


Fall 1976

The role of the U.N. family in the planning and development of human settlements

E. Paul Mwaluko

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalscholarship.bjmlspa.tsu.edu/rbjpa>

 Part of the [Environmental Policy Commons](#), [Other Political Science Commons](#), [Public Affairs Commons](#), [Urban Studies Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mwaluko, E. Paul (1976) "The role of the U.N. family in the planning and development of human settlements," *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 5.

Available at: <http://digitalscholarship.bjmlspa.tsu.edu/rbjpa/vol1/iss1/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs - Digital Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs by an authorized administrator of Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs - Digital Scholarship. For more information, please contact rodriguezam@TSU.EDU.

Mwaluko: The role of the U.N. family in the planning and development of hu

El Paul Mwaluko

THE ROLE OF THE U.N. FAMILY IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The theme of the Seminar "Achievement of Global Peace and Welfare through Planning and Development of Human Settlements and Promotion of Urban and Regional Planning" is of special interest to me and my colleagues and the seminar is most timely when the world attention is being attracted to the acute problems of human settlements as evidenced by the decision to proclaim 29 February 1976 as "Human Settlements Day" and the convening of Habitat — U.N. Conference on Human Settlements to take place in Vancouver Canada from 31 May to 11 June 1976.

The recent decision of the University to establish a special Chair in the honour and memory of late Dr. Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, was most thoughtful as a tribute to one great man who utilized all his skills and energies for the betterment of mankind and for the search for peace in the world.

Whether spending sleepless nights while struggling for civil rights in America or negotiating peace in the Middle East or advising the U.N. Secretary General in New York on crucial issues faced by the Organization, Dr. Ralph Bunche gave more contribution to mankind than one would expect of a single human being. The torch that he lit at the United Nations must be carried on because some of the problems he tackled are still with us and must be faced in a realistic manner since, as Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the U.N., noted in a recent speech to the University of Denver's Social Science Foundation: "The excessive hopes placed in the United Nations by its founders, who met after World War II, convinced they had found a "magical new formula" to end all global conflicts led to equally excessive disillusionment." The Secretary General went on: "The public face of the United Nations represents the turmoil and uncertainty of our world and the frustrations and difficulties which governments have in finding their way in that world."

The constant search for peace is the constant search for social harmony within nations and among nations. For this purpose, we must address a host of global problems — the gap between rich and poor nations, food, environment, population, raw materials, the future of the oceans and human settlements, the subject on which I would like to elaborate in more details and I would like here to express my thanks for providing me with the opportunity to share with you some of the problems and prospects of planning in the development of human settlements particularly in developing countries of the world.

Since some of you might not be very familiar with the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, of which I have the privilege

of being its Director, I would like to mention briefly and in general terms the role and activities of the Centre in the United Nations system.

The Centre is the principal unit in the United Nations system dealing directly with the physical, social and economic problems of housing and urban development. By virtue of the United Nations' overriding concern with the problems of developing countries, the Centre's operations are primarily directed toward assisting countries so designated, with particular emphasis on the low-income groups in those areas.

In a general sense it can be said that the Centre's overall objective is to promote the improvement of physical conditions in human settlements, particularly with respect to: individual dwellings; the organization of neighbourhoods, towns and regional groupings; and the systems and institutions required to provide and maintain safe sanitary and comfortable human settlements.

The Centre for Housing, Building and Planning plays a major role in the formulation and coordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements as well as a catalytic role in their implementation.

Over the years the Centre has brought together experts in different related disciplines from different parts of the world and has harmonized their ideas and tried them in many countries; further refined these ideas till an identifiable point of view, a philosophy of human settlements has emerged and gained currency in professional circles. This has become possible because the Centre has dealt not merely with housing or building or physical planning, or with their economic or social or environmental aspects, but with the totality of human life in space, as it concerns man's immediate self-made environment.

The scientific knowledge, techniques and operations required for the development of human settlements constitute an integrated entity of interdependent disciplines and practices. The fact that the application of these disciplines and practices has far reaching developmental as well as environmental consequences may give rise to the misunderstanding that this sector falls exclusively within the context of development or of the environment. The Centre has always acted on the understanding that its operation must conform to the requirements of both. These activities are a recognizable entity within developmental, environmental, aesthetic and other areas of life, and at the same time constitute a system of interdependent disciplines and practices.

