent cities and some 42,000 prefabricated temporary housing units.⁴² In war-torn Croatia, 102,000 houses and apartments have been built or reconstructed through the "Homeland War Victims Housing Provision Programme". Priority housing is reserved for war invalids or families of Croatian war veterans. Parallel to the reconstruction of housing is the reconstruction of public services and infrastructure.⁴³

39. Furthermore, planning for future earthquakes has to be done now. This situation poses particular problems and extra costs in earthquake-prone areas. Adequacy also implies that houses and infrastructure are able to withstand all but the most powerful of such natural disasters. It is increasingly being recognised that the right to adequate housing also implies that people should feel reasonably safe in their own houses, and that it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that sufficient attention is being paid to building regulations and standards while planning for adequate shelter.

40. The wider issue of immigration in general (including, but not limited to refugees and asylum seekers) is receiving

attention in several countries. Israel, for instance, has accommodated one million immigrants during the last decade and immigrants already have a similar rate of home ownership (70 per cent) as the rest of the population. This has been achieved through a special mortgage system.⁴⁴

41. In the United States of America, the Federal Government is working in partnership with local authorities and the private sector, to implement a 21st Century agenda for cities and rural areas. Among the essential elements of this agenda is the construction of one million new urban housing units during the next ten years. The objective is to redevelop urban land and industrial sites and to address the problems of unchecked urban sprawl. The agenda also aims at making housing less costly through the use of innovative technologies, increasing the supply of affordable rental housing through transformed funding mechanisms.⁴⁵

42. In Canada the Aboriginal groups are experiencing severe housing problems with 32% of the households being in need of core housing. On Aboriginal reserves, only half of all households meet minimum standards for suitability and adequacy. Homelessness is also becoming a growing concern in Canadian society. In late 1999, the Government of Canada announced the Homelessness Initiative, which seeks to reduce and prevent homelessness over a period of three years, working in partnership with other levels of government, and the private and voluntary sectors. The initiative includes a range of programmes, such as helping communities to develop community plans that identify needs and gaps, and to implement comprehensive local strategies that address the immediate and long-term needs of homeless people. To mention a few of the programmes initiated: The Urban Aboriginal Strategy helps fund communities addressing homelessness by increasing culturally appropriate services and support mechanisms. The Youth Employment Initiative is designed to help youth-at-risk,

including homeless youth, acquire and develop basic and advanced skills. One quarter of the funding available under the National Youth Employment Strategy is earmarked for helping Aboriginal youth. The Shelter Enhancement Initiative provides funding for the development and enhancement of emergency shelters and second-stage-housing intended to serve women, their children and youth fleeing domestic violence.⁴⁶

43. Similarly, because women are more likely than men to fall into the low-income category, they are more likely to face problems in finding affordable housing. In Canada affordable housing is an issue for women in particular. Out of all Canadian home renters in 1996, 60% of those families headed by lone women parents were considered to have housing affordability problems, compared with 40% of those headed by male lone parents.

1.3 Provide equal access to land

44. The issue of equal access to land has been addressed through legislative and administrative reforms within the region. Access to land has been identified as the strategic prerequisite for the provision of adequate shelter for all. Measures for promoting access to land include setting up appropriate procedures and distribution of plots to low income groups through affordable pricing. In Eastern and Central Europe however, privatisation of land and housing stocks, development of legal and institutional frameworks and effective cadastral systems have been the areas of particular focus. In Bulgaria, the new Law on Cadastre and Property Registration, as well as the new Urban Development Law, to be adopted, will increase chances for improvements in functioning of land markets and ownership protection.

45. Since the adoption of the Habitat Agenda, many countries have made efforts to re-examine the policies related to access

to land, especially for the urban poor. Among the actions undertaken are examination of the various tenure options available in countries, including those most appropriate for protecting the interests of the urban poor. A number of countries have implemented legislative changes that facilitate the use of land for residential purposes⁴⁷ or give local authorities and communities a bigger role in land use planning.⁴⁸ Legislative frameworks such as Land Use and Building Acts / Development Acts have been adopted. In Sweden several Ombudsmen are appointed by parliament with the task of monitoring the rights of affordable housing as well as equal access to credits for housing or land. The Czech Republic has also established an Institute of Ombudsmen to deal with citizens' complaints concerning public administration.

46. Several countries of Eastern Europe and CIS experience rapid rural-urban migration, leading to a rapid spread of informal suburbs — with poor housing quality, infrastructure, access to services, and quite often with rather insecure tenure — in the urban periphery.⁴⁹

1.4 Promote equal access to credit

47. In most ECE countries the shelter sector is recognised as a productive sector, which should be eligible for commercial financing and housing finance is integrated into larger capital markets and increasingly based on private sector funds. In transition economies the state has largely withdrawn from financing housing. Newly introduced home-ownership or credit support programs do not compensate for the loss of budget finance. The private financial institutions are, moreover, still at an initial state in assuming their role. Nonetheless, central governments continue to maintain a strong presence to ensure affordable housing through mortgage loan programmes and subsidy systems.

48. Special measures have been put in place in some countries to ensure access to credit for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as young families⁵⁰ and for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, in Austria, for example, housing subsidies are related to the floor space and are given to families below a certain income bracket. Families with more than three children can get subsidies for larger dwellings.⁵¹ Other countries have introduced subsidies to first time house buyers. In Israel for instance, first time buyers are entitled by law to a government subsidised mortgage plan, which amounts to approximately 15 per cent of the cost of the dwelling unit. Moreover, low-income groups that do not qualify for bank mortgages are entitled to government subsidy.⁵² New immigrants receive improved mortgage packages covering 99% of the cost of the dwelling unit. Low-income families who do not qualify for bank mortgages are entitled to government rental subsidies.

49. In some of the Eastern European and CIS countries financial reforms are focusing on the transition from a highly centralised and subsidised housing finance system to one based on private initiative and the real cost of housing. In this connection, efforts are being focused on orienting the financial markets towards long-term lending.⁵³ In the Russian Federation, for instance, the development of mortgage systems addressing the needs of low-income groups is increasingly being seen as an important component of national housing strategies.⁵⁴

50. There is relatively little public sector support for housing in Eastern Europe and CIS countries, although some types of direct and indirect support are being introduced in some countries. In Lithuania, the Government offers highly subsidised mortgage products. However, it is attempting to move this to the private sector, through government-guaranteed mortgage insurance systems. It is also proposing the development of secondary mortgage markets.⁵⁵ In the Russian Federation,

subsidies for housing construction have been extended and a housing credit system has been initiated. Several other housing finance initiatives are currently being considered for implementation.⁵⁶

51. In Slovakia, for instance, there are also funds available for housing construction and renewal/upgrading. Support is either provided per subject.⁵⁷ In Poland the National Housing Fund grants preferential loans to Social Housing Associations and housing co-operatives for construction of affordable tenement apartments. Croatia has just begun developing a system of subsidies within the legal framework provided by the 1998 Act on Housing Savings and State Incentives for Housing.⁵⁸ The main objective of the Latvian Housing Policy was the development of a housing crediting system and in June 2000 the Government accepted the "Crediting Programme for Housing Development" and the first phase is being put into place.⁵⁹

1.5 Promote access to basic services

52. The access to basic services in the ECE region is considerably better than in other regions. Most households are connected to water, sewage and electricity systems. Several countries have established, or are in the process of establishing legislation that ensures access to facilities by persons with disabilities.⁶⁰ The rapidly increasing use of information technologies is currently facilitating access to basic services in many countries of the region. Rather than having to travel to a public office and queuing up to get a consultation with a public official, people can now use the Internet and get access to the information they require.

53. However, in some countries in the Eastern Europe sub-region, such as those that experience rapid rural-urban migration and where local authorities are unable to cope with the rapid growth of informal and unplanned settlements, access to basic

services is poor particularly in the urban periphery.⁶¹

54. Similar to the case regarding housing, access to basic services is considerably better in Western Europe and North America than it is in Eastern Europe and CIS countries. Yet, the situation for the poorest and most disadvantaged groups is difficult in all regions, as they are having problems accessing the services that are (theoretically) available to them. On the other end of the scale are countries like Sweden where current discussions have taken a different turn, as almost all of the housing stock is fully modern and equipped with basic services, emphasising that the term "basic services" should also include local amenities such as grocery shops, postal and banking services and child care. A study in Belgium, for instance, has revealed that the number of homeless people receiving social assistance was doubled after they had received assistance in demanding their rights.⁶² It is thus encouraging that some countries, such as Greece, have introduced new legislation that establishes national systems for social care, which pay particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.⁶³

Chapter 2

Social Development and Eradication of Poverty

55. Key elements highlighted in the Habitat Agenda are the provision of equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life, social integration and inclusiveness, and gender equality. Addressing the status and needs of marginalized groups is fundamental to this policy goal worldwide. Efforts to identify and measure the situation of marginalized groups, and the development, implementation and assessment of policies to redress inequalities are being undertaken in different contexts. The situation and prospects for children, urban crime and violence, and the continuing existence of

gender gaps in many areas, are all of concern.

56. Progress has been made in Europe through addressing inequalities in access to health services by marginalized groups and by integrating planning on sectors that relate to health. The WHO strategies on "healthy cities" and "health for all" provide direction and there are preliminary indications that this impacts positively on infant and child death rates. Health sector reform agendas in several countries complement this policy direction.

57. In the ECE countries, the most important single cause of poverty is unemployment, especially long-term unemployment. A sharp rise in unemployment in Eastern Europe, which affects already disadvantaged groups, is a cause of concern. The negative social impact of the change to market economy has, for example, resulted in the development of a social class in Hungary which remains permanently outside of the labour market. Poverty is more frequent among large families or families where the head is unemployed or single. The effect of rising unemployment among older workers is of concern especially in the context of an ageing population in general.

