

Beretning om Istanbul+5
Den særlige samling af FN's generalforsamling
om menneskelig bosætning

Udenrigsministeriet
Miljøministeriet
Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet

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1. Sammenfatning og vurdering

Formålet med FN's 25. særlige samling af generalforsamlingen, der blev afholdt den 6. – 8. juni 2001 i New York, var dels at gøre status over handlingsprogrammet om menneskelig bosætning (Habitat-Agendaen og Istanbul Deklarationen), der blev vedtaget på FN's anden konference om menneskelig bosætning (Habitat II) i Istanbul i 1996, dels at foreslå tiltag, der kan fremme den videre gennemførelse af handlingsprogrammet

Samlingens hovedtemaer var ikke snævert knyttet til menneskelig bosætning eller bypolitik, men berørte et meget bredt spektrum af principielle emner, der lapper ind over andre FN-konferencer. Hovedtemaerne var menneskelig bosætning og udviklingsproblemer, herunder urbanisering, bymiljø, bæredygtig byudvikling og sammenhængen mellem land og by; demokrati, menneskerettigheder (retten til en bolig) og folkelig deltagelse, herunder decentralisering, lokale myndigheds-, NGO'ers og civilsamfundets rolle; god regeringsførelse, herunder god byforvaltning; fattigdom og mobilisering af ressourcer til videre gennemførelse af Habitat handlingsprogrammet; lighed og ligestilling mellem mænd og kvinder og bosætning i besatte områder.

Som en del af forberedelserne til FN's særlige samling havde Danmark – som de øvrige lande – udarbejdet en national statusrapport over gennemførelsen af Habitat handlingsplanen "The Danish National Report to Istanbul+5", ligesom EU havde udarbejdet en tilsvarende Booklet "Implementing the Habitat Agenda – The European Union Experience". Under den særlige samling lancerede UNCHS to "flagskibs-rapporter": "The State of the World Cities Report 2001" og "The Global Report on Human Settlements". Disse rapporter monitorer, analyserer og rapporterer om den virkelighed, som verdens urbaniserede befolkning lever i.

Den særlige samling afsluttedes med vedtagelsen af "Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium" med konsensus. Under selve samlingen lykkedes det at få forhandlet de udestående spørgsmål på plads, der bl.a. omhandlede gæld, international udviklingsbistand, kønsspørgsmål og lokal regeringsførelse, ligesom et afsnit om behovet for at overveje en styrkelse af "Commission on Human Settlements" og af "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements" (Habitat-Sekretariatet) blev tilføjet dokumentet. Forhandlingernes slutfase medførte intense uformelle konsultationer mellem amerikanerne, israelerne og araberne om to "*palæstinensiske*" tekstforslag (fremsat af Gruppen af 77). Et forslag om beskyttelse af rettigheder, demografisk sammensætning, historisk og kulturel arv i besatte territorier samt om ulovligheden i at civilbefolkning flyttes til besatte områder, og et om flygtninges ret til at vende tilbage. Forhandlingerne endte med, at de to forslag indføjedes i deklARATIONEN suppleret af en paragraf om styrkelse af indsatsen mod international terrorisme, hvormed der skabtes balance til teksterne.

Forhandlinger under samlingen ændrede ikke overordnet ved resultaterne opnået ved Istanbul Konferencen. Deklarationen fastholder på de fleste punkter linien fra Istanbul Deklarationen i 1996. På enkelte punkter, f.eks. kvinder, er den svækket en anelse, og det lykkedes ikke at skabe noget gennembrud med hensyn til en opprioritering af lokal regeringsførelse.

2. Baggrund og forberedelser

Istanbul Deklarationen og Habitat Agendaen

FN's generalforsamling vedtog i december 1998, at generalforsamlingen på en særlig samling af tre dages varighed i juni 2001 skulle gennemgå og vurdere gennemførelse af resultaterne fra FN's anden konference om menneskelig bosætning (Habitat II), der blev afholdt i Istanbul i juni 1996.

Resultaterne af Istanbul Konferencen i 1996 blev nedfældet i to slutdokumenter Istanbul Deklarationen og Habitat Agendaen, der tilsammen udgjorde handlingsprogrammet for konferencen. Handlingsprogrammet bygger på resultaterne fra tidligere FN-konferencer om temaer vedrørende bæredygtig udvikling på bosætningsområdet. Slutdokumenterne forpligter regeringerne til at gennemføre handlingsplaner på alle niveauer. Regeringerne forpligtes til at sikre passende husly for alle (hvilket bl.a. er et vigtigt element i retten til en passende levestandard), herunder juridisk sikkerhed for ejere og lejere og ligelig adgang til jord, rent drikkevand og sanitet.

Der er tale om holistiske handlingsplaner, der berører mange forskelligartede områder, herunder bæredygtig arealanvendelse, social udvikling, befolkning og bæredygtig udvikling, miljømæssige bæredygtige, sunde og hensigtsmæssige bosætninger, bæredygtig energianvendelse, bæredygtig transport og kommunikationssystemer, bevaring og restaurering af den historiske og kulturelle arv, forbedring af byøkonomien, balanceret udvikling af bosætninger i landområder og katastrofeforebyggelse, genopretning, beredskab og rehabilitering.

Handlingsplanerne udgjorde en ny tilgang til bosætningsområdet med vægt på kapacitetsfremmende politikker og partnerskaber mellem regeringer og myndigheder på alle niveauer, den private sektor m.v. for at gennemføre strategier for bæredygtig udvikling. Herved skulle nye aktører bl.a. lokale myndigheder, NGO'er, den private sektor og den videnskabelige verden formelt involveres i gennemførelsen af Habitat Agendaen. Samtidig påpeges behovet for at styrke disse partnere, for at de kan spille en effektiv rolle i planlægningen og styringen af byer og boliger, herunder decentralisering, styrkelse af lokale myndigheder, borgerdeltagelse samt informationsudveksling.

Istanbul Konferencens resultater var set fra et dansk synspunkt positive, da de prioriteter man fra dansk side havde arbejdet for i høj grad blev indarbejdet i slutdokumenterne, herunder især sikring af det fortsatte arbejde for bæredygtighed på bosætningsområdet, sikring af livskvalitet og borgerdeltagelse. Endvidere opnåedes passende afsnit i slutdokumenterne om sårbare grupper, bolig- og planlægningspolitik, respekt for menneskerettigheder, demokrati herunder oprindelige folks rettigheder, kvinder, ligestilling samt befolkningsspørgsmål. Endelig lykkedes det stort set at undgå udvanding af tekster vedtaget på tidligere FN-konferencer vedrørende bl.a. menneskerettigheder, befolkningsspørgsmål, bæredygtig udvikling m.v.

Forberedende komitémøder

I perioden fra den 8. – 12. maj 2000 blev det første substantielle møde i den forberedende komité, Prep.Com. I, afholdt i Nairobi. På det første møde drøftedes omfanget af den særlige samling af Generalforsamlingen; lokale, nationale og regionale forberedelser; lokale myndigheder, andre partnere og relevante FN organisationers rolle i processen samt forberedelse af udkast til sluterklæring. Dette møde udmundede i en anmodning til samlings sekretariat (FN's center for menneskelig bosætning i Nairobi, Kenya) om at udarbejde et sådant udkast. Bosætningscentret (UNCHS), som fungerer som sekretariat for Kommissionen for Bolig- og Bebyggelsesmiljø (CHS), og som var forberedende komité for Istanbul+5, havde forud for mødet forberedt 10 resolutionsforslag. Af disse blev seks vedtaget, herunder en resolution, om at der ved Istanbul+5 ikke skulle være mulighed for at genforhandle slutdokumenterne.

I perioden fra den 19. til den 23. februar 2001 blev der afholdt det andet substantielle møde i den forberedende komité, Prep.Com. II. Det andet møde foregik i plenum, en komité (committee of the whole), og i en redaktionsgruppe (drafting committee), hertil kom diverse arbejdsgrupper. Forud for mødet havde UNCHS' eksekutivdirektør udarbejdet udkast til en deklARATION om "Byer og andre menneskelige bosætninger i det ny årtusinde" på baggrund af møder afholdt i mellemtiden på det regionale plan, i ekspertgrupper, imellem FN-organisationer og imellem Habitat-partnere. Herudover havde de faste repræsentanters komité (CPR) forberedt udkast til resolution om "Organisering af FN's særlige generalforsamling Istanbul+5".

Der blev opnået enighed om størstedelen af teksten til en politiske deklARATION, dog udestod en række "skarpe parenteser" vedrørende god regeringsførelse, international bistand, decentralisering og kvinders rettigheder til at eje og arve ejendom. Det lykkedes at opretholde en paragraf i deklARATIONEN om FN's særlige menneskerettighedsrapportør vedr. retten til en bolig. Dette punkt mødte ligesom i 1996 kraftig modstand fra USA, der på sigt frygter et sagsanlæg fra USA's hjemløse. Det besluttedes endvidere at oprette en tematisk komité med virke under den særlige samling til drøftelse af udvalgte nationale erfaringer med implementering af Habitat Agendaen.