The activities of the Centre are mutually supportive and complementary to each other. They encompass social, economic, physical, institutional and technical components of the development of human settlements. They are directed toward the needs and priorities of Member States, particularly the developing countries, for the formulation of strategies, policies and programmes relating to the planning, development and management of human settlements. The activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning are the following:

1. Technical Co-operation

The Centre is responsible for projects in housing, building, urban and regional planning under the United Nations Development Programme, and as such is the substantive unit serving the Office of Technical Co-operation.

As Governments are giving more and more attention to the problems of planned development of human settlement, the number of requests for technical assistance in this field, has risen steadily in cost from \$3.1 million in 1969 to \$5.9 million in 1972, an increase of about 100 per cent in four years. The total provision in UNDP country programmes for the five-year period 1972-76 is approximately \$25 million.

Together with growth in monetary terms, the technical assistance projects have become more comprehensive and complex over the years. Whereas, 10 years ago, most projects were relatively small in scale and focused on limited, or in fact, isolated problems, the recent trend is for projects to become larger, multi-disciplinary and comprehensive in scope. This reflects the growing recognition on the part of developing countries that housing, building and urban problems in general cannot be dealt with effectively sectorally nor within the geographical confines of a city.

In its technical co-operation activities, the Centre not only responds to the felt needs of Governments, but also assists in initiating proposals for grasping opportunities which would otherwise be lost.

Many of the projects for which the Centre provides substantive support, particularly the planning studies, are of a pre-investment type and have an investment follow-up potential. These studies are more specifically directed to identifying potential capital investment sources and relating them to components of the plan which they could appropriately finance. On several current projects, a direct relationship with the IBRD has been established. This close working relationship is to ensure that the investment recommendations of technical assistance operations will directly feed into the IBRD project appraisal proceedings. This planning/financing linkage within the United Nations system is complemented by the efforts being made to project findings to bilateral funding possibilities.

The Centre foresees an expanded role in the integration of sectoral development programmes and as an intermediary between Governments and the international funding agencies, which increasingly rely on the Centre for capital investment proposals in the urban areas of developing countries.

2. Pilot and demonstration projects

The Centre's research and technical co-operation components are brought together in a concerted assistance effort to test and demonstrate effective development practices and strategies for critical problem areas, and particularly for problems resulting from rural-urban migration, rural underdevelopment and uncontrolled urban growth in the

most rapidly urbanizing countries. The Centre prepares guidelines for these projects; investigates the needs and potential resources for their operational and research support by the United Nations family and other bodies; and provides guidance for United Nations technical assistance to Member States in planning, implementing and evaluating pilot and demonstration projects in the field of housing, building and planning.

The most significant work being done in this type of activity relates to the pilot programme for the improvement of slums and squatter settlements where the aim is to establish "practical pilot programmes through a simultaneous attack on the social, economic and physical conditions" of slums and uncontrolled settlements.

The complex nature of the subjects of these projects requires close coordination of the Centre's sectoral activities with those of a wide range of United Nations and other agencies activities in related sectors, in order to help establish a comprehensive development strategy for these problem areas. In this regard, the consultative arrangements established between the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and UNICEF are most significant in the provision of advice and technical support in the development of assistance measures for children in urban slums and squatter settlements. Close cooperation in this field also exists between the Centre and the World Bank, and in a few instances the World Food Programme.

Some of the noteworthy examples of pilot projects are the following: A pilot Housing Project was carried out in Central America with the purpose of evaluating possible improved designs, standards and building techniques that could reduce costs and be used in future housing projects in those countries. Four hundred and thirty two dwelling units were successfully completed in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

In Ivory Coast, three rural settlements built for displaced populations were undertaken as pilot projects under a comprehensive plan for the improvement of rural living conditions in that country. A total of 578 dwellings and 3,000 square meters of community facilities were completed when the last village of Kossou was occupied this past year.