58. Widespread research and debate on gender, poverty and governance is enhancing the understanding of their complex inter-relationships. Efforts have been made to address gender inequalities and improve the status of women. Changes in legislation have been effected, but have not always brought about the expected social changes, indicating these inequalities are deeply rooted. Depending on conditions, different measures are being undertaken to address gender inequality, through institutional change, or through specific programmes that target the empowerment of women, or the awareness of men and populations as a whole.

59. In the ECE region such measures include the promotion of women's participation in human settlements planning and decision-making, support to businesswomen, training for women, women-friendly urban planning, a focus on urban security and women-friendly housing. Initiatives by women's community based organisations and networks to influence urban planning are becoming quite widespread and institutionalised. These and other broad approaches to involving men and women in gender equitable planning that have been outlined in Europe are more advanced than in other regions of the world and could provide useful models of equitable social development. They demonstrate useful operational principles for good urban governance that incorporate civil society links to local government.

2.1 Provide equal opportunities for a healthy and safe life

60. Most ECE countries are addressing inequalities in access to health services. This has been through expanded access to quality health services, particularly for the poor and for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. As part of the WHO strategy "health for all", countries have undertaken health promotion plans and implemented "healthy cities" programmes. This has provided direction for current and future action and facilitated the development of integrated approaches. It also helps in the coordination of all health-related activities in different sectors. With these efforts and programmes, countries show results. For instance, in Israel the infant and child death rate decreased: over a period of 40 years between 1965-1969, the infant and child death rate was 25.5 per 1000, while between 1985-1989 it was 10.9 per 1000.

61. In order to provide a safe, healthy and productive life, especially to the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, many countries, such as the Czech Republic and Bulgaria have formulated health sector reform

agendas. Health Promotion plans have been adopted as a main focus for health sector development for the future. Health and welfare systems need to be integrated in spatial plans to promote healthy cities with a competitive economy and a cohesive, equitable society.

62. Many of the countries in transition are changing their health system from a centralised to a more privatised system. In Bulgaria for example the changes aimed at combining the market and non-market mechanisms radically changes the way of financing the initial health servicing. The new way of financing is based on the principle of compulsory health insurance, delegating functional responsibilities to the municipal level.

63. In France the "struggle against exclusion" law and the "solidarity and urban renewal" law included an action plan for urgent measures and preventive actions concerning sanitary risks associated with building occupancy. The ministries of housing, health, environment and research have together developed an action programme to deal with the risks and problems of unhealthy buildings. For example, the law states that occupants can suspend the payment of rent if the owner fails to improve or prevent unsanitary conditions. If the occupant has to leave the premises during the renovation, they are guaranteed alternative housing by the landlord. In Toronto, Canada, the Healthy City Office supports local authorities in working with business, local communities and residents to identify and act upon serious urban health problems in an integrated way.

64. There are areas where special measures are needed, such as, domestic violence and violence against women and children. Amongst other countries, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Bulgaria, Turkey, Latvia, Slovakia, Sweden and the Netherlands are taking integrated actions aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women.

According to a survey conducted in Finland (1998), 40% of women over the age of 15 have been victims of male physical and/or sexual violence, or threats. Therefore, in 1998 the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health launched a national five-year project for the prevention of violence against women. According to statistics in Canada, up to 90% of sexual assaults are not reported. Of reported incidents, the majority (63%) of sexual assaults involve victims below the age of 17. In Bulgaria, measures against violence against women focuses not only on the legislative instruments, but also on reinforcement by local communities.

65. Lack of safety remains one of the main social problems, in for example, the Netherlands. The cabinet has agreed to the "Making the Netherlands Safer Programme" (1998-2002). The safety policy is limited to public spaces, focusing on both social and physical aspects of safety, with the core of the safety policy implemented at the local level. Several initiatives have started since 1998, with the motto "the safe city, a place for young people" to actively involve young people in working on liveable neighbourhoods. Youth groups in five Dutch cities were encouraged to develop their own agenda for a safe city. In Israel, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs holds as one of its primary objectives the reduction of family violence and its activities centre around law enforcement, prevention of violence, treatment of victims of violence, rehabilitation of perpetrators and victims of violence and raising public awareness on the subject. Women and children shelters have been established, family counselling centres and centres aiding victims of sexual assault have been developed and telephone help lines have been erected.

66. In Edmonton, Canada, the Safer Cities Initiative is based on two fundamental concepts: crime prevention through social development and crime prevention through urban design, and includes a task force on safety. The programme supports community

participation as important aspects of crime prevention through social development.

67. The Polish government, has also adopted a programme in collaboration with local authorities and NGO's, called "Against Violence - Equal Opportunities" with the objective of establishing emergency intervention centres, training of personnel in the centres and developing therapy programmes for both the victims and perpetrators of violence. In Croatia a number of associations have been established over the years operating as women's shelters, offering protection to women and children who are victims of violence. A public awareness campaign organised a large demonstration in 1999 entitled "Together in the Fight Against the Violence Towards Women" which drew together NGO's and labour unions.⁶⁴ Latvia, initiated in 1999 the project "preventing violence against women" with funding from the Soros Foundation, sensitising citizens on these issues as well as establishing crisis centres and a specialist team dealing with domestic violence.⁶⁵

68. The prevention of delinquency and violence in disadvantaged communities engages the whole French society. The national policy strives to combine prevention, repression, mediation and discerning the causes of delinquency. Multiple factors nourish insecurity. Education, improving public services contribute directly to preventing delinquency and to improving security. In France a national council assisting/aiding victims of violence and crime has been set up. A general prevention programme "City, Life, Recess" targeting youth in disadvantaged communities, engaging them in various leisure activities. In 1999 more than 800,000 youth had benefited from the programme. Also various judicial models are continuing to evolve. Sixty so-called "houses of justice" have been established locally to bring justice closer to the inhabitants. The urban police are also being placed directly in the local community close

to the inhabitants and therefore decreasing the feeling of insecurity in the vicinity. Partnerships between both private and public actors have been established since 1997 within the framework of "local security contracts". 300 such contracts have been signed and 500 more are being prepared.⁶⁶

2.2 Promote social integration and support disadvantaged groups.

69. Countries report that the result of a slow-down in economic growth has resulted in a sharp increase in unemployment, particularly among already disadvantaged groups. These include the less educated, the youth, and older workers. It has also been observed that poverty is more frequent among the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, which include unemployed heads of household, large families, and single parent families. Since 1997, the City of Vienna, Austria, has developed a programme that reaches out to, and supports young people who may be potentially at risk, targeting youth between 11 and 20 years of age whose main area of social contact are public spaces and who are not supported by the social services network. The programme reaches out through street work and counselling, assisting homeless youth in finding work as well as helping integrate youth from various ethnical backgrounds, and also supports gender related youth activities.⁶⁷

70. In France three quarters of the youth aged twenty years and above still live at home with their parents. The reasons being difficulty in finding a job and also finding a reasonably priced apartment. Therefore, it was decided in 1999 that subsidies would be provided to facilitate youth to access their own housing more easily.

71. In France many measures have been taken to develop social mediation initiatives that intervene to prevent and resolve minor everyday conflicts, improving neighbourhood relationships, favouring dialogue and social bonds between

generations, between cultures as well as the users and producers of public services. 300 mediation representatives have been recruited, trained and placed in the disadvantaged communities.

72. There is a worrying trend of increasing social divisions, especially in the metropolitan regions. Furthermore the ethnic dimension in the segregation processes has become more evident. The Czech Republic is working together with the Council of Europe Development Bank with the aim to facilitate access to adequate housing for disadvantaged persons who have specific housing needs based on their age, health and/or social or ethnic background. In Bulgaria, a concrete step towards integration of the Roma (Gypsies) has been taken with the adoption of a Programme of Integration and Equal Chances for Roma. In France, the goal of an integrated society is stated by law, but the growing income gap and the tendency of urban segregation still exists, or may even have worsened in some communities. A number of measures have been taken over the past three years, for example, supporting the production of a variety of housing, embarking on the production of good quality integrated social housing, giving extra support to disadvantaged families who are often restricted in advancing to better housing and improving the image of disadvantaged neighbourhoods.⁶⁸ In 1999 the French government embarked upon a large programme of urban renewal to last seven years. The "great city project" was initiated and fifty disadvantaged communities chosen for social development projects combined with local participation in the implementation of these projects and thirty other disadvantaged communities were chosen for urban renewal.

73. In Finland and France the fight against social exclusion has been identified as one of the most important national goals. In Finland this has resulted in the appointment of cross-sectoral administrative task forces, which have started several local initiatives.

Also the Social Ministry is preparing a plan of action to reduce marginality. In 1998 the law "Aubry" in France was passed, the emphasis being on creating work opportunities for unemployed youth or youth without qualifications and assisting disadvantaged persons in accessing housing, basic sanitation, education, health care as well as sports and leisure activities.⁶⁹ The Danish government adopted in the beginning of 2000 an overall action plan for better integration. One objective is to increase opportunities of deprived urban areas by attracting more advantaged groups and to increase the responsibility of well-off urban areas with respect to solving social urban problems in general. Among other things the action plan includes flexibility with respect to renting in non-profit housing, reduction of rents and assignment of subsidised co-operative apartments.

