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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly in its resolution 2581 (XXIV) requested the Secretary-General to submit a brief report, through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, on the progress made in the preparatory arrangements for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

2. The Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session considered the progress report on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (E/4828), and an account of the discussion in the Council is contained in chapter IV, section F, of its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.[1/]

3. The Council adopted resolution 1536 (XLIX) in which it, inter alia, took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General regarding the present stage of the preparations for the Conference and agreed with the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that areas for immediate action should be identified prior to the 1972 Conference and that to that end work should be started by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, taking into account the various economic, social and other aspects involved. The Council recommended that Governments should make every effort to prepare national reports and submit proposals for case studies within the time-limits set by the Secretary-General. It also recommended that the Conference be presented with a

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session Supplement No. 3 (A/8003).

draft declaration on the human environment, which should be a document of basic principles in regard to the human environment, and that careful preparation of the declaration should be initiated on the basis of the suggestions in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (A/CONF.48/PC/6, para. 27, II). The Council further recommended that the second session of the Preparatory Committee should take place early in 1971 at Geneva in view of the need to ensure the closest possible co-operation with the specialized agencies in drawing up the agenda for the Conference, and that the following session or sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be held later in 1971, at a place or places to be determined by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

4. The attention of the General Assembly is also drawn to the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (A/CONF.48/PC/6).