A multinational demonstration project on rural housing, community facilities and related services was organized in Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago to demonstrate practical ways of designing and building rural housing settlements within a comprehensive framework encompassing social, economic, physical and administrative aspects. Each building site included 200-250 dwelling units with adequate provision of water supply, electrification, education and employment opportunities.

A most recent example is the Experimental Housing Project in Lima, Peru. It is organized by the Government of Peru with the assistance of the United Nations and consists of 4 pilot projects: 1) a new neighborhood of 2,000 families based upon high density, low-rise development; b) housing

and urban rehabilitation of sub-standard housing for 350 families; c) improved self-help building methods for urban areas involving 200 low-income families; and d) a low-cost earthquake resistant self-help housing scheme with 240 units.

3. Analysis and evaluation of world problems and trends in housing, building and planning

This activity of the Centre concerns housing, building and planning problems throughout the world, and entails the building up of a systematically maintained body of information and analysis concerning them. The scope and variety of these activities can be gauged by the previous and current work programmes of the Centre and by the list of publications put out by the Centre.

The work undertaken in connection with various projects in the Centre's work programme benefits from and contributes to this continuing activity. For instance, (i) the monitoring of migration patterns and their effect on settlement networks, (ii) the survey of rent control policies, (iii) the survey of local governments in the provision and improvement of housing, and (iv) the survey of local building materials and building costs — all parts of the Centre's work programme — contribute to a quinquennial World Housing Survey. The first issue of this survey has been completed and is being submitted for publication. Likewise, the material gathered for the World Housing Survey provides information base for numerous other projects.

4. Research and related programmes in housing, building and planning fields

In discharging its catalytic functions in the field of housing, building and planning, the Centre initiates and encourages research work in selected fields of interest by research agencies at a national and regional level. It also aims at assisting these agencies in coordinating research programmes in order to improve their comparability and impact and reduce duplication.

The research in the housing, building and planning fields is concerned with the continuing problems and processes of providing appropriate shelter and related community facilities. This involves intersectoral questions of policy, programming and administration.

We do not have enough time to mention some of the study projects of interest which we have carried out in the past and some which we are undertaking at present in the housing, building and planning fields.

5. Development of comprehensive concepts and policies related to human settlement development

On the basis of its analysis and evaluation of trends, government policies and other activities in this field, the Centre's responsibilities include offering advice on policy matters to the Secretary-General, the organs of the United Nations and to Governments for the adoption of adequate policies and strategies on human settlements.

Most recently, emphasis is being placed on the formulation of com-

prehensive policies which can be embodied in the national policies for development. In addition to many studies, several seminars have been organized to discuss various aspects of policy formulation and implementation. The most significant of these relate to the formulation of policies on urbanization, distribution of population, urban development, housing policies covering the volume, type and location of housing; policies on the financing of housing; policies related to the development of the building sector as part of national development plans.

6. Dissemination and exchange of information and experience

This activity helps to ensure that information and experience, obtained in the operational and research activities of both Member States and the United Nations in the field of housing, building and planning shall be distributed and exchanged among the many national, regional and international bodies and institutions needing it for development purposes throughout the world. For this purpose, the Centre initiates and supports seminars and other meetings at national, regional and interregional levels; it also has a programme of publications which covers research studies and other information in its field of interest, and publishes a quarterly bulletin (circulation 18,000 annually) for the dissemination of information relating to activities of the United Nations and its sister agencies in the housing, building and planning sector. A Reference Unit also assists in this overall task by discharging certain library functions. This activity is also concerned with the study of the methodology of exchange of information in this sector as well as a network of documentation centres, which should be established if financial resources are available.

Having outlined in general terms the roles and activities of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, I would like to say a few words regarding the need for better urban and regional planning by discussing the element of organization as a component of economic and social improvement strategies in developing countries, with a side-glance, in a little more detail, at the housing sector of the human settlements programme.