74. In the UK the Government's policy for social inclusion and eradication of poverty has been based on long-term economic goals to raise productivity, increase employment opportunity for all, provide educational opportunities for all, abolish child poverty, and deliver strong and dependable public services. The Government established the Social Exclusion Unit in the Cabinet Office, which published its report "Bringing Britain Together: National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal" in 1998. Key initiatives are the "New Deal for Communities" and the "National Strategy Plan" for neighbourhood renewal.⁷⁰ In Spain, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Employment and Social Security have developed a programme against social exclusion. The objectives are: sensitisation on social exclusion; co-operation between various institutions, development of intervention plans and projects directed towards integration; promoting good quality housing; contributing to the development of norms and policies and promoting citizen participation.⁷¹

75. A number of countries have been involved in the promotion and improved

systems that support organisations of the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The aim is to ensure the promotion of their interests and their involvement in the local, national, economic, social and political decision-making processes. Over the years it has become increasingly clear that civil society groups are indispensable partners in their efforts to eradicate poverty, create employment and promote social integration. A crucial element in meeting the challenge of increasing social gaps is the new policy for integration of immigrants.

76. The reports from the region outline policy initiatives to integrate various social groups, including the disadvantaged, into the mainstream of economic and social activities. Comprehensive structures and mechanisms aimed at providing the necessary focus; direction and multi-dimensional perspectives to reduce poverty and unemployment are in motion. These include laws to address poverty and income gaps, increases in benefits paid to low-income families, and child benefits. The policies have deliberately targeted the vulnerable groups through various programmes. Other initiatives have included surveys of populations at risk of poverty in order to integrate information on health conditions, disability, standard of living, employment service provision and other unmet needs of these groups. This has given, and will continue to give, policy makers and service providers the means through which to re-evaluate and reassess ongoing policy measures. The family has been considered as an institution of high value in the implementation of these initiatives.

77. Countries have noted that due to budgetary constraints they cannot offer comprehensive solutions to all the needs of disadvantaged groups in the short term, but that ongoing planning forms the basis for action in the longer term. In many countries in transition the problem with long-term unemployed people will not be resolved in the near future. Therefore, the timely

creation of social networks that encourage social mobility, training and change of attitudes, however constituted, is important. In Finland in 1999, an experiment with social loans to the needy was initiated in eight municipalities under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The general idea is to give access to credit for justifiable and productive reasons to those who cannot obtain regular loans. Such as, an unemployed person can borrow money to buy tools or a car, if it will help him/her acquire a job. The loans are relatively small and have lower interest rates than in banks.

78. An essential element in the Nordic Countries welfare state approach is the substantial income redistribution achieved through taxation and income transfers. The outcomes are twofold: i) a low number of poor people and ii) quite small income disparities vis a vis disposable incomes.⁷²

79. The social security, pension and health system in Slovenia has been under revision since 1996. Slovenia has passed a comprehensive "Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion" bringing together and harmonising existing programmes and measures, resulting in the formulation and implementation of the National Programmes for Health, Social Security and Housing, respectively with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, and actions for their comprehensive social inclusion.

80. The Urban Initiative in Portugal is a community-based partnership between the community, different levels of government and the private sector involved in the economic and social regeneration of disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Lisbon and Oporto, problems include poverty, unemployment, drug-addiction, social exclusion and also lack adequate infrastructure. The results of the intervention are beginning to show in the both the physical and social environment.

81. In order to address increasing urban and social housing problems that have emerged over recent years, the Danish government has set up an Urban Committee, which has initiated 12 Urban Regeneration Projects since 1996. The committee has adopted a more holistic approach at improving poorly functioning urban areas with investments in physical and social improvements. The objective is to combat problems in deprived urban areas through rent reductions, renovation activities, employment of resident advisors, social schemes, targeted integration initiatives, and crime prevention initiatives. The initiatives with special focus on immigrants and refugees have been particularly effective in enhancing their own activities and networks. Furthermore, there have been successful activities aimed at young people with problem behaviour patterns resulting in significant reductions in crime and vandalism.

82. France has also established two permanent inter-ministerial urban committees (the city/town interministerial delegation and the spatial planning interministerial delegation) that meet at regular intervals in an effort to set up and co-ordinate operations concerning urban issues. In June 2000 a "governmental programme for cities/towns" was initiated to mobilise and merge the various actors involved in urban issues: the City Ministry and Ministries in charge of urban development, transport, housing, planning, environment, culture, research.⁷³

83. The French have also established "the project approach", where the various local actors are involved in the development of a project so as to give rise to social cohesion amongst the inhabitants, building a sense of belonging and restoring confidence in the future.⁷⁴ The private sector in France is mobilised for social purposes and the private sector is perceived as playing an important role in alleviating the backlog of social housing. Public financial aid to rehabilitation of private sector housing was significantly reinforced in 1997 through

subsidies granted by the government for improving housing. In the UK there is a need for regeneration of the most deprived communities which includes housing renewal alongside economic and community regeneration. Communities need to be empowered within the process, with the ability to determine their priorities and to work with partners to deliver sustainable regeneration.⁷⁵

84. In Israel a "Public Council for Reducing Gaps in Society and War on Poverty" was set up in 1996. The Council Committees emphasis (a) locating at-risk populations and identifying needs, and (b) allocating special, targeted resources to the weak sectors and to settlements in the periphery, encouraging social initiatives for developing new projects at local level.

85. In June 1997, a Danish inter-ministerial committee submitted an action plan entitled "Accessibility for all - an action plan for the access by the handicapped to the physical environment". A nation-wide campaign was completed on how to create better access and a number of pilot projects were initiated. In the Republic of Macedonia measures, standards and norms for eliminating the barriers in the city and have been incorporated in the Regulations on Standards and Norms for Area Planning and Facility Designing adopted in 1999. The law on the prevention of creating architectural obstacles in Croatia regulates free access to all public facilities for persons with mobility-related predicaments. The law is now being revised, providing better solutions associated with the adaptation of housing and the environment to the needs of the disabled.⁷⁶ Canada released in 1998 a policy framework aimed at promoting full citizenship and inclusion of people with disabilities in society through employment, income and disability supports. Labour market programmes and services help individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain and maintain employment.

86. Many cities in Croatia were faced with very rapid growth, unemployment, inadequate housing and impossibility to meet the citizen's basic needs after the war when large numbers of displaced persons and refugees were migrating. Displaced persons are receiving necessary assistance through the Office for Displaced Persons such as providing shelter to various forms of psycho-social assistance.⁷⁷

2.3 Promote gender equality in human settlements development

87. Since the Habitat II conference and other major UN conferences, most countries have demonstrated their political will and commitment to creating an environment conducive to addressing gender issues and enhancing the status of women. Countries have made efforts to formulate new and strengthen existing policies and programmes that promote equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision making.

88. Legislation that supports the participation of women in decision-making and representation in high-level positions of government has been revised and new laws have been enacted in areas such as the representation of women in parliament and other state bodies. Policies and plans that take into account gender perspectives have been undertaken since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995) and Habitat II. In September 2000 the Slovak Republic became the tenth country to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). An Equal Opportunities Department was then established in February 1999, integrated within the structure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.⁷⁸ In 2000, the Government of Canada approved the development of an Agenda for Gender Equality. The Government of Croatia has established a Commission for Gender Equality Issues, in charge of promoting and monitoring all issues associated with gender

equality. The national Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality ensures that gender equality becomes an integral part in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.⁷⁹

89. In Israel laws enacted or revised include laws on equal pay, women's employment, equal rights for women, and reduction of poverty and income disparities among the poor. National systems for social care, which give special attention to people with special needs, have been developed. In Austria, a separate institution dealing with women-specific planning was established in 1998, thus anchoring the needs of women in a municipal institutional context. Measures include a focus on equal treatment of men and women, women-friendly urban planning, security and women friendly housing.

90. It has been observed that women make up a large percentage of workers that earn less than average minimum wage. The proportion was found to be 70 percent in one country. Gender responsive programmes have been promoted for women entrepreneurs, particularly those in small businesses, to enhance their economic opportunities through the provision of financial assistance. The purpose is to improve women's access to affordable housing, economic resources and social services.

91. Efforts have also been directed towards improving literacy levels for women through instituting educational programmes that encourage them to enlist for training in various spheres. Various legislation has been put in place to address these inequalities. However, some status reports on women also indicate that the situation has not changed much, posing more challenges to governments to continue monitoring and reassessing their policies and implementation strategies.

92. Despite the existence of legislation and regulatory frameworks some countries have not subsequently translated them into

concrete actions for implementation at the national and local government levels. Inadequate financial and human resources have been cited as reasons for non-implementation.

93. Another concern for many is to what extent these policy actions can translate into fundamental change in the status of women. Some policy analyses have shown that gender inequalities are institutionalised and based on deep-rooted social conventions, indicating that legislative change is inadequate to bring about short term changes. Capacity building in gender analysis, planning and mainstreaming are identified as measures which are essential in making programmes operational. In most cases these still need strengthening.

94. It is becoming increasingly clear that civil society groups are indispensable in their efforts to promote gender equality in an effective way. Initiatives such as the German Mothers' Centres and the women's advisory committees on local urban planning in the Netherlands have demonstrated how civil society groups can contribute to more effective local governance that integrates gender concerns.

95. The spread of the Mothers' Centres movement to other countries in Europe and the long term activities of the women's advisory groups on local planning in the Netherlands demonstrate the vibrancy of citizens' links to local government. Such examples of institutional links that bring gender concerns into local government can provide a useful model of good urban governance. Marking International Women's Day in 1998, the Israeli Knesset established an authority with the mandate to formulate policies that serve to eliminate discrimination against women and empower them to take their place in society.

Chapter 3

Environmental Management

96. Key aspects of the Habitat Agenda concerning environmental management are (a) promotion of geographically balanced settlement structures, (b) management of supply and demand for water in an effective manner, (c) reduction of urban pollution, (d) prevention of disasters and rebuilding of settlements, (e) promotion of effective and environmentally sound transportation systems, (f) supporting mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives.

