

Finally, Mr. President, this conference has a mandate to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system which will enable the organization to participate fully, and indeed to take the lead, in extending international cooperation to the field of human settlements.

Discussions in the preparatory meetings for HABITAT have indicated wide agreement that the existing Secretariat structures require organization, through consolidation of the existing posts and resources into a single organization, one which would consist of a small, centrally-located headquarters and a number of regional units. This consolidation and redeployment of the Secretariat's resources would occur in parallel with the establishment of a central intergovernmental body and the establishment of Committees on Human Settlements in each of the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations.

Canada supports, in general, the proposals to this end that are reflected in Conference documents. We expect the conference to make a clear recommendation on this issue, and shall be offering more detailed comments and suggestions at the appropriate time.

In closing, I should like, Mr. President, once again to welcome all delegates in the name of the Government of Canada, which is honoured and pleased to be your host, and to promise you our full cooperation in making HABITAT a memorable success.