As Director of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, which is the office charged with the responsibility for co-ordinating all United National Programmes related to human settlements and for advising the Organization on physical planning policy and strategy matters, I have had the opportunity to see the urbanization process in most of the developing world. Furthermore, as already mentioned earlier, my office has charge of the United Nations programme of technical assistance in urbanization, financed mainly through the United Nations Development Programme, so that I am intimately involved, at all levels, with government programmes in this area. I have, therefore, been able to observe the growing awareness, throughout the whole world, particularly in the developing countries of the importance of the urbanization issue, culminating, as I pointed out

earlier, in the decision by the whole community of nations to assemble a World Conference on Human Settlements at Vancouver in June of 1976. It is hoped that this opportunity to bring together national representatives, to discuss problems, ideas, experiments, programmes and procedures in the development of human settlements, will result in a broader appreciation of what is needed and what can be achieved.

One important fact which tends to be overlooked is that the process of urbanization and industrialization in developing countries is going on in a completely different context to the historical process in the developed countries. In applying econometric models and projecting national profiles, there is often, implicitly or explicitly, an assumption that developing countries resemble advanced industrialized countries in an embryonic stage and that by following historical patterns of investment and institution-building, they can be led through the same stages of economic growth as their precursors.

I would like to emphasize the non-applicability of the western experience to the developing countries. The Industrial Revolution in the West took place over an extended time period and it progressed gradually through a series of scale changes and investment shifts in manufacturing processes. In its initial stage, most of the industries were very labour-intensive, and a relatively small capital input produced a high level of employment for a given output. Today, the job-creation potential of a given capital investment is much lower, and a failure to appreciate this has been one of the serious deficiencies of economic plans in the developing countries, resulting in high urban unemployment.

One might ask why the developing countries cannot exploit the advantages of their abundant population resources by adopting old-style western technology with its minimal capital requirements and greater emphasis on labour. It is true that there is some scope for this approach and that the research for appropriate technologies to be used in the developing countries, is one of the concerns of the United Nations. However, it must also be recalled that the western countries, at the time of the Industrial Revolution, had access to vast colonial markets where the products of the industry of the time could be readily absorbed. By contrast, the industrializing countries now must compete against the more powerful and technologically superior developed countries in marketing their products, and, in most cases, low-technology products are at a serious marketing disadvantage in this situation.

This problem has been compounded by the fact that many countries, both developed and developing, have an unfortunate split between their economic planning and their physical development planning. Economic development typically is done for the national economy as a whole, with primary attention paid to aggregate level of private consumption and investment, government revenue and spending, and foreign trade. Many economic plans broke these macro-sectors down to such sectors as "heavy" industry, "light" industry, agriculture, transportation etc., but

they often left unanswered the question of where, geographically, the economic activity should take place. At the same time, physical planning, typically, was done at an urban or regional level, without adequate information on when or how much economic activity and accompanying population growth are likely to occur in the area being planned for. As a result of this split, many aspects of both the economic and physical plans either did not get carried out at all or, if implemented, turned out to be much less useful or productive than they could have been with proper coordination. In extreme cases, simple macro-economic growth has been known to result in worsening conditions for the bulk of the people it is supposed to benefit.

The missing link between the typical forms of economic and physical planning was the location theory or spatial economics. Its defining characteristics, in comparison with both macro-economics and the typical formulation of micro-economics, was its explicit consideration of the geographic distribution of population, resources and transportation facilities. It extends the standard techniques of micro-economics to answer the question: Given the geographic distributions of potential customers and sources of inputs for a new facility, what combination of location, level of output and price of output will maximize its quantifiable benefits? "Profits" may be measured either in the conventional sense of financial monetary profits in a free market or in the sense of "social product", e.g. value-added plus net social benefits. Location theory does not, however, have any unique techniques for measuring social benefits and social costs beyond those developed in the standard literature on the measurement of economic and social welfare.

For planning purposes, the techniques of location theory can be used to analyze the potential profitability for various possible combinations of locations for a new or expanded production activity, and for more than one type of new activity. For a few types of location questions, it is possible to determine precise quantitative answers, using the economists' much-loved optimizing modes — marginal analysis, and linear or non-linear programming. In most cases, however, these models must be supplemented by a variety of ad hoc or trial-and-error calculations, to take into account the virtually unlimited variety of location patterns for new activities.