97. Progress has been made in Europe for promoting geographically balanced settlement structures through policy and legislative changes. Improvement in the management of supply and demand for water was made possible through advanced technological processes that have increased the efficiency of water use, as well as the establishment of comprehensive water resource management plans and water resources policies. In the area of urban pollution, efforts have been undertaken for reduction of air and water pollution through minimisation and prevention of discharge of most polluting and hazardous substances, as well as reuse and recycling incentives. However increased air pollution generated by motor vehicles remains a strong concern. A major cause of pollution problems in the Eastern European Countries is the use of obsolete communal heating systems and coal burning.

98. For preventing disasters European countries have enacted legislation to promote establishment of prevention plans at local level. Recent natural disasters such as earthquakes and flooding have highlighted the urgency to develop and implement these plans. In Europe considerable effort has been made at regional and national levels to promote the preparation of local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives.

99. Legislation remains one of the major implementation instruments in improving the urban environment. However other instruments such as economic incentives mechanisms, awareness creation through information campaigns and strategic investments are also being used to address environmental concerns. Substantial effort has been made towards environmental resource management in the development planning process. In the Czech Republic, progress and improvement has been achieved in the implementation of principles of sustainable growth and application of new approaches to and instruments of environmental protection. An important role has been played in influencing the progress by the extensive contacts with EU authorities. The recent important developments in the Swedish national environmental policies have been measures to promote environmental investments, amendments to environmental legislation, the establishment of new environmental objectives and the introduction of systems to monitor progress and provide feedback.

100. In the Republic of Macedonia an Information Centre for the Protection of the Human Environment and a Data Processing Centre have been established for the purpose of monitoring the quality of the human environment and raising public awareness. The data collected is used to produce a map of pollutants, as well as a register of the waste and harmful matters. Also, a Fund for protection of Human Environment has been established which undertakes preventive and rehabilitation measures in the field of protection.

101. In the area of environmental management ECE countries recognise the value of consensus building through involving a wide range of actors concerned with and possessing information and interest on these issues, and in strategy and decision making and implementation. Local development plans and local agenda 21 initiatives often offer an opportunity to engage in such participatory processes and

have proved to be an efficient way to improve performance towards sustainable development and, provide a better living environment.

3.1 Promote geographically balanced settlement structures

102. There is a concentration of people and industries in metropolitan areas and other large cities. Therefore, there is need to protect overcrowded cities. For example in Sweden the economic growth in larger cities has led to a dual housing market in the country. Expanding regions are suffering from a growing housing shortage with shortages in rented housing, while many other towns and cities have a surplus of housing. Countries have undertaken national settlement policies whose main thrust is to develop geographically balanced and sustainable human settlements, and provision of infrastructure and services to the various levels of settlements. The Netherlands has introduced a Major Cities Policy to tackle problems in the big cities. The goal of the policy is to create a "complete city" founded on three main principles:

- The city should in a physical sense meet the increasingly higher standards set by residents, businesses and visitors for cities
- The city should be socially suitable, liveable, safe and offer real opportunities to the citizens
- The city should be economically vital

103. A trend observed shows that efforts are directed towards encouraging the redistribution of activities from countries' hubs to the periphery. In order to counteract regional imbalances, nation policies to a high degree take regional and local conditions into account. They can mainly do so by transferring responsibilities and resources to the regional level and by

involving regional and local bodies in developing policies.

104. Policies and legislative changes have included the establishment of National Settlement Policies, National Urban and Regional Planning Acts and Regional Development Acts. Others include setting up of Urban Renewal Funds and Urban Planning Bureau. Action taken through setting up of frameworks and legislation is cited as a means of strengthening the capacity of governments to address environmental issues (as well as social issues). However, that alone is not considered sufficient. Other conducive conditions are needed such as the government's capacity to work with other actors particularly at the local level. Experience has demonstrated that results are achieved when programmes have a strong institutional link with participating local communities.

105. It is necessary to have a systematic urban development approach that involves the citizenry and other actors. It has also been cited that it is necessary to take cognisance of the specific social and cultural characteristic of areas in establishing the strategy of balanced area development.

3.2 Manage supply and demand for water in an effective manner.

106. Since 1996 countries have undertaken studies to identify and assess the various problems related to urban development. Trends indicate that rapid population growth has continued to create a very large demand for basic services such as water. This has necessitated that planners engage in a constant search for new water sources and development of water treatment options. It has also necessitated the formulation of policies that encourage water conservation due to the ever-depleting available water supplies. Comprehensive water resource management plans have been

prepared with the aim of safeguarding water resources and maintaining proper quality. Prevailing conditions indicate that changes in the balance of supply and demand have been made possible by the advanced technological processes that have increased the efficiency of water use.

107. In order to meet the increasing demand for water, policies have been formulated around various issues including; water resource development, water distribution, dependable water supply and water pricing. In Ljubljana in Slovenia, the consumption of water has decrease from 190 to 179 litres per person per day due to repair/replacement of primary and secondary pipelines. Water consumption in Latvia has also decreased from 195 litres per day per person to 167 litres.⁸⁰ The decrease in average water consumption is brought about by the installation of water metres in apartments, resulting in water being used more efficiently. In 53 of 77 Latvian cities water supply and waste water projects have been launched with the aim of reaching EU standards and providing the citizens with good water.⁸¹

3.3 Reduce Urban Pollution

108. A number of countries have been faced with the problems of urban pollution, mounting solid waste, deteriorating air and water conditions particularly in urban areas. In the transition countries, Bulgaria for example, the old economic structure dominated by highly polluting heavy industries and obsolete technologies have contributed to the grave environmental conditions. Limited resources for environmental protection and lack of effective environmental policies and controls have also aggravated the situation. Efforts have been made towards minimising and where possible preventing discharge of substances, biological materials or their fragments from industrial plants. It is evident from the reports that citizens in the western countries have enjoyed relatively better

health, more efficient services, better education and higher mobility than urban dwellers in other parts of the world. One concern however, is that they also consume more energy, cause more pollution, create more waste and use more land for housing, leisure and industry. This trend has to be monitored and where possible guidance offered, as well as encouragement and insights for communities in the region looking for sustainable consumption. Other trends over the years have revealed continuous increases in pollutant emissions with motor vehicles having been identified as foremost pollutants. Improved air quality and living conditions through the provision of healthy surroundings are some of the programmes undertaken. Israel reports a reduction in the incidence of respiratory diseases due to such programmes.

109. The Dutch Habitat Platform started the Sustainable Living Campaign in 2000. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage residents to alter their consumption habits in order to limit the use of energy and natural resources. Promoting the use of solar energy and the use of bicycles are spearheads of the campaign. Part of the campaign includes assembling a sustainable living toolkit, in which examples are worked out in a step-by-step plan. This toolkit is intended to inspire residents to work together with municipalities, housing associations and other involved parties.

110. In Denmark, comprehensive initiatives are emerging to reduce the consumption of national resources in the construction and operation of buildings. In general these initiatives concentrate on four main areas:

- Energy Savings (through insulation, heating recovery, application of bio-fuels and other sustainable energy sources)
- Water savings (through treating waste water, instalment of water-saving taps, etc)
- Waste management (recycling building materials, waste separation, etc.)

111. In Canada, it has been found that the ecological "footprint" of Canadians (i.e. the productive land required to sustain the level of consumption) is four times larger than what is equitable or sustainable on a global basis. "EcoQuest" is a programme designed to achieve a sustainable future by changing the way people think about, value and act towards the environment. Young people are being taught how to measure their personal ecological impact and have been challenged to find innovative means of reducing their own footprint.

112. One of the most important environmental goals in Ljubljana, Slovenia has been the reduction of SO₂ emissions that has significantly improved the air quality. Winter smog has consequently disappeared as a result of the shift from coal to gas, extension of district heating network, and the use of better quality coal. The air quality in Slovakia has been monitored in 30 localities from 1996 to 1997. In 1999 there were seven active air-monitoring stations in the country monitoring pollution.⁸² In 1999 the Ordinance "on the quality of air" in Latvia initiated a programme for improving air quality.⁸³

113. In terms of wastewater treatment, plants in the region use intensive and extensive processes for the purpose of recycling water. On the other hand, industrial wastewater is considered a greater risk to the environment and this has necessitated the drafting of new regulations to improve industrial wastewater treatment. Solid waste production is an inescapable result of human activity and has been dealt with through long term-integrated systems of solid waste management, which include reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery and landfill. Consolidation of information services at the local level and effective awareness raising activities (for example campaigns, guide books, manuals, fairs) have increased people's knowledge about handling household waste and has contributed to launching municipal sorting

systems for household waste collection in the Nordic countries. Many of the ECE countries, including Finland, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands have adopted the principle of producer responsibility, where the manufacturer is responsible for organising waste management. Sweden has also endorsed a new tax on dumping to decrease the amount of waste.

114. Relevant legislation implemented includes instruments for control and prevention of air pollution. It has also involved monitoring the emission standards for power stations. National Energy Strategies aimed at encouraging the introduction of energy saving techniques/utilities in neighborhoods have been promoted. Policies that promote the use of renewable energy sources and natural gas have been encouraged. Germany has, for example, established support programmes giving economic incentives for investments in energy saving and increased use of renewable energy sources as well as CO₂ reductions.

115. In order to be successful, environment policies need to be undertaken at various levels of government. It is evident from the reports that in order to achieve the long-term goals of reducing urban pollution, partnership with civil society needs to be strengthened in order to contribute towards the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies, programmes and projects.

116. One of the lessons that comes out clearly in the national reports, Austria's for example, is that collaboration between the various partners involved in the implementation of environmental management initiatives is the key to their success.

