

outlining some of the details regarding this project.

The report of the ad hoc group on housing and urban development recommending the creation of a United Nations committee on housing is a most comprehensive piece of work. We attach particular interest to its emphasis on the usefulness of creating in every country a national agency for housing which could be used as a point of contact for international assistance.

My Delegation also welcomes the idea of convening a meeting of an ad hoc group of experts on community development, which will contribute to strengthening the United Nations programme in that field, as part of the development decade.

As suggested by the group of experts on social and welfare programmes, the importance of active citizen participation in the welfare field at all levels cannot be overlooked.

Within the framework of national planning there is room not only for large programmes involving extensive use of resources, but also for smaller and sometimes quite modest projects which can, and often do, have a value out of all proportion to their physical size. There is some danger that very large undertakings, if they are put into effect in the wrong place and at the wrong time, may collapse from their own weight, whereas small projects, carefully developed, can frequently be expanded stage by stage into broad programmes benefitting wide segments of the population. Whatever the approach, we feel that a cardinal rule is that no endeavour can ultimately succeed unless it is firmly rooted among the people; it must be understood by them, it must be seen to benefit them and they must be actively involved in moving it forward.

It is the view of my Delegation that a satisfactory balance must be found between the social and economic sectors