If we had been able to bring this technique into play earlier, the developing countries probably would not have strayed into so many blind alleys and expended so much unproductive effort in trying to stem or divert the flows of population moving to the economically more productive and socially liberating cities. Actually, even a simple, historical view of the development process in countries of the Western world should have prompted some questioning of the wisdom of these policies. To take, for example, the United States of America, it is easy to trace the stages of growth from the pioneering agricultural phase, through the cycle of small-town manufacturing growth and decline, then

on to the era of metropolitan industrial concentration which has shaded into the stage of great conurbations, primarily concerned with tertiary activities and extending a nation-wide influence, which was the situation in the recent past. There seems to be no question that, at each particular time, the development pattern served a definite economic and social purpose and that, with minor distortions, it has responded to the best interests of the population as a whole.

We are, now, possibly observing the tipping point in the pattern of development, whereby the state of the economic system and the availability of suitable technology make it feasible and desirable to disperse the population growth of the urban concentrations of the East and West Coasts and, to a lesser extent, of the Great Lakes area to other parts of the Country. We see this process taking place in, for instance, the generation of sophisticated-technology industry in Florida and the associated population expansion, and we can probably expect it to continue. It is not unlikely that the metropolitan regions have reached their workable population limits and will now stabilize or even possibly decline in size. Let me not dwell on this point since our concern is mainly the Less Developed Countries.

It would be idle to suggest that this point has been reached in more than a handful of the developing countries. Naturally, the developing countries should not repeat the train of events identified in the developed countries, because they were modernizing in a completely different context of available technology and international economic constraints. Nevertheless, all the evidence is that, at their present levels of financial and entrepreneurial capacity, transportation and communication efficiency, and political and administrative skills, most developing countries can support only few large cities, unless the total population and area of the country are extremely large (say over 100 million people at normal densities), in which case, a few large regional cities would be justified.

This is the reality of the situation, against which we must contrast the illusion, which has obsessed us to date, that urban growth is an unfortunate aberration from the desirable distribution pattern (assumed to be based mainly on a population of industrious farmers and virtuous small-town dwellers) with no purpose other than to bring troublesome people together in large groups where they can easily communicate with one another and learn how to create more difficulties for already over-worked bureaucracies. This attitude has, therefore, led to policies either of ignoring the problem, in the expectation that it will go away of its own accord, allowing a return to previous innocent and happy times, or of actively discouraging urban growth, with King Canute-like intentions of holding back reality until the last possible moment.

Typical government actions in this second category have been based on assumptions of increasing farm employment, building up village population, developing small urban service centres and diverting population movements away from the major cities, despite the fact that

these programmes are impossible to execute, inconsistent with other priority government goals, unacceptable to the bulk of the population or all three together.

Fortunately, we are just beginning to see an encouraging shift in emphasis and we can hope that a reassignment of priorities will soon take place in an increasing number of countries. However, the recognition of the role and needs of urbanization is only the first step towards meeting the cities' development requirements and I wish I had enough time to deal now with the crucial issues which, at the present moment, face the governments of developing countries when they begin to apply themselves to the task of overcoming the deficiencies which have been allowed to accumulate. These issues were well developed under six headings by Dr. John Herbert of PADCO, our subcontractors for the technical assistance project we are executing in the Karachi Metropolitan Area, and can be listed as follows in the order of their importance:

- a) Unpreparedness in physical infrastructure,
- b) Unpreparedness in fiscal measures, and essential capital and recurrent costs,
- c) Unpreparedness in administration and organization and management,
- d) Unpreparedness in training and education and general manpower development,
- e) Unpreparedness of the private sector, and
- f) Unpreparedness in technical assistance programmes.

Now, I would like to say a word on the Centre's continuing involvement in the improvement of rural settlements:

At present 80 per cent of the population of developing countries live in rural areas. Even by the year 2000, in spite of urbanization trends, more than 50 per cent of the population in developing countries will continue to live in rural areas.

Due to various factors such as the rapid population growth, the reduction of land holdings to uneconomic and impractical sizes, the lack of social and community facilities and their concentration in urban areas, the rural areas have been subjected to continued neglect and increasing poverty. Hence the larger proportion of human population lives today in squalor in the rural areas of developing countries.

