

The Preparatory Committee

1. Recalls General Assembly resolution 44/228, section I, paragraph 12, which affirmed that the environmental issues to be considered by the Conference would include, inter alia:

"(h) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, through the eradication of poverty, inter alia, by implementing integrated rural and urban development programmes, as well as taking other appropriate measures at all levels necessary to stem the degradation of the environment;

(i) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life";

2. Welcomes the report on Human Settlements by the Secretary-General of the Conference contained in document A/CONF.151/PC/43, as well as the documentation transmitted by the Commission on Human Settlements in accordance with decision 1/28 of the Preparatory Committee;

3. Recognizes that human settlements activities can considerably strengthen the development component of the Conference agenda through their contribution to employment generation, human resources development, industrial growth, and the alleviation of poverty;

4. Notes that integrated planning and management of human settlements can both satisfy growing needs for shelter, infrastructure and services and contribute to minimizing adverse environmental impacts under most of the major issues addressed in resolution 44/228;

5. Further notes that the situation of urban agglomerations in developed countries and their quality of life have generally improved in the past two decades, instances of localized deterioration being rather the exception, and aware that, on the contrary, this situation of urban agglomerations in developing countries has steadily deteriorated with most serious and manifold consequences on their populations;

6. Decides that human settlements should be treated as a distinct programme of Agenda 21, and that its programme areas should address human settlements as a substantive framework for sustainable development and that programme areas such as atmosphere, land, coastal areas, freshwater and waste management should include the human settlements dimension;