Forhandlingsklimaet under Prep.Com.II var i flere perioder ikke videre konstruktivt, og flere delegationer udtrykte frygt for, at resultaterne af Istanbul+5 ville blive ringere end Istanbul konferencens resultater. Bl.a. gav et radikalt skift i USA's holdning til familiespørgsmål, religion og samspil med NGO'er og lokale myndigheder anledning til bekymring, ligesom Vatikanstaten, Iran, Egypten, Brasilien og Polen i vid udstrækning modarbejdede EU-positioner. Kina indtog en mere moderat holdning sammenlignet med det første møde i den forberedende komité. Det svenske EU-formandskab gjorde en solid indsats også under de til tider vanskelige forhandlingssituationer. Der var et godt sammenhold i EU-kredsen, og flere lande, herunder Danmark, gav formandskabet god støtte under forhandlingerne. Møderne i vestgruppen (WEOG) var konstruktive, især delegationerne fra Norge og Canada støttede EU.

Spørgsmålet om lokale myndigheders og NGO'ers deltagelse blev i redaktionskomitéen genstand for en langvarig diskussion, som blokerede Prep. Com.II's arbejde i timevis gennem

flere dage. Diskussionen var foranlediget af et krav fra USA, som støttet af Kina ønskede at udelukke repræsentanter for lokale myndigheder og NGO'erne fra deltagelse i redaktionsgruppen. EU, Canada, Norge m.fl. anførte, at dette ville være et brud med praksis fra såvel Prep.Com.I som Istanbul-konferencen.

På den baggrund blev der indhentet en udtalelse fra FN's juridiske afdeling i New York, som blev fortolket således, at repræsentanter for lokale myndigheder og NGO'er blev begrænset i deres deltagelse i forhold til tidligere praksis. Lokale myndigheder og NGO'er kunne således kun deltage som observatører i redaktionskomitémøderne, såfremt disse var offentlige, og endvidere fik de lokale myndigheder – kun i begrænset omfang - adgang til at tage ordet. Under den efterfølgende drøftelse på Prep.Com. II blev der fra mange af de tilstedeværende delegationer – herunder EU, Norge, Canada og New Zealand – udtrykt beklagelse over den ændrede praksis, som man ikke håbede ville danne præcedens for drøftelserne i andre Prep.Com.s for kommende særlige samlinger af FN's generalforsamling.

3. Danmarks og EU's målsætninger i forhandlingerne

Danske målsætninger i forberedelserne

Danmarks politik, tiltag og prioriteringer vedrørende Habitat handlingsplanen berører mange ministerier, lokale myndigheder og NGO'er og er beskrevet i den danske nationalrapport til Istanbul+5.

Forhandlingerne forud for og under den særlige samling drejede sig, som det er angivet ovenfor, overvejende om generelle FN-spørgsmål som civilsamfund, demokrati, borgerdeltagelse, menneskerettigheder og ligestilling og bl.a. pga. forhandlingsklimaet i betydelig mindre grad om specifikke politikker og principper vedrørende menneskelig bosætning.

De danske målsætninger i forhandlingerne koncentrerede sig derfor om de større principielle sager og fremme af danske mærkesager vedr. bæredygtig udvikling (herunder sammenhæng med Rio+10 processen, Agenda 21 og Erklæringen fra Årtusindetopmødet), bymiljø, sammenhængen mellem land og by, decentralisering, civilsamfundets rolle, god regeringsførelse, fattigdomsorientering og kvinders rettigheder. Endvidere har man fra dansk side arbejdet for at undgå en genforhandling af slutdokumenterne fra Istanbul Konferencen i 1996 med henblik på at undgå tilbageskridt i forhold til de dér opnåede resultater. Endelig var det en dansk målsætning at fastholde resultaterne fra de vigtigste verdenskonferencer, herunder Årtusindetopmødet.

Den nationale arbejdsgruppe

Til at bistå med forberedelserne til Danmarks deltagelse i den særlige samling og de forberedende komitémøder nedsattes en national arbejdsgruppe under ledelse af Udenrigsministeriet og med deltagelse af Miljø- og Energiministeriet, By- og Boligministeriet samt institutioner og NGO'er inden for bosætningsområdet. Arbejdsgruppens opgaver har omfattet udarbejdelse af baggrundsmateriale og bidrag til instruktion for den danske delegation til Istanbul+5, herunder materiale om den danske opfølgning på Istanbulkonferencen samt medvirke til udformningen

af den nationale statusrapport, gennemgang af den af FN udarbejdede dokumentation til Istanbul+5, herunder drøftelse af, hvilke områder der fra dansk side særligt skulle fokuseres på under den særlige FN-samling og møderne til forberedelse heraf. Arbejdsgruppen mødtes fem gange i løbet af forberedelseprocessen.

På arbejdsgruppens femte og sidste møde den 23. maj 2001 drøftedes de emner, der burde indgå i forhandlingsgrundlaget for den danske delegation til den særlige samling, og på hvilken baggrund der efterfølgende blev udarbejdet instruktion til den danske delegation. Arbejdsgruppen lagde vægt på at fortsætte det tætte EU-samarbejde i forhandlinger og herigennem fremme de ovennævnte danske mærkesager. Skulle der – mod danske ønsker - ske en genåbning af forhandlingsresultatet fra Istanbulkonference i 1996, anbefalede arbejdsgruppen at arbejde for indarbejdelse af nye tekster vedrørende bæredygtig transport og en mere fremtrædende henvisning til civilsamfundets rolle.

Hvad angår det danske indlæg ved den særlige samling, anbefalede arbejdsgruppen fire emner: Integreret byudvikling, bæredygtig byudvikling, decentralisering og en mere effektiv monitoring af opfølgning (f.eks. genbruge indikatorer fra Rio-processen). For samtlige fire emner ville det være muligt at henvise til udvikling i Danmark siden 1996 og samtidig drage paralleller til den betydelige danske udviklingsbistand. Arbejdsgruppen fandt, at talen uden at være belærende kunne opfordre udviklingslandene til at gøre en indsats for decentralisering og integreret bæredygtig byudvikling og samtidig nævne, at Danmark også kan lære af udviklingslandene. Dette var på linie med den danske nationalrapport, der søger at give et helhedsindtryk af udviklingen i Danmark med fremhævelse af både gode og dårlige erfaringer.

Nordisk koordination

De nordiske lande havde i vid udstrækning sammenfaldende målsætninger for opfølgningen af Istanbul Konferencen. Der har været et godt nordisk samarbejde – ikke mindst vedrørende sikring af kvinders rettigheder. Der har været holdt nordiske koordinationmøder i Nairobi og to gange i Oslo. Sverige havde EU-formandskabet under Prep.Com. II og Istanbul+5 og gjorde som ovenfor nævnt en stor indsats for at skabe fremdrift i forhandlingerne under Prep.Com.II.

EU-koordination og EU-målsætninger for slutdokumentet

Det er langt overvejende gennem EU-samarbejdet, at Danmark har haft mulighed for at fremme sine prioriteter. Der har været afholdt et stort antal EU-koordinationsmøder i Bryssel forud for de forberedende møder. EU-koordinationen har været præget af de mange forskellige ministerier, der indgår i arbejdet med Habitat. Fra dansk side har der været en god indbyrdes koordinering gennem arbejdet i den nationale arbejdsgruppen under Udenrigsministeriets ledelse og med deltagelse af By- og Boligministeriet, Miljø- og Energiministeriet samt en række repræsentanter for NGO'er og civilsamfundet. Danmark har bl.a på den baggrund kunnet spille en konstruktiv rolle i EU-koordination og har bidraget til, at EU kan fremstå med stærke, velformulerede og klare positioner på de for Danmark væsentligste områder.

Under Prep.Com. II var Danmark - efter aftale med det svenske EU-formandskab – ledende i EU-gruppens forhandlinger med G77, Kina, Iran og USA om konkrete tekstbidrag, der placerede de danske mærkesager i deklARATIONsteksten og skulle medvirke til at sikre, at der ikke skete tilbageskridt bl.a. i relation til kvinders rettigheder, ligesom det er lykkedes at få indført en acceptabel tekst vedrørende de øvrige nævnte prioriteter.

