

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ninety-third meeting  
Geneva, 26 September 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

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**78th Session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management  
(Geneva, 8-9 November 2017)  
Information on the Ministerial Segment and Ministerial Declaration**

## **Note by the Secretariat**

### **Background**

The UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) will celebrate its 70th anniversary this year during its seventy-eighth session (8-10 November 2017). In order to mark the event, at its seventy-seventh Session in September 2016, and as already reported to EXCOM at its eighty-ninth meeting, the Committee agreed to organize a Ministerial segment and to conclude this high-level exchange with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

The Ministerial segment will be a forum for a high-level exchange of experiences and views on progress and challenges related to the implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing. The two topics to be covered include “Decent, affordable, adequate and healthy housing for all” and “Sustainable Urban Development Strategies”. High-level attendance is encouraged especially in view of the Voluntary National Reviews to be presented at the 2018 High Level Political Forum on SDG 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”).

### **The Geneva Ministerial Declaration**

The Committee, at its Special Session in December 2016, reviewed the first draft of the Declaration elaborated by the Bureau. Subsequently, the Bureau prepared a second draft taking into account the inputs by the Committee members. The second draft was then circulated to all housing and land management stakeholders in May 2017. Comments were received from the governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; non-governmental organizations, including the International Union of Tenants, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, and the International Real Estate Federation; and other individual stakeholders. The consolidated third draft including those comments, as agreed by the Bureau, was discussed at the Informal Committee meeting on 27 June 2017.

Subsequently, the Bureau with the support of the secretariat, has finalised the Ministerial declaration taking into account the inputs from the 27 June informal meeting as well as technical comments received by the deadline (two weeks after the informal meeting). The final Geneva Ministerial Declaration will be available online before 27 September 2017 after editing and translation into the official languages. It is expected that the final draft will be adopted by the Ministers and heads of delegations participating in the Ministerial segment of the seventy-eighth Session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on 9 November 2017.

The draft Ministerial Declaration and further information on the seventy-eighth session is available at <http://www.unece.org/housing/committee78thsession.html>. The secretariat stands ready to provide further clarifications ([housing.landmanagement@unece.org](mailto:housing.landmanagement@unece.org)).

EXCOM is invited to take note of the information provided above.