



# communiqué

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## HABITAT INSTITUTION ESTABLISHED BY UNITED NATIONS

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the General Assembly of the United Nations has established a 58-member Human Settlements Commission to carry out the recommendations for action approved by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in 1976. The Commission will be supported by a special secretariat, the Centre for Human Settlements, led by an Executive Director to be appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Although based in Nairobi, Kenya, the Centre will have officers throughout the world and most of its work will be conducted through the United Nations' regional economic commissions.

The institutional arrangements for human settlements adopted December 19 by the General Assembly are for the most part identical to those recommended by the Vancouver Conference. Vancouver asked the General Assembly to take up certain political questions that it was not constituted to resolve.

The Canadian Government, as host of the Vancouver Conference, has taken a leading role in the international negotiations which led up to Monday's General Assembly decision. The establishment of the Human Settlements Commission and the Centre for Human Settlements ensures that the momentum begun in Vancouver will be sustained. It provides for an efficient re-organization of human settlements activity within the United Nations' system and should lead to more effective international support for the national action that is urgently required in this field, especially in developing countries.