EU udarbejdede i februar 2001 en liste over de prioriteter, som EU-landene var enige om at fremme i slutdokumentet, ligesom der udarbejdedes en liste over emner, EU ikke ønskede skulle indgå i den politiske deklARATION. Danmark fik betydelig indflydelse på denne prioritering. Alle danske mærkesager kom til at indgå i EU-prioriteterne, og det kan f.eks. nævnes, at punktet vedr. hensyn til handicappede blev medtaget efter finsk og dansk ønske. Punkterne blev ikke indbyrdes prioriteret af EU-gruppen men opdelt i nedenstående fire grupper:

EU-prioriteter, som i forhandlingerne ville møde stærk modstand:	EU-prioriteter, som i forhandlingerne <u>ikke ville møde stærk modstand:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ decentralisering og styrkelse af lokale myndigheder, ▪ god regeringsførelse, ▪ dialog med andre partnere incl. civilsamfundet, ▪ fattigdomsbekæmpelse, ligestilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bæredygtig byforvaltning, ▪ 0,7 pct. af GNP som mål for udviklingsbistand, ▪ koordination, link til Rio+10 og andre FN-konferencer, ▪ sikkerhed for en passende bolig, ▪ forbindelsen mellem by- og land, ▪ information/oplysning og politisk vilje, ▪ forbindelsen til miljø/sundhed/sikkerhed, ▪ særligt udsatte grupper (unge, handicappede, parlamentarikere, etniske grupper), monitorering og evaluering
<p>Øvrige EU-prioriteter, der kunne komme ind under ovennævnte prioriteter:</p>	
<p>social udstødning, transport, bæredygtigt forbrug, boligpolitik, livskvalitet, beskæftigelse, befolkning og kulturarv</p>	
<p>Emner, som EU <u>ikke ønskede medtaget i slutdokumentet:</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ genforhandling af Habitat handlingsplanen, ▪ at man kun giver de udviklede lande skylden for manglende gennemførelse, ▪ at ændre mandatet for Habitat (UNCHS) substantielt 	

4. Organisation

Som forberedelse til den særlige samling af Generalforsamlingen har der i Kommissionen for Bolig- og Bebyggelsesmiljø (CHS), der fungerede som forberedende komité for den særlige samling, været afholdt tre møder. Et organisatorisk møde fandt sted i Nairobi, Kenya, i maj 1999, hvor følgende bureau for den forberedende komité valgtes: formand German Garcia-Duran (Colombia), vice-formænd Manfred Konukiewicz (Tyskland), Andrzej Olszowska (Polen) og Cheikh Sadibou (Senegal), samt Alizea Esmaeilzadeh (Iran) som rapporteur. Endvidere afholdtes to substantielle møder i den forberedende komité, henholdsvis i maj 2000 og februar 2001 i Nairobi, Kenya (omtalt ovenfor).

Foruden de forberedende komitémøder har der været afholdt en række regionale møder, ekspertgruppemøder og møder imellem FN-organisationer og imellem Habitat-partnere.

På selve den særlige samling den 6. til 8. juni 2001 i New York deltog 151 af FN's 189 medlemsstater, heraf to på stats- eller regeringslederniveau, foruden 21 deltagere fra FN-observatører, Habitat-partnere og FN-organisationer. Ved samlingens begyndelse valgtes samme bureau som for den forberedende komité til at præsidere over samlingen.

Under samlingen var der i plenum indlæg fra to vicepræsidenter, 70 ministre, 20 viceministre, 53 delegationsledere, 11 regeringsrepræsentanter, fem intergovernmentale organisationer, 12 NGO'er og to eksekutivdirektører for FN-organisationer, UNCHS og UNEP.

I uformelle konsultationer behandledes sideløbende hermed de resterende udestående paragraffer i sluterklæringen, samt to nye paragraffer foreslået af Gruppen af 77 (G-77) (på vegne af palæstinenserne) angående ulovlig bosættelse og retten til tilbagevenden.

I den tematiske komité hørtes over fire temaer erfaringer fra følgende lande: 1) Bolig og ydelser: Sydafrika, Egypten, Colombia, Senegal og Indien; 2) Miljøstyring: Tanzania, Sverige, Kina, Polen; 3) Lokalstyre: Brasilien, Frankrig, Nigeria, Spanien; 4) Fattigdomsudryddelse: Thailand, Peru og Marokko. Komitéens generelle konklusioner vedlagt som bilag V. Som formand for den tematiske komité valgtes Slaheddine Belaid (Tunesien).

UNCHS lancerede to "flagskibs-rapporter": "The State of the World Cities Report 2001" og "The Global Report on Human Settlements". Disse rapporter monitorer, analyserer og rapporterer om de realiteter som verdens urbaniserede befolkning må forholde sig til.

Foruden ovennævnte møder gennemførtes 50 specielarrangementer under den særlige samling organiseret af Habitatpartnere (NGO'er, FN-organisationer, intergovernmentale organisationer, den private sektor og civilsamfundet).

Forhandlingerne af slutdokumentet afsluttedes på samlingens sidste dag, lørdag morgen den 9. juni 2001 klokken 7 med konsensusvedtagelse af "Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium" (bilag I).

Den danske delegation lededes af Danmarks faste repræsentant ved FN, Ambassadør Ellen Margrethe Løj, med Direktør Niels Østergaard, Landsplanafdelingen, Miljø- og Energiministeriet, som stedfortræder. Fuldstændig liste over den danske delegation er optrykt som bilag VI.

5. Generaldebatten i Plenum

I FN-generalsekretær Kofi Annans åbningstale (bilag II) understregedes, i lyset af, at Annan erklærede dette årtusinde for det Urbane Årtusinde, især tre kerneaspekter for en succesfuld implementering af Habitat Agendaen: partnerskaber, lokalstyre og uopsigelighed ("secure tenure"). Endvidere påpegede generalsekretæren, at menneskelig bosættelse ofte bliver overset i

forbindelse med social og økonomisk udvikling, men at det ikke desto mindre er essentielt herfor.

Herefter valgtes German Garcia-Duran (Colombia), der fungerede som formand for den forberedende komité, til formand for den særlige samling. Han gjorde i sit indlæg rede for det forberedende forløb op til samlingen.

Eksekutivdirektør for FN's center for menneskelig bosætning (UNCHS), Anna Tibaijuka, opfordrede i sit indlæg til at integrere Habitat Agendaen i alle dens aspekter i det internationale samfunds dagsorden, for at opnå fremskridt for de 25 pct. af verdens befolkning, der stadig er uden fyldestgørende bolig, idet tilvejebringelse af bolig er en fundamental forudsætning for effektiv fattigdomsbekæmpelse. Endvidere knyttede Tibaijuka an til målet om fyldestgørende bolig for 100 millioner slumbeboere inden år 2020 i Erklæringen fra Årtusindetopmødet.

Herefter blev der afgivet nationale indlæg om status for implementering af Habitat Agendaen. Under indlæggene fremkom forslag til forbedrede strategier for opnåelse af målene "Adequate Shelter for All" og "Sustainable Human Settlements Development". Deltagerne bekræftede deres forpligtelser i henhold til Habitat Agendaen men påpegede samtidigt behovet for mere effektive og innovative metoder, især for så vidt angår en indsnævring af kløften mellem politikformulering og implementering. Mange delegationer understreede behovet for decentralisering, mere balanceret regional udvikling, fremme af nærdemokrati og udnyttelse af potentielle privat-offentlige partnerskaber. Andre centrale emner var en styrkelse af Habitat Agendaens fattigdomsorientering, fremme af ligestilling og en styrkelse af civilsamfundets rolle.

I EU-indlægget, afgivet af den svenske boligminister Lars-Erik Lövdén (bilag IV), understregedes EU's forpligtelse i forhold til Habitat Agendaen, og vigtigheden af bæredygtig udvikling fremhævedes. Endvidere blev integration af kønsspørgsmålet i alle aspekter, lokalstyre og bred deltagelse i beslutningsprocesser af alle relevante aktører betonet.

Iran betonedede i sit indlæg på vegne af Gruppen af 77 og Kina identifikation af erfaringer indhentet i forbindelse med implementering af Habitat Agendaen. Herudover omtaltes spørgsmålet om bosættelse i besatte områder (Palæstina) og behovet for mobilisering af ressourcer til implementering af Habitat Agendaen, såvel internationalt som nationalt.

I det ganske positive amerikanske indlæg anførte boligminister Mel Martinez, Boligministeriet (Department of Housing), at følgende fire punkter var essentielle for en succesfuld boligpolitik: Ejerskab af bolig, adgang til kredit, lokalstyre og et stærkt juridisk system.

Mere kritisk var det indiske indlæg i debatten, der kredsede om fundamentale, strukturelle uligheder i det internationale system, der hæmmer implementeringen af Habitat Agendaen i udviklingslande.

I det danske indlæg (bilag III), der blev afgivet af Danmarks faste repræsentant ved FN, ambassadør Ellen Margrethe Løj, fremhævedes behovet for international solidaritet med henblik

på implementering af Habitat Agendaen. I denne sammenhæng påpegedes, at Danmarks udviklingsbistand i øjeblikket udgør 1 pct. af BNP, og at der arbejdes på at øge denne med endnu en halv procent øremærket til særlige miljø- og katastrofeaktiviteter. Kodeordene for den danske opfølgning på Istanbul Konferencen var borgerdeltagelse, partnerskab, transparens, lokalt ejerskab og socialt ansvar, hvilket summeredes i begrebet godt lokalt selvstyre ("Good urban governance").

