

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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(Provisional agenda item 4)

UNECE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (biennial programme plans) 2008-2009

Note by the Executive Secretary

Executive summary

In compliance with the programme planning process adopted by the Commission (E/ECE/1423/Add.1), the secretariat prepared the draft strategic frameworks 2008-2009 of UNECE subprogrammes which were discussed by the Sectoral Committees, or their Bureaux, and subsequently submitted for review by the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW).

Having taken into account the comments made by the GEPW at its meetings of 30 January and 13 February 2006, the secretariat submits herewith, for further review and comments by the Commission, an adjusted version of the strategic frameworks of the eight subprogrammes of UNECE.

- Subprogramme 1: Environment
- Subprogramme 2: Transport
- Subprogramme 3: Statistics
- Subprogramme 4: Economic cooperation and integration
- Subprogramme 5: Sustainable energy
- Subprogramme 6: Trade
- Subprogramme 7: Timber and forestry
- Subprogramme 8: Housing, land management and population

Subprogramme 1 Environment

Objective of the Organization: To safeguard the environment and human health, improve environmental management throughout the region and strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional international commitments by member countries	(a) (i) Number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing legally binding instruments (ii) Number of countries having reported implementation of major decisions taken at the 2007 Belgrade Ministerial Conference
(b) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	(b) (i) Number of countries with improved environmental performance through a set of indicators reported by Environmental Performance Reviews (ii) Percentage of recommendations that have been implemented by the reviewed countries as reported to the Committee on Environmental Policy
(c) Strengthened capacities for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in Eastern Europe Caucasus Central Asian and South east European countries	(c) Number of countries that finalized periodic state-of-environment reporting following the guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the State and Protection of the Environment.

Strategy

In line with this objective, the work of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division will focus on enhancing international assistance activities to build appropriate capacities to implement and comply, where appropriate in agreement with the Parties, with the UNECE environmental commitments, including conventions and their protocols as well as on promoting synergies and cooperation between them. The subprogramme will continue to conduct the second round of environmental performance reviews of countries with economies in transition and to build environmental observation and reporting capacities, contributing to the provision of timely and accurate environmental data through improved monitoring in these countries. The subprogramme will further promote the implementation of sustainable development in the UNECE region, by contributing in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of regional environment and sustainable development conferences, in particular of the decisions taken by the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 2007). Actions will be taken to: further intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development, a voluntarily funded programme, THE PEP and water and health; contribute to developing and harmonizing environmental policies in the region leading to improved cross-border environmental security; support the implementation of regional and sub regional agreements and action programmes, including the EECCA Strategy led by OECD as well as processes and partnerships resulting from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), by providing regional contributions on the priority areas of the 2007-2010 programme cycles of CSD.

Subprogramme 2 Transport

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Adoption, at the regional and/or global level, of amendments to existing legal instruments and recommendations on road transport, road, rail, inland water and combined transport infrastructure, border crossing, transport of dangerous goods and other transport issues, as well as to vehicle regulations, and development of new legal instruments and new vehicle regulations, including global vehicle regulations</p> <p>(b) Increased implementation of the ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport</p> <p>(c) Further development of transport infrastructure conducive to enhanced economic cooperation, in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries as well as in Caucasus and Central Asian countries</p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of existing legal instruments amended</p> <p>(ii) Number of amendments to existing vehicle regulations and number of new vehicle regulations, including global vehicle regulations</p> <p>(iii) Total number of participants in regular meetings on transport to which the ECE provides the secretariat</p> <p>(iv) Number of amendments to UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals</p> <p>(b) (i) Total number of States Parties to ECE legal instruments on transport</p> <p>(ii) Number of new accessions to ECE legal instruments on transport from ECE and non-ECE countries</p> <p>(iii) International legal instruments amended to reflect revisions to ECE legal instruments on transport as well as to UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals</p> <p>(iv) Number of amendments to UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized</p> <p>(c) (i) Number of projects and/or capacity-building programmes undertaken to promote transport infrastructure</p>

Strategy

1. In order to achieve the above objective, the Transport Division will provide the necessary technical and administrative support to the updating and improvement of the existing ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport issues, including road transport, road traffic safety, inter-modality, vehicle safety and emissions, transport of dangerous goods, border crossing facilitation, and road, rail, inland water and combined transport infrastructures. Updating will introduce new technological developments, organizational measures and best national practices,

with a view to, inter alia, reducing further the number of road accidents and victims and the impacts of transport on the environment and improving transport security. This will be achieved through consensus and agreement reached at the ECE intergovernmental mandated meetings on transport, to which the Division provides the secretariat.