To make a point on the meaning of the rural problem, let me borrow the words of Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, in his address to the Board of Governors this past September in Washington, D.C.: "There are some 700 million individuals locked into absolute poverty in the rural areas of the developing world. Their degree of deprivation is so extreme as to be an insult to human dignity — to theirs, because as human beings they deserve better; and to ours, because all of us have had it in our power to do more to help them, and have not."

Rural areas, however, are sources of resources — economic, manpower and physical. There are examples in the world indicating that, if

these resources are mobilized and put to the right use, living conditions of the people can be enhanced considerably. International agencies and governments are confronted by a formidable impediment, however, which is the dearth of knowledge, education and training facilities needed to tackle a problem of such magnitude.

Our main objective is therefore to assist governments in shaping their policies and programmes, disseminate the results of successful social, technological, administrative and financial solutions, for the improvement of rural settlements, particularly those involving maximum use of local resources, and to propose and assist in organizing training programmes for government officers involved in rural housing and community facilities in rural areas.

In the rural settlement field, the project already alluded to earlier in Ivory Coast to assist the Bandama Valley Authority (AVB) in the design and construction of 30 pilot or demonstration villages, including aided self-help housing construction using local building materials and manpower for the populations displaced by the building of the Kossou Dam, may be cited as an illustrative example. Activities include training, community development, employment promotion, savings promotion and co-operatives, production of building materials, building technology and environmental health measures. While the compulsory physical relocation of people displaced by the dam and the provision of housing, schools and other community facilities for them may be accomplished with comparative ease, the much harder task of creating viable and self-sustaining economic systems and social communities still lies in the future. For this purpose, the AVB has effectively to transform itself from a relocation to a development agency responsible for the entire lake basin. Another large scale project is being currently undertaken in Indonesia, involving preparation of a rural housing programme, establishment of rural housing training centres and development of demonstration rural housing projects, using aided self-help.

With regard to the improvement of rural housing and community facilities in rural areas, (1) In consultation with and with the assistance of existing training institutions in the field of rural housing and community facilities in rural areas and in collaboration with UNESCO, FAO and possibly UNICEF, research studies will be undertaken and meetings will be held to ascertain the current state of knowledge regarding techniques, strategies, policies and problems in planning, implementation, financing and management of programmes related to rural housing and community facilities in rural areas. Studies will also concentrate on determining the nature, quality and location of available educational and training facilities.

(2) The findings will be analyzed in order to establish (a) the gaps and needs in the world for training of personnel in the field of rural housing and community facilities, (b) the nature, level and quality of training needed, (c) the best locations for the various types of training activities

required and (d) the means to organize the development of training activities in the various countries.

(3) Once the solutions have been advanced to the above stage, they will be discussed by an expert group meeting or a seminar for a final review, the results of which will be widely disseminated and, if possible, translated into action by assisting governments or institutions to organize or develop training programmes or activities in interested countries with the collaboration of UNDP or bilateral funds.

(4) Over the years a periodical review of the situation and of the programmes developed will take place in order to assist governments to adjust their training activities to changing needs.

With regard to the physical improvement of rural settlements, we intend in the near future to survey and identify material resources that can be applied to the improvement of substandard dwellings and community facilities; to design low-cost building materials and components to be produced by self-help labour intensive methods, taking into account cultural and climatic requirements. Solutions achieved to be applied in action programmes and disseminated; to develop utility systems and non-conventional uses of natural energy sources; a practical manual will be prepared for use by the population living in rural settlements; to design and plan workshop production of low-cost building materials and components from local raw materials; to develop training methods and prepare instructions for unskilled construction labour to build walls, roofs, floors, service and utilities for dwellings and community facilities through appropriate technologies and self-help methods; to apply result of previous studies and experience to pilot demonstration projects through technical cooperation programmes in interested countries.