6. Vigtige aktører og skillelinier i forhandlingerne

Generelle betragtninger

Som nævnt blev der under prep.com II i Nairobi i februar 2001 opnået enighed om størstedelen af teksten i udkastet til den politiske deklaration. Der resterede dog otte "skarpe parenteser", som udgjorde udgangspunktet og omdrejningspunktet for forhandlingerne under den særlige samling i New York. Herudover var forhandlingerne koncentreret om udarbejdelse af en "chapeau" til selve deklarationsteksten, samt et forslag fra G-77, der, med henvisning til både Habitat Agendaens kapitel II artikel 25 og Erklæringen fra Årtusindetopmødet, ønskede at få indarbejdet to nye paragraffer om bosætning i besatte territorier. Specielt G-77's forslag om tekst til to nye paragraffer i deklarationen gav anledning til lange og hårde forhandlinger.

Skillelinierne og klimaet under forhandlingerne vekslede alt afhængig af punkterne på dagsordenen, ligesom aktørerne tilsvarende grupperede sig forskelligt. Generelt kan man dog sige, at EU og Canada forsøgte at indtage en pragmatisk og forhandlende rolle. G-77 og lande som USA, Kina, Israel og Norge var derimod mere fastlåste i forhandlingspositionen i relation til deres enkelte mærkesager.

Endvidere var dele af forhandlingerne – specielt i relation til spørgsmålene om kvinders rettigheder, god regeringsførelse og decentralisering – præget af en latent Nord-Syd konflikt. Dette blev særligt markant under de ofte hårde diskussioner om kvinders ret til at arve og eje fast ejendom, hvor Pakistan påpegede, at kolonitiden var forbi, og at Vestens ideer og idealer ikke nødvendigvis har værdi i andre lande.

Chapeau

Det svenske formandskab havde forud for samlingen i New York taget initiativ til, at der skulle udarbejdes en chapeau til den politiske deklaration, først og fremmest med henblik på at lave en formæssig forbedring af teksten. Generelt var der en positiv holdning til en chapeau i EU gruppen - dog havde både Danmark og Tyskland advaret om, at en chapeau i sig selv kunne give anledning til en genforhandling af selve deklarationen.

For at undgå en markant EU-dominans under forhandlingerne, ønskede man ikke fra EU's side at fremlægge forslaget som et EU-initiativ. Man havde derfor inden forhandlingerne i New York kontaktet præsidenten for den særlige samling, som dog havde afvist at fremlægge et tekstforslag forberedt af EU-formandskabet. Forslaget om udarbejdelse af en chapeau blev derfor formuleret som et non-paper.

Under forhandlingerne støttede Norge EU-formandskabets initiativ og fremsatte forslag om, at de paragraffer i deklaraionsudkastet, der omhandlede en mere generel opbakning til arbejdet med at implementere Habitat Agendaen (§§ 1, 48, 44, 29), blev løftet ud af selve deklaraionsteksten og samlet som en chapeau. Der blev imidlertid opnået enighed om at støtte et forslag fra formanden for the Committee of the Whole om, at kun § 1, hvor regeringerne fortsat forpligter sig til fuldt ud at implementere Istanbul Deklarationen og Habitat Agendaen, løftes op i deklaraionens chapeau.

Nationale og regionale Istanbul +5 rapporter og eksekutivdirektørens rapport (§ 7)

I § 8 i deklaraionsudkastet fremhæves og anerkendes dels nationalrapporterne, dels eksekutivdirektørens overordnede reviewrapport vedrørende implementering af Habitat Agendaen. I eksekutivdirektørens "review"-rapport fremsættes en meget direkte kritik af korruption i mange udviklingslande, og G-77 ønskede derfor at få indarbejdet en fodnote, hvor det fremhæves, at formuleringen 'take note of ...' ikke har nogen forpligtende karakter. Under forhandlingerne blev der opnået enighed om, at teksten bevares stort set i den oprindelige formulering, men med en ny fodnote om, at de omtalte rapporter udelukkende skal betragtes som informationsdokumenter.

God regeringsførelse, urban governance og decentralisering (§§ 23, 38 og 50)

Allerede under Prep.Com. II i Nairobi udgjorde god regeringsførelse, byledelse (urban governance) og decentralisering væsentlige konfliktpunkter. Ved FN's særlige samling i New York var forhandlingerne – og de fortsatte konfliktpunkter – især koncentreret om god regeringsførelse (defineret som transparente og enkle beslutningsprocesser) på alle niveauer, etablering af et inter-governmentalt forum, der udarbejder vejledende retningslinier for "local self-government" og endelig en anerkendelse af, at god regeringsførelse på alle niveauer og "urban governance" udgør centrale forudsætninger for at kunne imødegå blandt andet fattigdom.

Formuleringerne mødte stor modstand fra gruppen af "G-77 + Kina", der påpegede, at der dermed blev åbnet op international indblanding i indre anliggender. Derimod deltog USA, der i Nairobi støttede G-77 og Kina på disse punkter, ikke aktivt i denne del af forhandlingerne. Der blev opnået enighed om at støtte EU's kompromisforslag om, at den del af deklaraionsteksten, der vedrører "inter-governmentalt forum" og vejledende retningslinier for "local self-government" tages ud, og at der i stedet indsættes en ny passus om, at dialogen om effektiv decentralisering og styrkelse af lokale myndigheder intensiveres – og hvor det er muligt via the CHS. Endvidere blev der opnået enighed om, at formuleringerne om god regeringsførelse på alle niveauer, samt "urban governance" udgår af deklaraionsteksten.

Bekæmpelse af fattigdom og "World Solidarity Fund" (§§ 32 og 35)

Under forhandlingerne blev de dele af deklaraionsudkastet, der vedrører etablering af "World Solidarity Fund", der oprindeligt blev indarbejdet i udkastet efter anmodning fra G-77, fattigdomsbekæmpelse og støtte til udviklingslandene, blødt lidt op og gjort mindre bindende i formuleringerne. EU var generelt positive overfor etableringen af "World Solidarity Fund", men ønskede ikke, at forpligte sig på "World Solidarity Fund", som man i anden sammenhæng har rådet FN's Generalforsamling til at opgive.

Der blev opnået enighed om, at der så vidt muligt fortsat skal arbejdes på at finde løsninger på udviklingslandenes eksterne gældsbyrde, ligesom de lande, der endnu ikke opfylder målet om at yde 0,7 pct. af BNP i udviklingsbistand, opfordres til at styrke deres indsats. Der blev endvidere opnået enighed om, at der inden for rammen af 0,7 pct. af BNP – og såfremt der opnås enighed derom - øremærkes mellem 0,15 og 0,20 pct. af BNP til de mindst udviklede lande. Og endelig blev man enige om en formulering, hvor man hilser FN-generalsekretærens nuværende opklarende forhandlinger om etablering af "World Solidarity Fund" velkommen.

Kvindes rettigheder (§ 43)

Drøftelserne af spørgsmålet om ligestilling mellem mænd og kvinder, og herunder især kvinders ret til at eje og arve fast ejendom, var præget af et hårdt forhandlingsklima mellem på den ene side G-77 og på den anden side Norge.

Norge ønskede at få indarbejdet en klar formulering om, at man tilstræber at fjerne lovgivningsmæssige og sociale barrierer for kvinders ret til dels at arve og eje fast ejendom, dels at indgå kontrakter. G-77 ønskede derimod en langt mindre konkret og bindende formulering, og hvor blandt andet hensynet til national lovgivning fremhæves i deklARATIONsteksten. Under forhandlingerne forsøgte EU og Canada at udarbejde et kompromis, der kunne tilgodeses såvel G-77 som Norge. Endvidere fik Norge støtte i sine synspunkter fra Sydafrika og Uganda. Det lykkedes imidlertid ikke at skabe kompromis mellem G-77 og Norge, og man blev enige om at fjerne den del af teksten, der vedrørende kvinders ret til at arve og eje fast ejendom, og som stod i skarpe parenteser efter Nairobi.

UNCHS (§ 66)

Formanden fik tilslutning til sit forslag om, at der i deklARATIONsteksten indarbejdes en tilføjelse om, at der er behov for at overveje at styrke status, funktion og mandat for henholdsvis the Commission on Human Settlements og UNCHS (Habitat).

Bosætning i besatte territorier (§§ 55-57)

G-77 fremsatte på den første dag for de uformelle konsultationer to forslag om nye paragraffer i deklARATIONEN. Et forslag hvorefter regeringerne beslutter sig for at fortsætte bestræbelserne på at beskytte rettigheder, demografisk sammensætning, historisk og kulturel arv i besatte territorier, samt understreger ulovligheden i, at civilbefolkning flyttes til besatte områder, og et om flygtninges ret til at vende tilbage. Tekstforslagene havde klar adresse til den aktuelle israelsk-palæstinensiske konflikt, og Israel og USA ville derfor ikke indgå i en forhandling om de nye tekstforslag. EU, der først og fremmest ønskede, at man skulle undgå en situation, hvor der skulle stemmes om deklARATIONEN, forholdt sig neutral i denne del af forhandlingerne. I EU-gruppen var der enighed om, at såfremt det kom til en afstemning om G-77's forslag, ville EU-landene undlade at stemme, hvorimod EU-landene ville stemme ja, hvis hele deklARATIONEN kom til afstemning.