3.4 Prevent disasters and rebuild settlements.

117. Natural disasters and other emergencies have had major impacts in some countries in the region. The earthquakes in the Mediterranean basin and Turkey in 1999 heightened public and governments' concern regarding problems such as those of seismic risk. Various disasters have severely constrained development in other countries. How can such disasters be better managed to reduce the extent of destruction. Countries have been utilising the available technical capacity for reducing the effects through revising and reinforcing required laws for new buildings and site inspection during construction.

118. Bulgaria, Slovenia and Turkey have taken measures for disaster prevention and mitigation: appropriate civil construction and technical standards (building codes) are obligatory for every building, construction of dams, regular cleaning of river banks, regular deepening of water canals, training of the city population and decentralising responsibilities on the regional and local level. Existing mechanisms for effective post-disaster response are: action plans for every type of natural disaster, including mitigation and remediation measures.

119. In Poland, flooding is the biggest natural disaster. The flood that caused havoc and enormous losses in July 1997 was the worst in 500 years. However, the flood also raised awareness in preventive actions in the future such as the necessity to establish a flood protection system and a multi-year comprehensive development programme on security measures against floods, improving monitoring and creating mechanisms for co-ordinating action on various levels.

120. One of the greatest problems today in Croatia is the issue of clearing settlements and their surroundings from mines. Also, the reconstruction of the war-destroyed settlements shall in time be integrated into

overall reconstruction of settlements in Croatia through a multisectoral approach on both the state and local government, in partnership with the population.⁸⁴

3.5 Promote effective and environmentally sound transportation systems.

121. Issues related to urban transport systems are high on the agenda of many European countries. New technologies as well as concerns and political support from a wide range of actors have led to improving transportation systems towards more environmentally sound options. Public-private partnerships and public information campaigns have mobilised both the financial resources and behaviour changes required in promoting a shift from the use of private motor vehicles to public transport system. There is still room for improvement, as private motor vehicles remain one of the main sources of air pollution in European and North American cities.

122. In the European Union regulations for the quality indicators of motor car gasoline have been taken. Unfortunately, these regulations do not correspond to the existing country vehicle fleet in many of the countries in Eastern Europe, such as Bulgaria. In Slovakia, there is a general growth in road traffic as a result of the abandoning of the municipal public transport in favour of individual car transport. Due to the very poor state of municipal public transport.

123. In the Netherlands, work on implementing policy goals in the last five years established the Second Traffic and Transportation Structural Plan representing a break in the trend of traffic and transportation policy. Liveability was added to accessibility as a main goal. Liveability considerations include control of noise, environmental considerations and offering alternatives to cars and aeroplanes. Preparations for a new National Traffic and Transportation Plan are now in an advanced

stage, and quality of life is a major aspect. In Portugal the improvement of accessibility of the public transport system, the discouragement of private transport, especially in city centres, and the introduction of environmentally friendly transport systems are promoted. Spain also promotes efficient and environmentally friendly transport in urban areas by developing electric trams in city centres, using eco-friendly buses running on methanol, vegetable oils and electricity, improving walkways and establishing specific lanes for public vehicles.⁸⁵

124. In Ljubljana, Slovenia the "Strategy for the City Sustainable Development" has been formulated emphasising the protection of bio-diversity, development of eco-tourism, and sustainable modes of transport. Efficient transport management is the most important issue for city planners to reduce air pollution, congestion and improve quality of life. In Canada the Urban Transportation Showcase initiative, implemented in partnership with provinces, municipalities and other partners will demonstrate integrated approaches to reducing emissions, while generating other environmental, social and economic benefits for participating cities.

125. The Latvian National Transport Development Programme (1996 - 2010) aims at developing an environmentally sound transportation system. Restructuring of the transport system is carried out in accordance with economic and social development as well as taking into consideration environmental consequences, sustainability and safety.⁸⁶

3.6 Support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives.

126. Support mechanisms for implementation of Local Agenda 21 initiatives have been established in a number

of countries. There has been continuous need however, to concretise actions of Agenda 21. Specific programmes aimed at improving the access of the poor to shelter; basic infrastructure and services through the implementation of broad-based participatory environment improvement plans have been carried out. Other preparations of development strategies for sustainable development are undertaken within the framework of Agenda 21. One of the challenges is how to provide a better life not only for the present generation but also for the future using the limited resources efficiently and avoiding the destruction of the environment.

127. National reports reiterate the commitment of governments to achieving the goals of Agenda 21. A trend that has emerged over the years has been collaborative modalities developed between various organisations responsible for the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the Habitat Agenda. It has become clear that environmental and human settlements policies are not only intertwined but are parts of the same whole. Initiatives have involved establishment of enabling frameworks such as Ministries of the Environment, launching of national Agendas 21 and the establishment of national committees for effective implementation of local Agendas 21. Sustainable development strategies through a consultative process with stakeholders from different sectors have been prepared in, for example Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and the United Kingdom.

128. Countries acknowledge that in order to undertake environmental policies successfully, there is need to decentralise and implement at the local level. It has been reported that a number of local governments have established Local Environment Plans for Agenda 21 but most of them still need to be concretised into action with adequate resources for their achievement. For example, in Slovenia local authorities can prepare and approve their local

environmental policies according to their needs and demands within the national legal and regulative framework. The "Strategy for Sustainable Development for the City of Ljubljana" is a major policy document that integrates environmental policy at the city level. In Bulgaria, Local Agenda 21 initiatives include involving broad community consultation groups, creating a coordinating body and defining local needs and priorities. In Latvia, over the last few years, co-operation between neighbouring municipalities has improved specific sectors of the environment (such as water supply and waste management) and developed environment protection policy plans and action programmes.⁸⁷

129. The UK Government prepared a "Strategy for Sustainable Development" in 1999 and committed itself to a range of measures to improve the urban environment. In December 2000 the UK Government also published the Urban White Paper "Our Towns and Cities: Delivering the Urban Renaissance" which demonstrates a commitment to better planning and design; re-use of "brownfield land"; enhancement of the urban environment; sustainable economic growth and development; transforming the most deprived areas and delivering quality services for all.⁸⁸

130. It has also become evident that Local Agendas 21, which were first conceived as top down processes, have turned out to follow more the principle of subsidiarity.

131. Among the lessons learnt by most countries is that empowering communities, providing them information and facilitation increases long-term sustainability of development initiatives undertaken in the area. It has also been acknowledged that environmental management cannot be limited to responses to individual development proposals but has to be linked to long-term environmental requirements and development needs in general.

132. In Finland, sustainable development is included as a strategic goal in the acts on local authorities, land use and building as well as environmental protection. Thus, cities and municipalities in Finland are bound to sustainable development objectives as well as establishing mechanisms for partnership consultations and cross-sectoral co-operation in environmental protection. There are currently 245 municipalities with ongoing projects related to Local Agenda 21, covering almost 80 per cent of the population. During 1994 - 1999, several sectoral plans and programmes on the environment and sustainable development have been prepared, implemented, followed-up and up dated. Partly based on these sectoral strategies, the Finnish Government's Programme on Sustainable Development was completed in 1998.⁸⁹ In the scope of the European Initiative "Health and Environmental Protection", the Republic of Croatia prepared in 1999 a national action plan "Environment and Health".⁹⁰

133. Sustainable development is a process with special emphasis on co-operation between various stakeholders. National co-ordination structures and networks are necessary. Legislation and regulations provide the base for promoting sustainability. Knowledge and know-how are not only the keys to economic growth, employment and social welfare, but also to sustainable development.

Chapter 4

Economic Development

134. Compared to the rest of the world, Western European and North American countries are mature, wealthy economies. Differences in economic performance are especially marked among the countries in transition. During the second half of the 1990s, the European countries were affected by the financial crisis of Asia in 1997, the crisis in Russia in 1998 and the Balkan conflict. Most European countries have gone through recession in the second half of the

1990s, although the ECE forecasts for 2000 GDP growth is good. New solutions are needed to solve the still persisting problems such as poverty, inequity, ageing of the population and unemployment.

135. Radical economic changes cannot be expected in five years. The role of the informal sector and micro-enterprises is being increasingly recognised as a solution to excess labour force and migration to growth centers, which are common problems in many European countries. Public-private partnerships are used as they widen the financial base for urban development and offer more efficient and accountable management. At the Jobs Summit in Luxembourg in 1997, the European Union listed the basic principles of its labour market strategies: to increase worker employability, foster entrepreneurship, improve firms' and workers' capability to adapt to a changing environment, and to promote equal opportunities. The measures introduced in the region include fiscal incentives to support the demand for labour, tightening of access to unemployment benefits, providing training to young people and the mandatory 35-hour workweek in France. Unfortunately, the reports submitted to Habitat by national governments contained very little information on the progress made in strengthening small enterprises, the informal sector and private-public partnerships.

4.1 Strengthen small and micro-enterprises, particularly those developed by women.

136. Recognition of small enterprises has increased and is seen as an important source of economic growth as well as new employment opportunities. The noted primary advantages of the small businesses are innovation, flexibility, and speedy low-cost establishment. They offer suitable solutions to the employment of special groups such as women and people from minority groups. It has been acknowledged that the formal sector the world over is not

expanding fast enough to absorb an expanding work force hence the renewed interest in the informal sector to absorb the surplus labour force. The small economy sector in Ljubljana, Slovenia, employs 35 per cent of the labour force and has become the fastest growing sector in the urban economy from 1997 to 1999. Small and medium sized enterprises are an important source of economic growth and new employment opportunities. A major challenge has been how to sustain these small enterprises in the informal sector. Programmes undertaken included setting up communication platforms to network these enterprises.

