

The nations of the world must individually and collectively develop effective programs to improve the human condition. Like the members of a far flung family we must rally in mutual support, lending each other both the benefits of our individual experiences and the strength that always accompanies the recognition of bonds of the heart.

We can look with satisfaction on the quick response of the regional economic commissions of Europe and Latin America, which have already convened meetings to discuss Habitat follow-up action and have advanced proposals for regional cooperation on human settlement problems. We look forward to similar meetings in the other regions and to other world conferences which will deal with issues raised at Habitat.

The UN World Water Conference to be held in Argentina in March is a prime example. As you know, it will give effective consideration to the problems of potable water. If it can develop an international program ensuring drinkable water in all communities of the world by 1990, it will be an important step in achieving this objective established by governments at Habitat.

There can be no greater goal for mankind than improving the condition of his fellow man and there can be no greater achievement for man than having made a contribution to mankind.

But how best to implement the lessons learned at Habitat?

Shortly, a proposed general resolution on the report of the Habitat Conference will be tabled in this committee. We very much hope that this general resolution will be adopted by member states in the spirit of consensus which we believe is appropriate to a text concerned with human problems of the dimension of those discussed at Habitat. This general resolution has been drafted with such a consensus in mind.

A draft resolution on post-Habitat use of audio-visual material will also be tabled later. As you know, the audio-visual program was a unique and important part of the preparations and proceedings of the Conference. We are indebted to the UN Environment Program for the support it gave to the audio-visual program and indeed for its support for and contribution to the Conference as a whole. At the Conference, all countries agreed that the extensive audio-visual material represented an invaluable resource for education, training and public information