Efter langvarige bilaterale forhandlinger med de implicerede parter, lykkedes det FN Generalforsamlingens præsident, Harri Holkeri, at få skabt et kompromis, hvor G-77's forslag blev

indarbejdet, men med en tekst der har langt mindre skarpe formuleringer. Samtidig blev der opnået enighed om at indarbejde en ny paragraf i teksten, hvor en styrket indsats mod international terrorisme fremhæves som afgørende i relation til implementeringen af Habitat Agendaen. Med kompromiset blev der dermed skabt en politisk balance i deklARATIONEN, som alle kunne tilslutte sig.

7. Konferencens resultater og sluddokumentet

FN's særlige samling 'Istanbul +5' sluttede som nævnt med konsusvedtagelse af dokumentet 'Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millenium'. Dermed bekræftede regeringsrepræsentanterne deres vilje og forpligtelse til fuldt ud at implementere Istanbul Deklarationen og Habitat Agendaen og vedtog yderligere initiativer i tråd med intentionerne i Erklæringen fra Årtusindetopmødet. Deklarationen anerkender UNCHS' arbejde og organisationens to globale kampagner "The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure" og "The Global Campaign on Urban Governance". Deklarationen bekræfter også UNCHS og CHS opgaver i forbindelse med advokering, fremme, monitorering og vurdering af fremskridt i implementeringen af målene for "Adequate Shelter for All" og "Sustainable Human Settlements Devevelopment".

Via de nationale statusrapporter blev det fastslået, at medlemslandene allerede havde taget en række håndgribelige skridt henimod implementeringen af Istanbul Deklarationen og Habitat Agendaen. Civilsamfundet, parlamentarikere, lokale myndigheder, kvinde- og ungdomsgrupper, den private sektor og andre aktører har spillet en vigtig rolle i denne henseende, ligesom de aktivt har medvirket i forberedelsesprocessen forud for den særlige samling.

De afsluttende forhandlinger under den særlige samling ændrede ikke overordnet ved resultaterne opnået ved Istanbul Konferencen i 1996. Den politiske deklARATIONEN fastholder på de fleste punkter linien fra Istanbul Konferencen i 1996, herunder inddragelse af civilsamfund og andre Habitat partnere, decentralisering og målsætningen om at landene tilstræber 0,7 pct. af BNP i udviklingsbistand. For så vidt angår spørgsmålene om kvinders rettigheder, samt god regeringsførelse på alle niveauer og byledelse, der udgjorde to af EU's – og dermed Danmarks - mærkesager, blev der tale om en svækkelse i den endelige deklARATIONEN.

Deklarationen omfatter endvidere på formandens foranledning en tilføjelse om behovet for at overveje en styrkelse af "Commission on Human Settlements" og af "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements" (Habitat-Sekretariatet). Tilføjelsen afspejler et ønske om at give UNCHS en mere formel status som ECOSOC-organ, men teksten angiver imidlertid ikke, hvorledes dette skal ske. Forhandlingerne om de to palæstinensiske ændringsforslag (fremsat af G-77) om bosættelser og om flygtninges ret til at vende tilbage endte med, at de blev indføjet i deklARATIONEN suppleret med en paragraf om en styrket indsats mod international terrorisme, hvormed der skabtes balance til teksterne om bosættelser og retten til tilbagevenden.

Sluddokumentet blev relativt langt, detaljeret og mindre politisk slagkraftigt end EU-formandskabet havde ønsket.

8. Bilag

I. Slutdokumentet

DECLARATION ON CITIES AND OTHER HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

We, the representatives of Governments, being guided by the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, meeting at this special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to recognize progress, and to identify obstacles and emerging issues, reaffirm our will and commitment to implement fully the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda and decide on further initiatives, in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration. The Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda will remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlements development in the years to come.

Therefore, we

A. Renewing the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

1. Reaffirm that human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development and that they are the basis for our actions in implementing the Habitat Agenda.
2. Wish to stress that this is a special moment in the development of human settlements, when half of the world's six billion people will be living in cities and the world is facing unprecedented growth of urban population, mainly in the developing world. The decisions we make now will have far-reaching consequences. We note with great concern that one out of four of the world's urban population is living below the poverty line. In many cities, confronted with rapid growth, environmental problems and the slow pace of economic development, it has not been possible to meet the challenges of generating sufficient employment, providing adequate housing and meeting the basic needs of the citizens.
3. Re-emphasize that rural and urban areas are economically, socially and environmentally interdependent, and that cities and towns are engines of growth contributing to the development of both rural and urban human settlements. Half of the world's inhabitants live in rural settlements, and, in Africa and Asia, the population in the rural areas represents a majority. Integrated physical planning and balanced attention to rural and urban living conditions are of crucial importance for all nations. Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages between rural and urban areas, by giving appropriate attention to their different economic, social and environmental requirements. While addressing urban poverty, it is also essential to eradicate rural poverty and to improve living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements and small and medium-sized cities and towns in rural areas.
4. Reconfirm our determination to address at all levels the deteriorating environmental conditions that threaten the health and quality of life of billions of people. Some activities at the local level that degrade the environment have implications at the global level and need to be addressed in the context of human settlements.
5. Reconfirm the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, as set out in the Habitat Agenda,¹ which form the basis of our commitments.
6. Renew and reaffirm our commitments in the Habitat Agenda concerning adequate shelter for all, sustainable human settlements, enablement and participation, gender equality, financing shelter and human settlements, international cooperation, and assessing progress.

B. Welcoming progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda

7. Commend the efforts by all levels of government, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and Habitat Agenda partners as well as those by the Executive Director of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and welcome the progress made thus far towards implementation of the Habitat Agenda. We note with appreciation the national and regional reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda² and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/S-25/3), taking into account the specific priorities and objectives of each region, and in conformity with the legal framework and national policies of each country.

8. Welcome the decision by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session that the Special Rapporteur whose mandate will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living should, as a part of his mandate, develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of collaboration with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international organizations in the field of housing rights, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, and make recommendations on the realization of the rights relevant to the mandate.

9. Also take note with satisfaction of the growing awareness of the need to address in an integrated manner poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of basic services, exclusion of women and of children and marginalized groups, including indigenous communities, and social fragmentation in order to achieve better, more liveable and inclusive human settlements worldwide. Governments, international organizations and members of civil society have made continuous efforts to address these problems.

10. Take note of the development of integrated and participatory approaches to urban environmental planning and management in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard we welcome the support provided by many Governments to mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among interested parties to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives.

11. Welcome the increasing economic role of cities and towns in our globalizing world and the progress made in forging public-private partnerships and strengthening small and microenterprises. Cities and towns hold the potential to maximize the benefits and to offset the negative consequences of globalization. Well-managed cities can provide an economic environment capable of generating employment opportunities as well as offering a diversity of goods and services.

12. Welcome the efforts made so far by many developing countries in effecting decentralization in the management of cities as a means of strengthening the operation of the local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

13. Also welcome the contributions of national and other Governments, which have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through their laws, policies and programmes.

14. Appreciate the important contribution made by local authorities worldwide in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through concerted efforts and strengthened partnerships between Governments at all levels, resulting in the improved condition of human settlements, including improved urban governance. Broad-based participation in decision-making, together with accountability, simplicity of procedures and transparency, is imperative to prevent corruption and to promote public interests. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the increased priority given to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to the principles of good governance at all levels.

15. Recognize the important work done by the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. At the same time, we encourage them to continue promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

16. Recognize that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and express our appreciation for its contributions to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly.

C. Recognizing gaps and obstacles

17. Take note with great concern of the current conditions of human settlements worldwide especially as documented in the third Global Report on Human Settlements. Although Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners have continued efforts to fulfil their commitments, widespread poverty remains the core obstacle and environmental conditions need significant improvement in many countries. Critically, the majority of people living in poverty still lack legal security of tenure for their dwellings, while others lack even basic shelter. Thus, serious impediments to sustainable human settlements development still persist.

18. Note with concern that one of the basic obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is the discrepancy between commitments made at Istanbul and the political will to fulfil them. We also acknowledge the gaps in both public information and awareness-raising as impediments.

19. Recognize that serious financial constraints give rise to acute problems of adequate shelter, housing and human settlements in countries which receive an influx of refugees resulting from ongoing conflicts, human-made and natural disasters and other calamities taking place in neighbouring countries.

20. Acknowledge the gaps in shelter and urban policies that have limited the opportunities for participation and partnership and have made it difficult to convert best practices into good policies. We are also deeply concerned that many women still do not participate fully on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, while at the same time suffering to a greater extent the effects of poverty.

21. Also acknowledge the fact that the urbanization process in the world has resulted in metropolitan concentrations that extend over the administrative boundaries of the original cities, expand over two or more administrative units, have local authorities with different capacities and priorities, and suffer an absence of coordination.