137. The Netherlands is trying to promote the growth of jobs and attract companies to the cities. An attempt is being made to achieve deregulation, establishment of economic action plans at the urban and district levels and introduction of economic development areas. Based on a series of focused, partially experimental approaches, to improve the climate for entrepreneurship, so that the development of the local economy will be advanced mainly by small and medium-sized companies, hoping to also integrate disadvantaged groups into society and combat spatial division. The UK Government's fundamental policy emphasises the importance of economic development in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in society. Key initiatives include: the introduction of the "New Deal" assisting young people and adults into training and employment; support for business, including local economic regeneration initiatives and community enterprises; the establishment of Regional Development Agencies with the specific mandate of developing regional economies; the power for local authorities to undertake any action which they feel is necessary to support the economic well-being of their area.⁹¹

138. Special programmes have been established to support women in starting their own business in for example Sweden,

Finland, Israel, Turkey and The Netherlands. Often women starting a business face more difficulties in accessing bank loans to finance their ideas. In Sweden a project providing female business advisors started in 62 municipalities, and today they are operating in roughly 100. These advisors are often connected to the body responsible for business in the municipality. In Finland, special emphasis has been placed on the promotion of entrepreneurship among women who are unemployed or at risk of becoming unemployed. Women have been granted special loans and tailored training and counseling has been provided to encourage women's entrepreneurship. Spain and Turkey have developed Small Entrepreneurship Projects and micro-loan programmes especially targeting poor women to strengthen their economic and social status. In 1998, Sweden started a programme containing a number of concrete measures to simplify and improve conditions for small and medium sized companies. A finance company (ALMI AB) was established to promote the development of small enterprises, providing credits and financial solutions, targeting special groups, such as newly started businesses, women entrepreneurs and young people.

139. The Small Business Authority established in Israel funds support and advancement centres serving small businesses together with government bodies, banks, capital funds, public institutions, educational institutions and relevant local authorities. Three principal types of centres have been established:

- Centre for Business Activities - aiming to provide assistance and training to small entrepreneurs.
- Economic Development Unit - aiming to generate employment opportunities for local populations, new immigrants, women and small business entrepreneurs.
- Business "Greenhouses" - physical and organisational frameworks supporting small business initiatives at the start-up stage.

140. The Slovakian Government supports the development of new small and medium enterprises. The National Agency for development of small and medium enterprises was established through a joint initiative between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the EU, with the main objective of supporting the growth of existing and newly established small and medium enterprises by offering loans, micro-loans and start-up capital. A network of 12 Regional Consulting and Information Centres and 5 Business Innovation Centres have been established providing advisory, information and educational services. Poland adopted in 1999 the Law on Economic Activity which makes public administration responsible for the creation of favourable conditions for small and medium enterprise operation and development. Spain's third Plan on Equal opportunities (1997 - 2000), focused on assisting women in establishing and developing small and medium micro-enterprises through sensitisation, information, technical assistance, direct management, training and financial assistance in the form of subsidies.⁹²

141. In the Croatian Government's Working Programme (2000 - 2004), the Programme of the Encouragement of Micro-Economy was conceived. The objective of the programme is to develop a support system, in co-operation with all stakeholders, creating conditions for developing private enterprises, thus promoting the micro-economy. The programme pays special attention to the promotion of women's entrepreneurship.⁹³ The Latvian Government initiated a National Programme of Small and Medium Enterprises Development where privileges (support and financial assistance) are granted to the development of SME's. The first programme supporting women entrepreneurship has recently started when Hansabank Latvia entered into agreement with Nordic Investment Bank. The

programme will be implemented in all three Baltic States.⁹⁴

142. Policy changes reported have involved the establishment of policy frameworks where small business authorities, together with government bodies, banks and public institutions can establish centres which act as focal points for providing assistance to entrepreneurs who are in the process of establishing or expanding small businesses.

143. The institutional weaknesses encountered by these small and micro enterprises include a lack of planning and management capacity. Other obstacles identified are a lack of funding and of access to information, which hinders competition in the free market and proper development.

4.2 Encourage public-private sector partnerships and stimulate productive employment.

144. It has been recognised that the need and demand for certain services such as transport and health is high in most of the countries in the region. On the other hand, economic factors limit the scope of public expenditures, hence the need to implement these projects at low cost. As a consequence more emphasis is now given to deregulation, privatisation and competition in the delivery of urban services. Actors from other sectors have become involved. The cooperation of other sectors has shown the increase of available sources of funding, and improved quality and level of services. A consequent risk is that low-income urban inhabitants no longer have access to some urban services. Public-private partnerships have also been used in urban housing programmes, Old Town Revitalisation Programmes (Vilnius in Estonia) and the renovation/regeneration of the central railway station area in Ljubljana.

145. To stimulate productive employment, new employment policies have been established and demand-oriented on-

the-job training programmes set up. Support has been given to new entrepreneurs and enterprises. Public-private partnerships also increase efficiency and flexibility into local service production. In Denmark the idea behind partnerships is to gather the various stakeholders in local area development under one roof in order to break down some of the traditional barriers and achieve strong synergies between the stakeholders. Representatives from the public sector, business sector and the community team up to identify and present common objectives and visions in the future development of an area. Strengthening entrepreneurial activities paves the way for the transfer of some responsibilities (for example in service delivery) from the state to the private sector.⁹⁵

146. Tourism is one of the biggest and fastest growing economic sectors. In Hungary, following the change of political systems and restructuring of the economy, market conditions have developed in the field of tourism.

Chapter 5

Governance

147. Local Governments have more knowledge of the local conditions and are often better suited to find solutions to city development problems. There is a link between good governance and reduction of poverty and good governance could be one of the solutions to problems encountered in the region such as poverty and inequity. The role of local authorities is widely recognised. The European Charter of Local Self-Government adopted by the Council of Europe in 1985 as a European Convention and now signed and ratified by more than two thirds of the Council of Europe's 40 member states, has been used as a guideline by many countries in transition for their basic local government legislation. Countries in transition are struggling with the complex task of changing their central

planning structures into decentralised decision making systems, and the process is not yet complete.

148. Unfortunately, European countries have not submitted much information on progress made in governance. However, in addition to the information submitted to Habitat by national governments, there are many good practices in the region. For example, in Slovakia, a Local Self-Government Assistance Centre was established in 1996 in order to help local governments become more effective, responsive and accountable to their citizens through capacity building.

149. Decentralisation is the first step towards good governance. The problem is that decentralisation of responsibilities is not always accompanied by sufficient resources. People's right to participation and civic engagement is acknowledged in the region, but people need to be empowered to exercise that right. Political and social transformation has opened new opportunities for the citizens of countries in transition. The challenge remains to find the appropriate consultation mechanisms to ensure that all stakeholders are involved.

5.1 Promote decentralisation and strengthen local authorities.

150. Countries have continued to make progress in terms of fostering the basic tenets of good governance. Strategies aimed at fostering the relationship between national and local government have been reviewed. In the case of Europe the strategies have had to reflect Europe-wide differences. As decentralisation continues to evolve, the need to develop a range of new instruments has arisen. For instance the need to develop consultation platforms to resolve issues that affect local governments and other partners.

151. The National Habitat Committee of Greece has made and continues to make

sustained efforts to inform and involve the municipalities and local councils of the country. A easy to read leaflet "the Guide to Local Authorities on Sustainable Development of Communities and Housing" has been produced and distributed to all local authorities. The Committee also promotes "Integrated Local Action Plans", motivating local authorities to implement a policy of integrated planning for sustainable development at the local level as well as increasing awareness among local communities through a model of participation, involving the local population in the planning process.

152. The Uzbekistan Government has developed a structure to increase the role of the self-governing local bodies, makhalla [community] committees, by strengthening their legal and financial base. The country is in the process of strengthening the legal and financial base of local government bodies, in order to undertake programmes such as social protection, low-income housing, basic infrastructure and services for urban and rural development, and improving access to drinking water.⁹⁶ The Croatian Government is in mid-process of the overall reform of the local self-governing system which should be completed before the local elections to be held in 2005.⁹⁷ A Union of Local Governments has been developed in Latvia, 507 of 589 municipalities are members of the union.⁹⁸

153. The established structure of local authorities in the UK has been slightly modified since 1996. Features include:

- devolution of some central government powers to the new Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly, who have committed themselves to social inclusion strategies.
- Establishment of Regional Assemblies or Chambers to provide regional structures alongside the Regional Development Agencies.
- Modernisation of local government, which, with the support of local

authorities, has introduced a wide range of new initiatives to serve and involve local communities and other partners.

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced new powers for principal local authorities to promote and/or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area and to contribute to sustainable development, stressing the need for effective strategic partnerships at city level to draw together all stakeholders and interests.⁹⁹

154. Denmark has established an Urban Fund Scheme to realise the government's urban policy from 1999 - 2003. The Urban Fund Scheme promotes local co-operation on urban development and counteracts the development of ghettos and slums. Special focus includes local crime prevention measures, local development and co-operation projects to promote integration and creation of employment in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, analysis and development of trade and industry zoning policies, and the development of policy foundations and organisation.

155. In many countries a large degree of flexibility is preserved or given to local governments, such as entitlement to independently choose contractors as long as they follow the requirements of issuing public tenders.

