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Forty-eighth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 91 (g)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS

Colombia* and China: draft resolution

Human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 1/

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international level for the implementation of the Strategy,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the implementation of the Strategy and of Agenda 21 2/ and in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Noting with appreciation that the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre, in line with the objectives and responsibilities set out in resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements high on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding on the links between people, settlements, environment and development,

Noting with concern that, in many developing countries, the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their population, in both urban and rural areas,

Convinced that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development that is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run, and that widespread civil conflicts and wars have left many cities and villages totally destroyed,

Reaffirming the importance of resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recalling resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the views expressed by Member States regarding the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its fourteenth session; 3/

2. Concurs with resolutions 14/7 on the strengthening of regional activities and 14/19 on the role and place of the United Nations Centre for

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)), United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda, vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

3/ A/48/8 and Add.1.

Human Settlements (Habitat) in the United Nations system, adopted by the Commission on 5 May 1993; 4/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are kept under distinct and separate management in accordance with their specific mandates and activities;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to appoint as expeditiously as possible an Executive Director for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162, to provide full-time leadership to the Organization as it prepares for the challenges of human settlements development and management in the twenty-first century;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that in the restructuring of the United Nations system, the Centre is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements, and that its institutional capabilities are strengthened with financial and human resources, and developed at its headquarters, and ensure a more effective presence at the national and regional levels;

6. Requests all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute and participate actively in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

7. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

4/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.