22. Recognize major obstacles that prevent the efficient functioning of land and housing markets to ensure an adequate supply of shelter. Actions recommended in paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda have not been fully implemented.

23. Have identified considerable obstacles associated with limited economic, technological and institutional capacities at all levels of government, particularly in the developing and the least developed countries. We recognize the absence of comprehensive and inclusive policies for capacity-building institutions and their networking.

24. Have also identified economic policies and financial market constraints at all levels that have prevented the mobilization of adequate resources to meet many countries' sustainable human settlements needs.

25. Recognize that domestic resource mobilization as well as sound national policies are crucial for financing shelter and human settlements. Although Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, international support is likewise essential. We regret that international cooperation in shelter and human settlements development has not been enhanced significantly since 1996, which is a growing cause for concern. We also regret that many countries have been unable to make sufficient use of market mechanisms in support of their financial needs for shelter and human settlements development.

26. Further resolve to take concerted action against international terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

27. Recognize that the consequences of these gaps and obstacles are serious: for the first time in human history a majority of the world's six billion people will live in cities. Many people have experienced a deterioration, not an improvement, in their living environment. The gaps and obstacles encountered in the past five years have slowed down global progress towards sustainable human settlements development. It

is essential that actions are taken to ensure that the Habitat Agenda is now translated into policy and into practice in every country.

D. Taking further actions

28. The representatives of Governments, affirm our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in implementing the Habitat Agenda, especially poverty, which we consider to be the major underlying factor, and to strengthening and safeguarding national and international enabling environments, and to this end pledge to accelerate our efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Determined to give new momentum to our efforts to improve the human settlements condition, we here set out further initiatives for achieving those ends. At the start of the new millennium, aware of our responsibilities toward future generations, we are strongly committed to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in a urbanizing world. We invite people from all countries and from all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join in renewed dedication to our shared vision for a more just and equitable world.

29. Reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter, and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood.³

30. Resolve in the framework inter alia of a poverty eradication strategy to encourage social and economic policies that are designed to meet the housing needs of families and their individual members, with particular attention to the care of children.⁴

31. Also resolve to promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and other practices relating to gender in order to eliminate all obstacles to human dignity and equality in family and society and to promote full and equal participation of women and men, inter alia, in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes.⁵

32. Invite Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen the quality and consistency of their support to poverty eradication and sustainable human settlements development, in particular to the least developed countries. This in turn requires not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at both the national and international levels. We urge the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief.

33. Emphasize that the international community should consider further measures, as appropriate, that would lead to durable solutions to the external debt burden of developing countries.

34. In this connection, express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and call upon developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target of 0.7 per cent as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product for the least developed countries.

35. Request the international community to strongly support poverty eradication, and welcome the ongoing consultations by the Secretary-General on the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication to finance and realize, inter alia, the social policies and programmes of the Habitat Agenda to address challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions.

36. Resolve to raise awareness about human settlements challenges and solutions through full and open dissemination of information and commit ourselves to renew and foster political will at all levels.
37. Also resolve to empower the poor and vulnerable, inter alia through promoting greater security of tenure and enabling better access to information and good practices, including awareness of legal rights. We aim to develop specific policies for overcoming growing urban poverty.
38. Further resolve to empower local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development. This can be achieved through effective decentralization, where appropriate, of responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authority and sufficient resources, where possible including revenue-collection authority to local authorities, through participation and local democracy as well as through international cooperation and partnerships. In particular, the effective role of women in decision-making in local authorities should be ensured, if necessary through appropriate mechanisms. In this context we agree to intensify our dialogue, where possible, including, inter alia, through the Commission on Human Settlements on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country.
39. Encourage authorities within metropolitan areas to develop mechanisms and to foster, as appropriate, legal, financial, administrative, planning and coordination instruments in order to achieve more equitable, ordered and functional cities.
40. Resolve to build capacities and networks to enable all partners to play an effective role in shelter and human settlements development. The management of urbanization processes requires strong and accountable public institutions able to provide an effective framework in which everybody has access to basic services. Capacity-building needs to be directed towards, inter alia, supporting decentralization and participatory urban management processes. We also pledge to strengthen the institutions and legal frameworks that assist and allow broad-based participation in decision-making and in the implementation of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes.
41. Acknowledge, value and support volunteer work and the work of community-based organizations. Voluntary practices offer an important contribution to the development of human settlements, as they help to build strong, cohesive communities, as well as to develop a sense of social solidarity, generating in the process significant economic outputs.
42. Are committed to improving prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response capacities with the contribution of national and international cooperation networks, in order to reduce the vulnerability of human settlements to natural and human-made disasters and to implement effective post-disaster programmes for the affected human settlements, aimed, inter alia, at meeting immediate needs, reducing future disaster risks and making rebuilt human settlements accessible for all.
43. Commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development and we resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty and to stimulate the development of human settlements that are truly sustainable. We further commit ourselves to formulating and strengthening policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making.
44. Also commit ourselves to strengthening existing financial mechanisms and identifying and developing appropriate innovative approaches for financing shelter and human settlements development at all levels. Furthermore, we resolve to continue to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, as well as ensuring their right to security of tenure and to enter into contractual agreements. We resolve to promote increased and equal access for all people to open, efficient, effective and appropriate housing finance, to support savings mechanisms in the informal sector, where appropriate, and to strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks and financial management capacity at all appropriate levels.

45. Resolve to promote the upgrading of slums and regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, we reiterate the aim of the Cities without Slums initiatives to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
46. Affirm that, in the interest of affordable housing for the poor, it is necessary to promote cooperation among countries for popularizing the use of adequate low-cost and sustainable building materials and appropriate technology for the construction of adequate low-cost houses and services within the reach of the poor, especially in slums and unplanned settlements.
47. Resolve to intensify efforts to include countries with economies in transition in the system of multi-lateral cooperation in sustainable development of human settlements, by developing the support for these countries to determine an adequate level of decentralization in the governance of urban and rural human settlements. We reiterate our commitment to involve in these efforts the United Nations financial institutions, international and national foundations, the private sector and other partners of the Habitat Agenda.
48. Take note with satisfaction of the ongoing housing policy formulation by many countries. We resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms needed to support the efforts of people, individually and collectively, to produce affordable shelter, to adopt proactive planning of land supply, to promote the efficient functioning of land markets and administration, to eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land and to ensure that the equal rights of women and men to land and property are protected under the law. In implementing the above, we acknowledge the need for vigorously promoting affordable shelter and basic services for the homeless, preventing forced evictions that are contrary to the law and facilitating access of all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups, to information on housing legislation, including any legal rights, and to remedies where these laws are violated. In this connection, we note with appreciation and support the initial approach and activities of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure.
49. See the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as an integral part of the overall fight for the eradication of poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the pursuit of sustainable development are intimately linked and interdependent, and human settlements development is a key factor for sustainable development. The World Summit for Sustainable Development to be held at in Johannesburg in 2002 provides a good opportunity to further pursue and intensify this relationship.
50. Resolve to intensify efforts for ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements. We recognize that good governance, within each country and at the international level is essential to addressing the challenge of urban poverty as well as the challenge of environmental degradation and to harnessing the potential opportunities offered by globalization. Cities need specific approaches and methodologies to improve governance, to plan and act strategically in order to reduce urban poverty and social exclusion and to improve the economic and social status of all citizens and protect the environment in a sustainable way. In connection with this, we note the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods through education and training, particularly for the poor and vulnerable groups.
51. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has developed in a much faster and much more dramatic way than could have been foreseen at Istanbul. We resolve to intensify efforts at the international and national levels against HIV/AIDS and in particular to formulate and implement appropriate policies and actions to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on human settlements. We recognize the problem of accessing financial resources for housing by HIV/AIDS victims and the need for shelter solutions for accommodating HIV/AIDS victims, especially the orphans and the terminally ill.
52. Resolve to intensify efforts to enhance the role of youth and civil society, and to increase cooperation with parliamentarians in human settlements development.
53. Also resolve to promote more determined action against urban crime and violence, particularly violence against women, children and the elderly, through a coordinated response at all levels, in accordance, as appropriate, with integrated crime prevention action plans. These plans might include a diagnostic survey of crime phenomena, the identification of all the relevant actors in crime prevention and the fight against crime, the establishment of consultation mechanisms for the design of a coherent strategy and the elaboration of possible solutions to these problems.