156. Policies that support the transfer of administrative functions and tasks from central to local governments have been developed. Such powers are enshrined in constitutions and spelt out in various instruments such as decentralisation policies and local government acts. Translation of the policies into practicalities of the power relations between local and national governments had to be undertaken. Laws and budgeting procedures have been developed to support local authorities in undertaking new responsibilities. In many countries it has become apparent that decentralisation in itself is not sufficient. There is a need to better take into consideration the diversity of situations and

make use of the advantageous ambitions of local democratic forces, which in turn, reinforce local public action and improve the means and measures of attaining decentralisation.¹⁰⁰

157. In spite of the transfer of tasks to local authorities mainly in countries in transition it is not always matched by the administrative and financial support required. Local authorities, in for example, Slovenia, Bulgaria and the Russian Federation have low management and administrative capacity and meagre resources available. Decentralisation of management and transfer of responsibilities to city authorities may inhibit city development and worsen the living conditions of the population if an adequate budget does not accompany the decentralisation process. In the Slovak Republic the reform of public administration is a precondition for the accession to the European Union and NATO. The Government has acknowledged the Strategy of Public Administration Reform, which will include decentralisation and modernisation of public administration and propose measures of further management reform. The most important laws adopted or amended in Poland since 1996 include laws concerning decentralisation of power resulting in strengthened territorial local government.

158. The conclusion can be drawn from the experience that there is a need to strengthen the local authorities' ability to handle responsibilities that have been transferred to them through provision of training for local leaders. Promoting bottom-up type of governance and strengthening of local authorities will lead to sustainable human settlement development.

5.2 Encourage and support participation and civic engagement.

159. It has been acknowledged by most countries that participation, civic engagement and partnerships are fundamental in their efforts to create better conditions for human settlements management, economic growth and social cohesion. The challenge, however, has been to operationalise policies aimed at decentralising decision-making processes in the management of human settlements, strengthen civil society in order to bridge the gap between the state and the citizenry and facilitate the empowerment of people to take control of their own lives and for governments to work in a more effective way

160. The current growth of citizen consciousness improves local government performance and encourages transparency. One of the concerns emerging is how to broaden consultation mechanisms and allow maximum participation at the local level in elaboration, decision-making and follow-up of development policies and projects. Such a broad-based consultative machinery that allows citizen participation is likely to promote efficiency and productivity, prompt service delivery and increased production as well as resource mobilisation and accountability.

161. It is evident from a number of reports that municipal and district offices are much more integrated into the participation process than in the past, this has provided more sustainability for the programmes than before. This has also raised the demand for the publication of documentation on the entire planning and participation process both in large and small-scale projects (Austria).

162. Ongoing process of decentralisation in almost all countries has led to more focused programmes and action at the local level. The challenge is how local and national partners can ensure that decisions

are made in full collaboration with all relevant stakeholders including women's groups, neighbourhood organisations, and associations of small businesses and NGOs. An additional challenge is designing forums for multi-actor participation. In Finland, new important steps have been taken to ensure good governance and civic engagement in the Land Use and Building Act, The Act underlines open information flow as well as residents' participation in the planning and monitoring of construction projects. In Bulgaria, local NGO's have established regular contacts and dialogue with the local authorities and public forums have been established, where representatives of various NGO's, civic groups, business, representatives from academic circles and the media convene and discuss local problems together with municipal authorities. In the Russian Federation, no city action programme is approved without a preliminary discussion with interested public organisations. In Croatia, the strengthening of civil society's influence in the decision-making process has encouraged the establishment of numerous citizens' associations. A total of 19,000 citizens' associations have now been registered.¹⁰¹

163. The district-oriented approach in the Netherlands accommodates and encourages co-operation between various parties that are involved in the community. Local policy is becoming increasingly interactive, whereby involved parties (citizens, businesses, housing associations, municipalities, care providers etc.) can give input. In Sweden, in accordance with the Local Government Act, municipalities are working to promote consultations with users of services and developing mechanisms for giving users a direct influence over programmes and services. 50 municipalities have established a "users board" that has to be heard before a decision may be taken. Some municipalities have taken the process a step further and introduced "users co-operative enterprises".

164. In Denmark municipalities have initiated new models for democracy and

public involvement in urban renewal including Information Technology as an instrument for public involvement, appointing so-called "neighbourhood developers", establishing Urban Centre Councils and assisting neighbourhoods to develop their own urban policy study circles. In Germany City Networks have been established and involve co-operation between local authorities and other stakeholders. They are proving to be engines for inter-municipal co-operation.

165. The Government of Canada has committed more than \$90 million over five years to the Voluntary Sector Initiative. Through this programme, the government will develop its relationship with the voluntary sector, resulting in improved service delivery, increased effectiveness of government programmes, strengthened communities and increased capacity of the voluntary sector.

166. Despite the framework, residents' participation in local government or decision-making process is limited for varying reasons. Citizens may participate actively when either the relevant groups or organisations reveal a particular interest in the subject of planning. At times publicly elected officials are just interested in wide public support for the decisions that are likely to alter the principles of planning. It is important that citizens recognise that their participation contributes towards the improvement of transparency, democracy and efficient administration in the long term.

5.3 Ensure transparent, accountable and efficient governance of towns, cities and metropolitan areas

167. Although tasks and functions have been decentralised to the local authorities giving them some level of autonomy, they are often supervised by one (or several) sectoral Ministry (such as Ministry of Interior). This is seen as one way of ensuring that auditing is done on an ongoing basis and to make sure there is

accountability. Issues of transparency are dealt with through the responsibility of elected and local authority employees to declare any possible conflict of interests. Other tools to ensure transparent and accountable governance, are procurement and bidding procedures, independent audits and computerisation of administrative processes. Finnish authorities are now more transparent, since the Act on the Openness of Government Activities came into force in 1999. An official is under obligation to give information to a citizen when asked.

Chapter 6

International Cooperation

169. Countries agreed in September 1998 that the ECE Committee on Human Settlements should be the platform for regional level reviews on implementing the Habitat Agenda. In September 1999, Ministers of the European Union in charge of housing and urban development confirmed their Governments' intention to actively participate in the preparation of the Special Session, including the formulation of a coherent strategy for international cooperation. The Commission of the European Union and the Development Assistance Group (DAG) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are the key policy co-ordination mechanisms for countries of the West in setting up priorities for international cooperation on implementing the Habitat Agenda.

170. Countries in transition are focussing more and more on entering the European Community. For example, Hungary entered into diplomatic relations in 1998 and is implementing several urban development programmes supported by the EU.

171. The need for more visible synergies with Agenda 21 and the commitments on poverty, employment and social integration made by the World Social Summit and its recent +5 review are considered to provide

an overriding framework for international co-operation regarding implementation of the Habitat Agenda. With specific relevance to the Habitat Agenda goal of adequate shelter for all, the Governments of the European Union regard the European Charter of Human Rights as providing an essential policy context.

172. Several countries give strong support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through their international activities. These activities include the multilateral and bilateral programs by the Ministries, NGOs and multilateral organisations. For example, Baltic 21, launched in 1996 by a ministerial meeting between the countries around the Baltic Sea, is a broadly based co-operative undertaking aimed at sustainable development in the Baltic Sea area. Environmental considerations are given priority.

173. Specifically, policy priorities for international cooperation activities in support of implementing the Habitat Agenda include the following:

- Promotion of a positive role of urban development in generating economic growth and sustainable local development and in supporting balanced urban-rural development through urban-rural linkages.
- Recognition of the growing importance of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable cities, and their contribution to sustainable development; the synergies between Local Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda, and the need for Istanbul+5 to feed into the Rio+10 review.
- Recognition of the need for an enabling and co-ordinating framework of spatial development policy with links to the local, national, regional and global level.
- Contribution of urban management and inclusive local governance to achieving

sustainable development, with a decentralization of power to transparent, accountable and responsive local government.

- Recognition of the need for local government to work in partnership with communities, civil society and private enterprises.

When submitting their national reports on implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Governments provided summarised accounts of bilateral aid activities in assisting selected countries in implementing the Habitat Agenda.

Enhanced International Cooperation and Partnerships

173. Some countries have collaborated and developed programmes with UN agencies, the World Bank and other international organisations towards the implementation of national plans of action. Other countries have collaborated through twinning of cities for purposes of cultural, social, economic, as well as educational exchange and capacity building. In the Netherlands three quarters of all Dutch Municipalities are in one way or another involved in municipal international cooperation. Municipalities contribute to the strengthening of local government in various countries, or they inform their own population about the situation elsewhere in the world.

174. Governments within the EU have established the Urban Exchange Initiative with the purpose of pooling experience and providing expertise to decision-makers from all levels of government.

175. Some significant changes in multilateral programmes have taken place

over the past few years and major multilateral organisations, such as the World Bank and the UN are implementing development programmes through partnership arrangement, for example the Cities Alliance.

176. In April 1999 the City of Brno, in the Czech Republic and the Municipality of Utrecht in the Netherlands started the implementation of the "Housing, an integral approach" project, which includes features such as housing, monument care, strategic planning and establishment of district development plans and a consistent housing policy for the city. The overall objective is to support the city of Brno to cope with new housing responsibilities due to the transition from a centrally planned economy towards a market economy, and to improve the transparency of municipal government and encourage public participation.

177. Through international cooperation the European Union as a regional body is able to transfer know how to the countries in the region by organising meetings to discuss issues affecting the region. For example, associations such as Eurocities, European Cultural Cities, Working Community for Alpine Towns, Cities' Forum. Croatia is also a member of several regional multilateral forums, such as the Central European Initiative (CEI), The Danube Commission, The Alpine Adria Working Community and the Adriatic Ionian Co-operation.¹⁰²

178. The role of regional institutions has become more relevant and this is evident from the number of countries joining the regional institutions and the reorganisation of the institutions to match emerging challenges.

