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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Working Party on Land Administration

Fifth session
Geneva, 19-20 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations,
starting on Monday, 19 November 2007, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, and the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
3. In-depth discussion on institutional challenges and changes in land management.
4. Programme of Work for 2008-2009:
 - (a) Land administration policies;

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management's Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) (<http://www.unece.org/hlm/wpla/sessions/5thSession.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting, namely by **4 November 2007**, either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee's website). If you have any difficulties, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499/1357.

- (b) Major trends characterizing land administration development;
 - (c) Land administration reviews.
5. Planning for performance evaluation of the 2008-2009 Programme of Work.
 6. Approval of the proposal and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group.
 7. Cooperation with other international organizations.
 8. Election of the Bureau.
 9. Other business.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 19 November (full day, starting at 10 a.m.)

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.)

1. The provisional agenda is based on progress made in the Programme of Work of the Working Party. The proposed agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Working Party's Bureau and are presented for approval to the Working Party.
2. The Working Party is expected to adopt the agenda.

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (10.15 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

3. The Working Party will be informed about the decisions taken by the Committee on Housing and Land Management at its sixty-seventh (ECE/HBP/142) and sixty-eighth sessions, as well as the decisions taken by the UNECE at its sixty-first (E/ECE/1444) and sixty-second sessions (E/2007/37 – E/ECE/1448), which have a bearing on the work of the Working Party.
4. Particular attention will be given to:
 - (a) The implementation of the Work Plan on UNECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), notably the integration of real estate activities into the Programme of Work of the Working Party (see item 6 of the provisional agenda);

- (b) The request of the Commission to the Sectoral Committees to conduct biennial evaluations related to their subprogrammes' performance (see item 5 of the provisional agenda);
- (c) The revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party as adopted by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session (see annex);
- (d) The proposal to hold a third regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development on 28 and 29 January 2008 on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

5. The Working Party may wish to take note of the information provided, in particular its revised Terms of Reference.

Item 3: In-depth discussion on institutional challenges and changes in land management (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

6. An in-depth discussion on institutional challenges and changes in land management will be held, as decided by the Working Party's Bureau. The focus of the discussion will be on presenting recent trends and providing good practices on how to improve and streamline the institutional framework and the division of responsibilities between different actors in the area of land management. The discussion will be based on a discussion paper (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/3) and will start with a short introduction by the chair, followed by a keynote speech, short presentations by selected countries, and interventions from the floor.

7. The Working Party may wish to agree on how to effectively implement good practices for improving the institutional framework of land management as well as on follow-up activities to the discussion.

Item 4: Programme of Work for 2008-2009

8. The Working Party will review its draft Programme of Work for 2008-2009 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/2) and take decisions on each item of the programme, including the revised titles given to each programme element.

(a) Land administration policies (3 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

9. Fees and charges: The outcomes of the questionnaire on fees and charges, which had been developed and distributed following the Bureau's decision, will be presented by the delegation of Lithuania, based on a discussion paper (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/4). A case study on fees and charges in England and Wales will be presented by the delegation of the United Kingdom (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/5). Countries will be invited to present their experience with fees and charges, followed by interventions from the floor. Following the discussion, a study on fees and

charges will be elaborated, as decided by the Bureau. It is envisaged to invite a consultant to prepare the study as a summary report of the replies to the questionnaire.

10. The following workshops pertaining to land administration policies were held in 2006-2007:
 - (a) Institutional Framework for Securing Real Property Rights, Tbilisi, 11-12 May 2006 (ECE/HBP/2006/6);
 - (b) Effective and Sustainable Land Management, Munich, Germany, 24-25 May 2007 (ECE/HBP/2007/5).

Delegations will be invited to report on the main conclusions and follow-up activities related to these events.

11. Within this programme element, a workshop is planned to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 2 and 3 October 2008.

12. The Working Party may also wish to:
 - (a) Discuss appropriate policies on fees and charges;
 - (b) Agree on practical arrangements for the preparation of the summary report on fees and charges;
 - (c) Invite interested delegations to financially support the preparation of the report;
 - (d) Discuss how the future programme of workshops could be more directly related to the Programme of Work of the Working Party.