54. Further resolve to seriously address the challenges posed by wars, conflicts, refugees and human-made disasters on human settlements, and commit ourselves through enhanced international cooperation mechanisms to support post-conflict and post-disaster countries, with special emphasis on the provision of shelter and other basic services, particularly to vulnerable groups, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as to facilitate restoring security of tenure and property rights.
55. Resolve to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as obstacles to the realization of the rights of the peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, that are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated.
56. Also resolve to expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in conformity with international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, including article 49 thereof.
57. Resolve to strengthen international cooperation, including the burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity, and to be smoothly reintegrated in their societies.
58. Resolve to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport which is integrated and accessible to all, including people with disabilities. To this end, we need to promote transparent and accountable management of public services as well as partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of these services.
59. Commit ourselves to intensifying efforts for improving sustainable environmental planning and management practices, and for promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns in human settlements in all countries, in particular in industrialized countries. Integrated approaches addressing social, economic and environmental issues should be taken more systematically at all levels. Agenda 21 and the local Agenda 21 initiatives provide important inputs to this process.
60. Reiterate the need to integrate the local Agenda 21 process, as mentioned above, in the global plan of action for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The aims, policies and strategies of both agendas should be harmonized in order to promote sustainable urban planning and management.
61. Also reiterate that Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners should regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances, and in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda Governments at all levels should identify and disseminate best practices and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators. To this end, we need to strengthen the capacity among all Habitat Agenda partners to handle and analyse information as well as to communicate with each other.
62. A further goal is to translate best practices into policies and permit their replication. In this respect, the international community should ensure the effective formatting and dissemination of proven best practices and policies.
63. Recognizing that those living in poverty are in fact rich in innovative faculties and the importance of microcredit in eradicating poverty and improving human settlements, and following success stories of some countries in this field, we encourage Governments, within their legal framework, and both national and international financial institutions to strengthen the institutional frameworks by which it would be possible to extend microcredit to those living in poverty, particularly the women, without collateral or security.
64. Reiterate that international cooperation takes on added significance and importance in the light of recent trends towards the increased globalization and interdependence of the world economy. There is a need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level, including among cities, to inspire, encourage and strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership, coordination at all levels and increased investment from all sources, including the private sector, in order to contribute effectively to the improvement of shelter conditions, especially in developing countries. In this regard we also resolve to pay particular attention to cities and other human settlements in critical natural environments such as arid and semi-arid areas with the purpose of providing assistance and support for their development.

65. Reconfirm the role of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in advocating, promoting, monitoring and assessing progress made in implementing the goals of adequate shelter for all through providing legal security of tenure and sustainable human settlements development in all countries and in combining best practices, enabling policies, and compiling legislation and action plans for identifying illustrative cities for the two global campaigns and further advancing the normative⁶ debate and operational action on major human settlements issues, inter alia, by timely and regular publication of global flagship reports. We also support the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System, designed to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

66. Reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation as an essential element to implement the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, we invite the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and function of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council and decisions of the Habitat II Conference.⁷

67. Agree to regularly review further implementation of the Habitat Agenda with a view to assessing progress and considering new initiatives.

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 25.

² These reports have been provided to the special session as information documents.

³ *Ibid.*, para. 31.

⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 40 (k).

⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 119 (e).

⁶ The term "norm" refers to generally accepted standards, guidelines or principles, and should not be understood to imply that they are intended to be implemented through binding legal instruments.

⁷ General Assembly resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council

II. Åbningstale ved generalsekretær Kofi Annan

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESS TO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA NEW YORK, 6 JUNE 2001

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, whose fifth anniversary we mark with this Special Session, was not an isolated event. It was an integral part of the series of landmark conferences held by the United Nations during the 1990s. Though each conference had its own specific topic, they were all related to one another and to one over-arching aim: to give men, women and children, in cities and villages around the world, the chance to share in the wealth and opportunities of our times.

The world is in the midst of a historic and radical transformation, not only in how people live, but in where they live. A majority of the world's people are now city-dwellers, and the rapid increase in urbanization is expected to continue, with most of it coming in the developing countries. Cities have always been crossroads of peoples and ideas, and great founts of culture and innovation.

Today, urban areas are the major driving forces of development and globalization. But with the shift to cities, many of society's inequities and ills are also becoming more and more urban. Two thirds of the cities in the developing world do not have their waste-water treated. In countries with economies in transition, 75 per cent of solid waste is disposed in open dumps. And everywhere, we see stark contrasts:

- gritty slums and gleaming skyscrapers side-by-side in unplanned urban sprawl;
- conspicuous consumption alongside great pyramids of waste that threaten the environment and human health;
- and growing gaps between housing costs and housing supply, and between housing costs
- and the salaries offered by labour markets.
-

At the same time, we must not forget the needs of rural settlements and communities. After all, in developing countries the rapid rate of urbanization is caused mostly by past failures in rural development. Of the more than 1.2 billion global poor, three quarters live in rural areas. If humanity is to have a sustainable future, we must improve the lives of the poor everywhere. The Istanbul conference was an attempt to show that, with proper guidance, urbanization can be a positive force for the reduction of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development. Five years along the path of implementing the Habitat Agenda, a few points stand out.

One is the importance of partnership. Two thirds of the world's cities have established new public-private partnerships in the last five years. Most countries have adapted housing and other policies to reflect internationally agreed principles. Such steps are not the work of States alone. Local authorities, NGOs, women's organizations and other civil society groups made enormous contributions. They spread the word, and they mobilized people and lobbied for change.

A second key point is urban governance. This is a precondition for economic efficiency and effective administration. A healthy society is one that gives all its members a chance to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Improved urban governance therefore implies greater democracy and strengthened local authorities. In particular, we must strengthen the role of women and ensure that all decision-makers, male and female, address the issues that affect women, who are the unsung heroes of poor urban areas.

A third-very important issue facing tens of millions of urban families is the lack of secure tenure. In some cases, people have houses but lack titles to those homes, and live in fear of arbitrary forced eviction. Others are engaged in business activities but lack licenses to operate them. This absence of legal protection and support often leads to the enlargement of the informal sector, allowing people to put food on the table but inhibiting the ability of people to raise capital, attract investment and receive water and other basic services. We must reduce this insecurity, and build up the legal and other infrastructures on which stable communities depend. Action in this area has the potential to create considerable wealth and provide a major route out of poverty.

Mr. President,

The world's cities face a long list of common challenges, which means that rich and poor nations should be able to find common ground. But progress will not happen without leadership. That is where you come in: you, the ministers and mayors responsible for urban policy; you, NGOs, women's groups and others in civil society. All of you, in your own way, are leaders who must answer to the inhabitants of the world's slums, favelas, barrios, ghettos, shantytowns and squatter settlements.

Shelter is an often neglected aspect of economic and social development. Our challenge at this Special Session is to create lasting momentum for action on housing issues. If this session does its work well, you will agree on measures needed to implement not only the Habitat Agenda, but also the Millennium Declaration, in which the world's leaders pledged to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. You also have an opportunity to contribute to next year's World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The world has entered the urban millennium. Let us rise to its many challenges. I wish you a very stimulating and productive session. Thank you very much.

III. Dansk indlæg i plenum ved ambassadør Ellen Margrethe Løj

**STATEMENT
BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR ELLEN MARGRETHE LØJ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED
NATIONS
AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON HABITAT II
NEW YORK, JUNE 6, 2001**

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen,

1. I would like to express the sincere hope of the Government of Denmark that this special session will be an Istanbul plus five and not an Istanbul minus five. The visionary partnership spirit of the Istanbul Conference with the participation of all Habitat partners should be maintained so that we can reconfirm our commitments from the Habitat Agenda.

Mr. President,

A large number of poor people live under unacceptable conditions in slum dwellings and in homelessness. City environments are deteriorating rapidly, and pollution is often out of control. Positive interplay between rural and urban areas is a precondition for sustainable development.

2. Thus the developed countries must show more solidarity with the developing countries. The industrialised countries must develop a much more rational and effective use of resources and join forces with the developing countries to combat poverty and improve human living conditions. Increased ODA is indispensable if we are serious about reaching these ambitious targets.

3. The Danish official development assistance to the poorest developing countries is at one per cent of the Danish GNP. In addition we move towards earmarking an extra half percent of the Danish GNP for special environmental and emergency activities. This enables us to assist low and middle income countries in improving the environment. One target area is industry and urban areas.

4. Partnership between governments and civil society is a keyword in Danish development assistance. The overall objective for Danish development assistance is to promote sustainable development through poverty reduction focusing on 3 elements. 1) broad economic growth; 2) expansion of social sectors, and 3) good governance. Respect for individual rights and incorporation of both men and women in democratic decision-making processes constitute objectives in their own right but are also means for establishing sustainable societies.

Mr. President,

5. The main responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda rests with the individual countries. It involves all actors and requires the concerted efforts at all levels, especially the local level. As part of a revision of the Danish Planning Act in the spring of 2000, work on Agenda 21 has become compulsory. All municipalities and counties must present an account of their Local Agenda 21 strategies at least once every four years. In our urban policy we seek a bottom-up approach with priority to local participation.

6. The Danish Government has under the theme "Development with care - a common responsibility" launched a proposal for Denmark's Sustainable Development Strategy. The core issue is how to deal with the dilemma of maintaining a high level of welfare and employment. And at the same time to break the link between economic growth and the negative impact on the environment and natural resources.