Annex 1

Table 1. Projected increase in number of households, ECE region (1990-2020)

	Projected no. of households (millions)				Projected annual rate of growth (%)		
	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2020
North America	103.5	120.0	139.2	158.5	1.48	1.48	1.30
Western Europe*	142.7	158.0	170.1	178.4	1.02	0.73	0.48
Eastern Europe and other**	141.8	164.2	186.9	200.3	1.47	1.29	0.69
Turkey and Israel	12.7	17.4	22.3	26.9	3.14	2.44	1.90
Russian Federation	54.9	65.8	76.8	81.6	1.80	1.55	0.60
Central Asian republics	10.8	12.6	14.6	16.8	1.53	1.47	1.39
Other Eastern Europe	63.4	68.4	73.3	75.1	0.77	0.69	0.24
Total ECE area	388.0	442.2	496.2	537.1	1.31	1.15	0.79

*: The European Economic Area (i.e. the European Union plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), Switzerland and Malta.

** : Excludes Bosnia Herzegovina, for which no household data are available.

The projected household growth rate in the region is 3.9 times higher than the projected population growth rate during the 2000-2010 period (see Table 2). If Turkey, Israel and the Central Asian republics are excluded; the household growth rate is projected to be 6.2 times higher. While the average annual population growth in the region is 0.30 per cent, it is only 0.18 per cent, if Turkey, Israel and the Central Asian republics are excluded. Only Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan are projected to have higher population growth rates than household growth rates.

Source: Based on data to be published in the forthcoming Global Report on Human Settlements, 2001. (UNCHS (Habitat)).

Table 2. Projected population growth, ECE region (1990-2000)

	Projected population (millions)				Projected annual rate of population growth (%)		
	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2020
North America	281.9	309.5	331.9	353.8	0.94	0.70	0.64
Western Europe*	376.9	387.8	388.7	384.3	0.28	0.02	-0.11
Eastern Europe and other	473.1	486.3	498.5	507.1	0.28	0.25	0.17
Turkey and Israel	60.8	72.8	83.3	92.1	1.81	1.34	1.01
Russian Federation	148.3	146.9	144.4	140.6	-0.09	-0.17	-0.27
Central Asian republics	50.6	55.9	62.2	68.9	0.99	1.07	1.02
Other Eastern Europe	213.4	210.7	208.6	205.5	-0.13	-0.10	-0.15
Total ECE area	1,131.9	1,183.6	1,219.1	1,245.2	0.45	0.30	0.21

*: The European Economic Area (i.e. the European Union plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), Switzerland and Malta.

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 1999 Revision.

Annex 2

List of member states that have submitted their reports as of 14 May 2001

Armenia
Austria
Bulgaria
Canada
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Greece
Israel
Hungary
Israel
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia
Malta
Poland
Russian Federation
Slovenia
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
Turkey
Uzbekistan
United Kingdom

References

- ¹ Draft National Report for Austria
- ² Lithuania, overview of implementation of Habitat Agenda, 29 February 2000
- ³ Canadian National report
- ⁴ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 2
- ⁵ Greece, Brief National report - Istanbul + 5 (February 2000)
- ⁶ Croatia statement to PrepCom I
- ⁷ A decline of 1.1 million persons per year during the 2000-2010 period in Eastern Europe, 0.8 million in Western Europe, and 0.3 million in North America (United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 1999 Revision)
- ⁸ Although aggregate regional data are unavailable on household sizes in rural and urban areas, the rates of rural depopulation seem to indicate a reduced number of rural households in the ECE region during the next two decades
- ⁹ Israel statement to PrepCom I.
- ¹⁰ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 2
- ¹¹ Swedish National Report
- ¹² Draft national Report for Austria
- ¹³ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ¹⁴ ECE, Committee On Human Settlements: "Draft ECE Strategy For Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century", HBP/1999/4/Rev.1, 6 July 2000.
- ¹⁵ Global Report on Human Settlements 1996.
- ¹⁶ The example cited from Belgium in section 1.5 above illustrates this: It does not matter if people have equal rights if they do not know what the rights are, or how they can get access to the services to which they have a right.
- ¹⁷ Draft National Report for Austria
- ¹⁸ UNCHS (Habitat). 2000. *Strategies to Combat Homelessness*, Nairobi. pp. 46-47.
- ¹⁹ The National Report of Latvia p. 5
- ²⁰ UN ECE guideline for Land Administration with special reference to countries in economies in transition. UNECE 1995
- ²¹ ECE, Committee On Human Settlements: "Draft ECE Strategy For Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century", HBP/1999/4/Rev.1, 6 July 2000.
- ²² Russia: "Summary of the presentations made at the All-Russia Conference of Builders at the State Kremlin Place, Moscow, 26-27 May 2000".
- ²³ Draft Country Report from Slovenia and The National Report of Latvia p. 5
- ²⁴ The Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development fig Publication No 21 December 1999 in cooperation with the United Nations including the UN-ECE meeting of officials of Land Administration (MOLA). Bathurst, Australia October 1999.
- ²⁵ ECE Development Strategy on Land Administration in Kosovo by Jarmo Ratia ECE focal point on Land Administration the Balkan region. A draft report presented and discussed in the working Party on Land and Administration in Geneva on November 15-16,1999
- ²⁶ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p. 6
- ²⁷ ECE, Committee On Human Settlements: "Draft ECE Strategy For Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century", HBP/1999/4/Rev.1, 6 July 2000.
- ²⁸ Greece, Brief National Report – Istanbul +5 (February 2000).
- ²⁹ ECE — URL: "http://www.unece.org/env/hs/program.html#urban_renewal" (accessed 19 July 2000).
- ³⁰ UNCHS (Habitat) Media Briefing dated 22 June 2000: "Report shows economic recovery by cities is worsening the affordable housing shortage", citing "The Department of Housing and Urban Development's State of the Cities 2000 report".
- ³¹ Draft Country Report for Slovenia
- ³² Finland's progress report to PrepCom I.
- ³³ Draft National Report for Austria
- ³⁴ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p. 6 and 7
- ³⁵ The Newsletter of the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless FEANTSA. Issue 8 summer 2000 "Access to decent housing: it's a fundamental right."
- ³⁶ Finland's progress report to PrepCom I.

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- ³⁷ Draft National Report for Austria
- ³⁸ Slovak Republic, p. 2
- ³⁹ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ⁴⁰ Lithuania, overview of implementation of Habitat Agenda, 29 February 2000.
- ⁴¹ Housing Rights in Latvia - COHRE fact finding mission, July 2000 Newsletter
- ⁴² Turkey statement to PrepCom I.
- ⁴³ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p. 8 and 10
- ⁴⁴ Israel statement to PrepCom I and Preliminary National Report, first draft, May 2000.
- ⁴⁵ UNCHS (Habitat) Media Briefing date 22 June 2000: "Report Shows Economic Recovery by Cities is Worsening the Affordable Housing Shortage", citing "The Department of Housing and Urban Development's State of the Cities 2000 report".
- ⁴⁶ Canada's National Report p. 20 and 33
- ⁴⁷ Lithuania, overview of implementation of Habitat Agenda, 29 February 2000.
- ⁴⁸ Finland's progress report to PrepCom I.
- ⁴⁹ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ⁵⁰ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ⁵¹ Draft National Report for Austria.
- ⁵² Israel: Preliminary National Report, first draft, May 2000
- ⁵³ Lithuania, overview of implementation of Habitat Agenda, 29 February 2000.
- ⁵⁴ Russia: "Summary of the presentations made at the All-Russia Conference of Builders at the State Kremlin Place, Moscow, 26-27 May 2000".
- Lithuania, overview of implementation of Habitat Agenda, 29 February 2000.
- ⁵⁶ Russia: "Summary of the presentations made at the All-Russia Conference of Builders at the State Kremlin Place, Moscow, 26-27 May 2000".
- ⁵⁷ Slovakia Report. P.4 and 5
- ⁵⁸ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p. 9
- ⁵⁹ The National Report of Latvia p. 9
- ⁶⁰ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ⁶¹ Macedonia: National Report on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (February 2000).
- ⁶² UNCHS (Habitat). 2000. *Strategies to Combat Homelessness*, Nairobi. p. 63.
- ⁶³ Greece, Brief National Report – Istanbul
- ⁶⁴ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p. 13
- ⁶⁵ The National Report of Latvia p. 11
- ⁶⁶ French National Report, final version, April 2001
- ⁶⁷ Back on Stage 16/17, a streetworkers programme which is recognised as Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998.
- ⁶⁸ French National Report, final version, April 2001
- ⁶⁹ French National Report p. 21
- ⁷⁰ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 3
- ⁷¹ National Report of Spain
- ⁷² Finland's National Report for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, December 2000
- ⁷³ French National Report, final version, April 2001
- ⁷⁴ French National Report, final version, April 2001
- ⁷⁵ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 2
- ⁷⁶ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.12
- ⁷⁷ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.12
- ⁷⁸ Slovak Republic p. 7
- ⁷⁹ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.13
- ⁸⁰ Slovenian National Report
- ⁸¹ The National Report of Latvia p.16
- ⁸² Slovak Republic p. 16
- ⁸³ The National Report of Latvia p.17
- ⁸⁴ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.19
- ⁸⁵ National report of Spain

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- ⁸⁶ The National Report of Latvia p.20
⁸⁷ The National Report of Latvia p.21
⁸⁸ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 4
⁸⁹ Finland's National report
⁹⁰ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.23
⁹¹ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 5
⁹² National Report from Spain
⁹³ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.24
⁹⁴ The National Report of Latvia p.27
⁹⁵ The National Report of Latvia p.27
⁹⁶ Uzbekistan National Report
⁹⁷ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.28
⁹⁸ The National Report of Latvia p.30
⁹⁹ UNCHS Country Report for the UK, p. 6
¹⁰⁰ French National Report, final version, April 2001
¹⁰¹ Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.29
¹⁰² Country Report of the Republic of Croatia for Habitat, p.32