

MFN HRDU 471

POST GRADUATE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (PGC),  
 KATHOLIEKE UNVIERSITEIT LEUVEN (KUL) AND  
 UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR  
 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - HABITAT (UNCHS)  
 FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP ON HOUSING.

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**TITLE** : HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING  
 IN EASTERN AFRICA.  
 Kenyan and Tanzanian Experiences.

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## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

1. Human Settlement problems, particularly in developing countries, have attracted international, regional and national concern and co-operation with a view to provide solutions to the extremely serious conditions in urban and rural areas.
2. At the international level, Habitat : United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver in June 1976 outlined the Declaration of Principles and Recommendations for National Action (1) in the following six main human settlements subject areas:-
  - (a) Settlement policies and strategies,
  - (b) Settlement planning,
  - (c) Shelter, infrastructure and services,
  - (d) Land,
  - (e) Public participation, and
  - (f) Institutions and management.

The General Assembly resolution 32/162 of December 1977 - further gave mandate to establish the UN Centre for Human Settlements - UNCHS (also referred to as the Habitat Centre). The functions of this Centre, which has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, are outlined in the UN Secretary-General's Bulletin of October 1978. (2)

It is, however, important to point out that the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Vancouver Recommendations is that of the member states concerned, while the role of the U.N. system is that of providing assistance to Government's in formulating policies and programmes and in implementing them. The Habitat Centre (UNCHS) forms the major organisation to co-ordinate in providing such assistance to governments of member states in terms of technical co-operation; research, development and training; and documentary information.

3. At the African regional level, the UN regional economic commission, i.e. the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), is responsible for the promotion of regional and sub-regional co-operation among member states for the implementation of the Vancouver Recommendations. Having received the mandate from the General Assembly resolution 32/162, human settlements is one of the 14 programmes of the ECA and is presently being carried out by the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the ECA/UNIDO Industry Division as the Secretariat Unit. In October 1978, the Regional Commission on Human Settlements re-affirmed the commission resolution 316 (XIII) of March 1977 to establish the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and a unit to service it within the ECA Secretariate. The ECA activities are presently related to all the six subject areas of the Habitat Conference and are further expected to increase and strengthen as a result of the

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(1) A/CONF. 70/15, Vancouver, June 1976.

(2) ST/SGB/168, Secretary-General's Bulletin, October 1978.