Summing up, I would say that neither increased emphasis on rural development nor on urban development would by itself produce a panacea. Farms, rural villages, market towns, intermediate centres and major cities form a continuum in which complementary action is required to make the best use of national resources of the developing countries. The dichotomy between urban and rural development is to this extent false. The UN through its technical assistance activities has been helping developing countries to focus attention on urbanization problems and alternative courses of action including a balance between rural development and development of urban centres of different sizes. However, it is the governments of developing countries who must assume the responsibility of meeting their urbanization/unemployment problems. Without a strong commitment on their part, the difficulties of surmounting the obstacles to a more rational approach can hardly be overcome. National development programmes, budgets, pricing and taxation policies largely determine the pattern of use of national development resources. The problems of urbanization have seldom been explicitly examined in this context of total national resource allocation. Responsibilities affecting urban balance are spread between various

agencies, none able to provide leadership. There is a growing recognition that this aspect should be a part of national development programming and policy making.

There is no easy and quick solution to this complex problem — created by the explosive urban growth in the developing countries. Their solution out-strips the availability of both domestic and external resources, consequently, the immediate object should be to contain the problem thereby preventing further deterioration. In the short run, the emphasis should be primarily on the incremental approach to an improved urban life, based on relatively short-term programmes explicitly linked to individual projects, budgets and political decision process — particular attention being given to the sectors primarily shaping the pattern of future urban growth.

The task ahead is therefore to improve our planning processes in reducing the push factors from rural areas through the provision of adequate shelter thus ameliorating living conditions in the rural areas and devising the most appropriate planning techniques for the urban areas.

At this point please allow me to say a word about the new international economic order. The Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York from 1 to 15 September 1975, was convened to charter the main areas of development and international economic cooperation. At the heart of the discussions and negotiations which were carried out was the perception and new awareness of the interdependence among the nations of the world. The main result had to be the broad agreements on the ways to correct the economic imbalance which existed between developing and developed countries. The outcome of the Session was the adoption by consensus of a resolution containing proposals covering (1) international trade; (2) transfer of real resources for financing the development of developing countries and international monetary reforms; (3) science and technology; (4) industrialization; (5) food and agriculture; (6) cooperation among developing countries; (7) the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

It is hoped that the implementation of these proposals would set in motion the mechanism for more equitable distribution of the world's wealth as a result of the establishment of the international economic order.

The overall objective of the new international economic order is to increase the capacity of the developing countries, individually and collectively to pursue their development. The creation of this capacity should be the major contribution of OTC to the establishment of the new international economic order, and should therefore form the basis for our technical co-operation programme.

By capacity creation, I mean the promotion of increasing self-reliance

in regard to the managerial, technical, administrative and research capabilities required in the development process. One of the most effective means of promoting such self-reliance is to build and strengthen appropriate institutions within the developing countries themselves.

As I already mentioned previously, the Centre will continue to give a priority on the matters of training and institution building in the field of human settlements, therefore, responding in a modest way to a very important objective of the international economic order. It will continue to advocate innovative and comprehensive measures in the overall planning and development of human settlements and promotion of urban and regional planning.

May I conclude this statement by quoting from the very man, in whose honour and under whose auspices I speak today, namely, Dr. Ralph Bunche, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, when he delivered an address at the League for Industrial Democracy in New York in 1951, emphasizing the subject of Peace and its relationship of human progress:

"Those of us who believe in the United Nations and who are closely associated with it know that, in the final analysis, if the United Nations is to achieve its fundamental objectives, there must be substantial improvement in the lot of vast millions of people throughout the world. We know that international peace cannot be achieved in a vacuum. Peace must be paced by human progress. It is well to bear always in mind that there are great multitudes who through long and dreary centuries have known little of human progress. But in this day peoples everywhere are awakening. There are highly significant revolutions in progress today in many parts of the world and especially in Asia and Africa; revolutions which in their origin and basic motivation have nothing to do with any particular political or economic ideology. In such areas, vast populations which in the long past have known only poverty, suffering, underprivilege, repression and exploitation, are now clamoring insistently for higher living standards, for greater security and broader freedom. The aspirations of these peoples are similar to those expressed by American colonials 175 years ago, though generally less radical and violent."

For those of you who might be dissatisfied by my presentation due to the temerity of covering so many complex and burning issues in such a short time, the best thing I can do at this point is the implore the indulgence of the jury.

Thank you.

PAUL E. MWALUKO, a citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania, is Director of the U.N. Centre for Housing, Building and Planning. He has served in the government of Tanzania in the capacity of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Lands, and Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China. He was educated in England and holds post graduate degrees from Oxford.