2. The Division will also promote accession to and implementation of these legal instruments on transport, in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries as well as in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries. Implementation will be promoted through the monitoring of as many legal instruments as possible, through technical and legal advice on the implications for countries, through training seminars and other capacity building activities, and through sub-regional cooperation for coordinated implementation. The Division will also promote accession to these legal instruments from non-ECE countries.

3. In addition, the Transport Division will give emphasis to sub-regional cooperation for the development of Euro-Asian transport links, including through landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with ESCAP, and of other transport infrastructures in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. It will also promote transport links with Africa and the Middle East, including across the Mediterranean, in cooperation with ECA and ESCWA.

4. Further, the Transport Division will strengthen cooperation with the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and WHO-Europe in the framework of THE PEP. It will also strengthen cooperation with the Trade and Timber Division in order to improve border crossing, and with the Sustainable Energy Division in order to improve energy efficiency in transport.

5. Finally, the Transport Division will intensify cooperation with other international organizations, notably, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), in order to improve coordination, organize joint activities and avoid duplication. Cooperation will also be intensified with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the other regional commissions in order to improve global road safety in response to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/5. The needs of the beneficiaries of the Transport sub-programme will also be met through the participation of other UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations representing transport operators, relevant industries, transport users and consumers in the above-mentioned ECE meetings.

6. This strategy also applies to the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its subsidiary bodies, to which the Transport Division also provides a secretariat.

Subprogramme 3 Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To improve the reliability of national official statistics and ensure their comparability at the international level, and to play the central coordination role for the international statistical activities undertaken in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Further developed national institutional frameworks and corresponding implementation practices of member countries, in line with the UNECE Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.</p> <p>(b) Increased development of internationally recommended standards and practices to ensure comparable statistics.</p> <p>(c) Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work between international organizations through elimination of overlaps and gaps.</p> <p>(d) Increased availability of reliable, timely and comparable macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics, particularly about the less advanced countries of the region.</p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of countries ensuring better compliance with the Fundamental Principles through revision of their national statistical legislations;</p> <p>(ii) Number of UNECE recommendations implemented to improve national institutional frameworks for official statistics.</p> <p>(b) (i) Number of new or revised statistical standards and recommendations endorsed by a statistical authority to which the UNECE has contributed in substance;</p> <p>(ii) Number of statistical areas in which the UNECE undertakes substantive methodological work.</p> <p>(c) (i) Percentage of joint activities in the ECE statistical programme undertaken in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CIS-STAT) and other international organizations;</p> <p>(ii) Number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities in the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work programmes.</p> <p>(d) (i) Number of countries that provide good quality data for the UNECE statistical database;</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of users that express, through user surveys, satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the UNECE database.</p>

Strategy

1. The main objective of the statistics subprogramme is to preserve the UNECE's position as a key player in international statistics. The role of coordinating all international statistical activities in the region will remain the key element.
2. In order to be a credible coordinator, the Statistical Division has to prove its expertise in all relevant types of statistical activities, i.e. data work, methodological work (incl. organization of meetings), and technical assistance. The Subprogramme will maintain a high level service to National Statistical Offices. The activities will concentrate on a carefully selected number of niches in different subject areas, particularly those where the UNECE can provide an added value and complement the work undertaken by other international organizations. The public access to all meetings' documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations will provide the basis for transparency and accountability.
3. The Statistics Subprogramme will address horizontal and general issues of official statistics. It will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics within the international statistical community, providing advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics, monitoring the implementation of Fundamental Principles, and adhering to them for all UNECE statistical activities.
4. The methodological work will be focused on outputs in the form of standards, guidelines and leading practices, including the advice on UNECE standards, and follow-up work for their implementation at the national level. The technical cooperation will focus its activities on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries, like assistance and monitoring in the field of population censuses, development account project for Central Asia, training activities for less developed countries of the region, etc. The data work undertaken by the Statistical Division shall respond to a sustained internal and/or external demand. Data will be accessible to the public as statistical products in electronic form.
5. The cooperation with the statistical departments of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings aimed at coordinating the development of methodologies and the preparation of standards, recommendations and publication of best practices. The data sharing through joint questionnaires and coordinated data collection will be further developed.