7. One overall objective of Danish urban policy is to ensure that cities remain centres for growth and development in society as such. A key part herein is to combat urban segregation, which constitutes a major barrier to an integrated and sustainable urban development. By this we wish to combat social exclusion at the housing market. In the city as well as in society in general.

8. Keywords in the Danish follow-up on the Habitat Agenda are quality through participation, partnership, transparency, local ownership and social responsibility. Physical and urban planning must be carried out in collaboration with the beneficiaries- the people. In this context, I would like to highlight three important issues for urban development: Integrated development, sustainable development and decentralisation. In short: Good Urban Governance.

Mr. President,

9. The international conferences should complement each other. The Habitat review process should therefore draw upon the work being carried out in other conferences. One example is to use the results and common indicators from the Cairo conference on population and development, when it comes to questions related to population growth. Another is to draw upon the Copenhagen Plan of Action from the Social Summit in relation to urban poverty.

Mr. President,

10. Denmark pledges to continue its efforts to promote sustainable human settlements and to work for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

IV. EU-indlæg ved den svenske boligminister Lars-Erik Lovden

**STATEMENT
BY
H.E. MR. LARS-ERIK LOVDEN,
SWEDISH MINISTER OF HOUSING,
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
6 JUNE 2001**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Eastern and Central European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, as well as the EFTA country, member of the EEA, Iceland, align themselves with this statement. I am pleased to take the floor on this crucial meeting regarding the review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda.

Aware of the fact that five years is a short period, we have gathered to critically assess how we have tackled all the challenges that are implicit in the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda, and how, in our future action, we will deal with these. The world's people in urban and rural areas, especially those living in poverty, are dependent upon us to fulfil the commitments of Istanbul.

Mr Chairman,

We all know that urbanisation is a complex phenomenon affecting all parts of the world, and one which raises fundamental political issues that must be addressed in order to achieve an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society. The challenge, therefore, is by no means a purely technical one. It is about empowering people and creating decent and healthy living conditions. It is about achieving social equity and an environmentally sound future. We need to develop adequate services, facilities, transport and other types of social infrastructure as well as integrated spatial planning, which take into account the important connections between urban and rural areas. These are important political challenges that we, Ministers charged with human settlements issues, face and have to meet. Key to success is good governance - the promotion of transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of towns, cities and metropolitan areas.

Mr Chairman,

The inheritance of the Istanbul conference calls for a more decisive approach and a strategic mobilisation of political will, to ensure the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the future. In order to make our commitments clear and decisive, we must raise awareness about human settlements challenges and give this special session a powerful, visionary and political message, that our endeavour to improve the living conditions for all, especially those living in poverty, slums and the homeless, will result in concrete actions, not just in words.

As emphasised in the Habitat Agenda, sustainable development of cities and other human settlements is fundamental to economic growth, social and cultural progress and environmental protection. Bearing this in mind, it is worrying to note that the concentration of poverty, homelessness and slums is increasingly associated with the growth of the world's urban population. The right to adequate shelter for all is far from realised, even in developed countries. The question of combating social exclusion is specifically mentioned in the EU Treaty of Amsterdam, and dealt with in several meetings between European Heads of States and Governments. We must do our utmost to promote enabling approaches for people with limited resources to house themselves, as well as to increase financial resources for low income housing, including transparent and financially sustainable subsidies.

Mainstreaming gender perspective in human settlements is crucial in order to achieve a full implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Special efforts must be made to counteract discrimination against women, especially in respect of their security of tenure and their individual right to own property.

Making globalisation work more effectively for those living in poverty is of course a moral imperative for governments, the private sector and civil society alike in both North and South. The primary responsibility for sustainable development and eradication of poverty lies with the national governments. As agreed in the Millennium declaration, the international community has a joint responsibility to achieve, by 2015, the international development target of reducing by half the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day, as well as to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative. To this end the EU urges that efforts should be strengthened towards the fulfilment of the agreed ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

The EU believes that concrete actions should be considered while we continue to fulfil our commitments from Istanbul. For instance, we should spare no efforts to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services.

Mr Chairman,

We sincerely believe that local authorities are essential to further implement the Habitat Agenda. They are the closest partners to citizens, historically linked with the fulfilment of their basic needs. An increasing co-operation, based on agreed principles, between all levels of government, is therefore required.

In this regard we should, in accordance with national legislation, strengthen the capacities of local governments, in particular their financial capacities. We should also devolve responsibility and transfer financial resources to local governments to promote linked coherent actions, specifically to promote provision of land, adequate infrastructure and basic services. Furthermore we should encourage investment in local development and partnerships to increase livelihood opportunities and improve the quality of life for all citizens, especially those living in poverty

The Habitat Agenda cannot be fully implemented without an inclusive co-operation between all Habitat partners. The co-operation between governments, NGOs and representatives from local authorities and the private sector is of particular importance in order to promote a participatory

citizenship. We also need to address the need of adopting more sustainable production and consumption patterns.

We welcome the fact that the General Assembly last autumn so clearly decided that the Habitat partners will be able to participate in our deliberations at this special session. We warmly welcome the participation of the Habitat partners here in the Plenary, in the Committee of the Whole as well as in the Thematic Committee.

Mr Chairman,

Given the crucial role that cities and other human settlements have to play in sustainable development, the outcome of Istanbul +5 will be an important contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Rio +10, in Johannesburg in 2002. The Habitat Agenda offers valuable tools for the handling of many of the issues of Agenda 21. It is, therefore, of utmost importance to reflect on how we best can build on the existing fundamental links between the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21.

Mr Chairman,

This Special Session gives the international community an important opportunity to express its political will to identify and endorse ways of realising a better world with adequate shelter for all and sustainable development of human settlements. These are political challenges that we, Ministers charged with human settlements issues, have a responsibility for in our pursuit of peace, justice and democracy through economic, cultural, social and environmental development. The EU is committed to continue to actively work for achieving these important intentions, and, Mr Chairman, we are happy to invite you to take part of the description of EU measures and intentions in connection with the Habitat Agenda that is described in a booklet that will be distributed.

Thank you for your attention.

V. Den tematiske komités konklusioner

THEMATIC COMMITTEE 8 JUNE 2001

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the issues and observations below were highlighted:

- (a) From the experiences presented, it is clear that the Habitat Agenda is indeed being implemented in many parts of the world.
- (b) Local authorities have a very important role in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and need to be strengthened.
- (c) The emergence of partnerships in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda has been one of the most significant developments since Habitat II.
- (d) It is important not to sideline cultural dimensions in the implementation of human settlements projects, even though globalization forces appear to be moving towards greater standardization of approaches and methods. There is much useful knowledge in indigenous ways of doing things and this should not be lost.
- (e) The architectural and physical-morphological dimensions of human settlements programmes and projects appear to have been neglected in recent years and need to receive greater emphasis.
- (f) Some of the concepts used in recent years tend to be too ambiguous and have not been supported by thorough scientific or systematic analysis. Some of them are ideologically motivated and not culturally neutral.
- (g) The cases presented have shown that there are many similarities in the problems and dilemmas facing different countries, developed and developing, such as the need to rehabilitate historical city centres, resettlement of households from disaster-prone areas and slum upgrading.
- (h) The Thematic Committee format is certainly a very good and innovative way of sharing substantive experiences and should be adopted as a standard format of similar United Nations meetings in future, including Rio + 10.
- (i) Poverty reduction requires that the poor be seen as "subjects" rather than "objects", be agents for their own betterment and contribute in a significant way to structural change. Poverty is fundamentally a structural problem and its solution requires structural change.

(j) There is a need to ensure that training institutions receive enough support in order to enable them to produce professionals with relevant knowledge and skills.

(k) Reducing poverty requires sharing responsibility by all in society, including the poor and this responsibility should be integrated with rights. Rights and responsibility are two sides of the same coin.

(l) The cases presented have shown that there are still many problems concerning vertical coordination between different levels of government, and horizontally between actors at the same level.

(m) Policies should not try to resist the dynamism of urban growth, for this is a constant and the appropriate response should be continual innovation that enables us to deal with change.

(n) The role of transport in linking cities and other settlements needs greater emphasis. The Habitat Agenda clearly recognizes this but, from the cases presented, it appears that this has not been sufficiently addressed.

(o) Most of the cases presented have demonstrated the crucial roles of vision, leadership, commitment and long-term strategic planning in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

(p) International assistance in human settlements development programmes and projects is important, but developing world problems cannot be eliminated through aid. It is important to mobilize local resources, financial and human, and to balance these against international resources.

(q) South-south cooperation has been highlighted by some of the cases and presented as a powerful tool for sharing information, transferring technology and initiating change.

(r) Evaluation of projects funded by international donors should adopt a process-oriented approach rather than an output oriented one. Sustainable success requires change of processes and in projects, this is more important than immediate material gains.

(s) The replicability of many of the projects presented is very high, and some have already demonstrated this potential. So the sharing of knowledge through the Thematic Committee is very useful and should be replicated in other review processes (such as Rio+10).

VI. Den danske delegations sammensætning

Repræsentanter

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