Subprogramme 4

Economic Cooperation and Integration

Objective of the Organization: To promote a more conducive policy, financial and regulatory environment for economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the UNECE region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Best practices shared and promoted among member countries on issues dealt with by the Subprogramme	(a) Number of best practices discussed and disseminated under the Subprogramme
(b) Adoption by the Committee of practical and action-oriented policy recommendations/ guidelines on issues placed on its 2008-2009 work programme	(b) Number of policy recommendations/ guidelines adopted by the Committee
(c) Increased implementation of the UNECE recommendations on matters dealt with by the Committee	(c) (i) Number of practical steps taken by Governments and other stakeholders to implement recommendations of the Committee (ii) Number of requests for policy-advisory services and capacity-building activities aimed at assisting countries to implement recommendations of the Committee

Strategy

1. The substantive responsibility for the Subprogramme will be vested in the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division.
2. In order to achieve its objective, the sub-programme will address key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition. It will deliver policy advice, facilitate policy dialogue and exchange experience and best practice as well as develop relevant guidelines. To this end the Subprogramme will facilitate application of the experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development and elaborate on this basis recommendations aimed at creating policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation. Work under the sub-programme will be demand driven, focus on specific topics and, subject to the multi-year work programme of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, will aim at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by: (i) promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation; (ii) facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises; (iii) facilitating effective regulatory policies and corporate governance, including those in the financial sector and; (iv) promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, as well as intellectual property rights.
3. In support of this work the Secretariat, building, inter alia on relevant work carried out by other relevant organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision-makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, will undertake applied economic analysis, collect lessons learned and experiences gained, prepare case studies and elaborate proposals and options for policy debate among member States and other stakeholders.

4. The results of this work would be considered by thematic groups of experts and time-bound task forces, involving representatives of governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders, which would provide a platform for exchanges of national policy experiences and identification of best practice. Subsequently, these outputs would be brought to the attention of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which would serve as a forum for policy dialogue among member States and elaborate relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and standards. The results of work carried out under the subprogramme would be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders.

5. These results would also serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the Secretariat, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops, with a view to assisting member States upon their request, and particularly countries with economies in transition, including emerging market economies, in the adaptation and application of best practice and the implementation of guidelines, standards and policy recommendations emanating from the Committee.

Subprogramme 5 Sustainable Energy

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate (a) the transition to a more sustainable development path for the production and use of energy; and (b) the fuller integration of the energy infrastructure and energy markets of the countries in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in the international dialogue between governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources.	(a) (i) Percentage of participants in policy discussions, as well as discussions on technical matters, who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making; (ii) Number of respondents that reply positively to web-based evaluation surveys on the use of ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues.
(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition.	(b) (i) Percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making; (ii) Increased number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the ECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project that have been approved for financing in the economies in transition.
(c) Further extension and implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) and the Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies.	(c) (i) Professional organizations and international standard setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the UNFC, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities; (ii) Countries expressing intent to apply the UNFC in their fossil energy and uranium resources management; (iii) Number of ECE countries that have adjusted energy prices and tariffs to remove price distortions, encourage efficient energy consumption and attract investment into energy sector.
(d) Progress in implementation of projects in support of sustainable energy development in coal, natural gas, and electricity.	(c) (i) Number of pre-feasibility study business plans for clean coal technology investment projects, prepared under the UN Development Account Project in Central Asia and pre-feasibility study business plans for coal mine methane projects prepared under the US EPA Project for the CEE and CIS region; (ii) Tons of diesel fuel replaced by natural gas in commercial vehicles on the Blue Corridor Project road transport itinerary across Europe.

Strategy

1. The responsibility for this sub programme is vested with the Sustainable Energy Division. Taking into account the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD14), this sub programme is designed to promote the development of sustainable energy strategies for the ECE region. In particular, it is to assist member states to ensure sustained access to high quality energy services for all individuals in the ECE region; enhance energy security and diversification of energy supplies; and maintain well-balanced energy network systems tailored to optimise operating efficiencies and overall regional cooperation. As well, it is to assist Member countries to improve energy conservation and efficiency; reduce energy-related health and environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions; facilitate the development and implementation of new environmentally-sound and economically-viable technologies; and increase the use of renewable energy resources.

2. To deliver the programme of work the ECE will work through its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, with the active participation of government officials and representatives of relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the energy industries, including relevant private-sector partners such as the financial community. The work programme will consist of and be aimed at: enhancing networking and public-private partnerships; knowledge sharing; identification of best practices; preparation of policy-oriented reports; fostering policy dialogue, including the provision of advice and recommendations; developing guidelines, norms and standards; and providing training and technical assistance, including the preparation of investment projects and facilitating access to finance. Activities will be coordinated with other international organizations, such as, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Energy Charter, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), among others. Additional extra-budgetary resources will be sought to reinforce the regular programme of work and, in particular, technical assistance activities.

Subprogramme 6

Trade

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption by member States of new/revised UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(a) Number of new and/or updated ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce agreed upon by member States
(b) Increased implementation of UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(b) (i) Number of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools implemented by ECE member States and other countries. (ii) Number of downloads of key recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use (iii) Number of requests for assistance received from member States and other international organizations to assist in the promotion and implementation of ECE trade related instruments.

Strategy

1. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme supports the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goal 8 of, “an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system” and takes into account the importance given to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, elimination of poverty, and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations documents. The Trade subprogramme does this by working to *reduce barriers to trade in goods and services caused by differences in regulatory approaches and differences in the procedures, standards and documents used by governments and business for trade*. More concretely, it develops and promotes:

- *Developing simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce* through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for: moving from paper-based to electronic-business based processes; and for the harmonization, simplification and automation of information flows and business practices used in international trade.
- *Contributing to a predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business* through the development of frameworks for regulatory convergence, the promotion of international standards within the regulatory environment, and the identification of best practices for regulatory enforcement

- *Promoting trade in agricultural produce supported by agreed upon, clear and easy to use commercial quality standards* through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards that are used by governments for regulatory purposes as well as by the private sector
- *Supporting governments in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of UNECE trade related standards and recommendations* including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed countries in the region.

2. To deliver this programme of work the ECE will work through its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners which include: the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for International Standardization (ISO) the World Customs Organizations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other United Nations regional commissions and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

Subprogramme 7

Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization: To improve sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services throughout the ECE region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding of sustainable forest management, notably the policies necessary to achieve it, based on increased ability to measure sustainable forest management at the national and regional levels	(a) (i) Percentage of ECE countries with national forest programmes or similar holistic forest sector policy frameworks; (ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on indicators of sustainable forest management to the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
(b) Increased understanding of the sound use of wood, leading to policies to promote it and increased ability to monitor it.	(b) (i) Percentage of ECE countries with policies in place on sound use of wood, whether as part of national forest programmes or not; (ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood)
(c) Increased capacity of countries in CIS and south-east Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level, notably through developing appropriate policy measures	(c) Increased number of CIS and south-east European countries adopting national forest programmes

Strategy

The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The work will be carried out in conjunction with relevant activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and provide input to the UN Forum on Forests. To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, which is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social point of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between these three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, through the Timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators). The main contribution of the subprogramme is through developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience and joint efforts to measure progress. Priorities for 2008-2009 will be guided by the Ministerial Conference scheduled for 2007 and other relevant fora. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, it recognizes the special needs of the countries of eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region.

Subprogramme 8 Housing, Land Management and Population

Objective of the Organization: To improve the housing and urban governance in the region as well as the necessary knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies and developing capacities at national and local levels.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
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(a) Improved national capacity for housing-related policy formulation and implementation, taking into consideration the socially disadvantaged groups of the population	(a) Increased number of countries engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their housing policies which has led to specific legal reforms and a broader range of housing opportunities
(b) Further development and reforms in land administration to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate	(b) Increased number of countries engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their land administration systems which has led to specific legal reforms and more transparent land management practices to strengthen economic development
(c) Enhanced policy discussion on population issues based on the up-to-date knowledge emanating from the UNECE co-operation programmes.	(c) Number of countries that have adjusted their policies or taken new measures in the policy areas discussed in the meetings organized by the Population Activities Unit

Strategy

1. The activities of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division responsible for this Subprogramme will aim at promoting the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Quality of Life in Human settlements in the twenty-first century, strengthening the regional contribution to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and addressing the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration (eradication of extreme poverty, promotion of gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability), as well as the regional priorities for human settlements as decided upon at the First Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development.

2. The Subprogramme will continue to collect and analyse document information on housing conditions, trends and policies. It will also assess the existing housing situation, reviewing housing policies and providing policy recommendations and carry out capacity building activities at the national and local levels to contribute to efficient and transparent governance. Further it will support improvement of land and urban services, identify, develop and disseminate good practices on innovative policies for promoting renovation and maintenance of the existing housing stock, as well as policies for new housing construction and urban environment improvement. It will also support the upgrade of land and real estate systems, in order to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate. The ECE should insure that its work in this programme serves to strengthen economic growth and development policies in member countries, highlights model programmes in the region, and encourages public-private partnerships.

3. The subprogramme will organize information exchange and meetings that assist countries in population-related policymaking and facilitate implementation of the final documents of regional and global conferences on population issues, such as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. To provide up-to-date knowledge for the policy discussion, the sub-programme will coordinate regional cooperation in data collection and research on the determinants of demographic choices, ageing, and gender relations. This cooperation will also build national level capacities in conducting policy-oriented research on population issues and harnessing the outputs of this research to the benefit of policymaking.