(b) Major trends characterizing land administration development (5.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

13. The following workshops reflecting major trends in land administration development were held in 2006-2007:

- (a) Land Administration in the Era of E-society, Prague, 26-27 October 2006 (ECE/HBP/2007/4);
- (b) Informal Settlements - Real Estate Market Needs for Good Land Administration and Planning, Athens, 28-31 March 2007 (jointly with the Committee and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)) (ECE/HBP/2007/7-ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/8);
- (c) Registering the World, Dublin, 26-28 September 2007 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/6).

Delegations will be invited to report on the main conclusions and follow-up activities related to these events.

14. A workshop on Legal Empowerment of the Poor in the UNECE Region is planned, to be held in Bergen, Norway, on 10 and 11 April 2008.

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**(b) continued: Major trends characterizing land administration development
(9.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)**

15. Informal settlements: The issue of informal settlements from a land administration perspective will be discussed, as decided by the Committee's Bureau. The debate will focus on policy approaches addressing informal settlements, and will be based on the conclusions of the workshop on informal settlements in Greece (March 2007), which was jointly organized by the Committee, the Working Party, and FIG (see document ECE/HBP/2007/7 – ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/8 for a discussion paper and workshop report), as well as on the in-depth discussion on challenges and integrated policy responses for informal settlements held by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session. A joint study of the Committee and the Working Party on informal settlements will be carried out, as agreed on by the Committee. The Bureaux of the Committee and of the Working Party agreed to select consultants to prepare the study, and to establish a reference group to supervise the work.

16. The Working Party may wish to:

- (a) Complement the issues and the conceptual framework for the outline of the study on informal settlements suggested by the Committee;
- (b) Discuss the modalities for the preparation of the study, taking into account the decisions of the Committee;
- (c) Invite interested delegations to designate experts for the reference group and to financially support the exercise.

(c) Land administration reviews (11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

17. In 2006-2007, a land administration review was carried out in Azerbaijan (ECE/HBP/2007/3). The delegation of Azerbaijan will be invited to report on the findings and the follow-up of the review. A research mission to Bulgaria took place from 14 to 19 October 2007. The delegation will be invited to report on the organization of the mission as well as on the situation and recent developments in land administration in Bulgaria.

18. The Working Party nominated a land administration expert for the research mission of the country profile on the housing sector of Belarus in July 2007. The review will include a section on

land administration. The Committee intends to have a chapter on land administration in future country profiles.

19. Follow-up workshops to land administration reviews are planned in Bulgaria (spring 2009) and Azerbaijan (autumn 2009); the exact dates are to be decided.

20. Delegations may wish to express their interest in carrying out a land administration review in their countries.

21. The Working Party may wish to:

- (a) Discuss the organization and progress of the reviews, including effective follow-up activities;
- (b) Decide on the next land administration reviews.

Item 5: Planning for performance evaluation of the 2008-2009 Programme of Work (2.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.)

22. To prepare for the 2008-2009 biennial evaluation, the Working Party will have before it a document prepared by the secretariat containing the draft expected accomplishments corresponding to the subprogramme's clusters of activities, including the related indicators (ECE/HBP/2007/10).

23. The Working Party will also be informed about the draft strategic framework for 2010-2011 for the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme.

24. UNECE subprogrammes are requested to undertake self-evaluations of selected areas of work, projects or key activities. The main aim of these self-evaluations is to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the work undertaken and to optimize its impact. In the 2008-2009 biennium, a self-evaluation on "Themes and impact of the WPLA workshop series to improve land management systems" is planned.

25. The Working Party may wish to take note of the information provided.

Item 6: Approval of the proposal and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) (3 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

26. The Working Party will be informed on the endorsement of the proposal to establish the Real Estate Market Advisory Group to the Working Party (ECE/HBP/2007/6 – ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/7) taken by the Committee, following up the provisions of the Work Plan on UNECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, para. 63), decisions of the Bureaux of the Committee and the Working Party, and coordination meetings with real estate experts.

27. The Working Party may wish to discuss and approve the establishment of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) and its Terms of Reference, and in conjunction with the Bureau of the Working Party decide on practical steps to be taken to start operational activity of REM.

Item 7: Cooperation with other international organizations (4 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)

28. Information will be provided on cooperation and networking with other international organizations, such as EuroGeographics, ELRA (European Land Registry Association), EULIS (European Land Information Service), FIG, PCGIAP (Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Bank.

Item 8: Election of the Bureau (4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

29. The Chairperson of the Bureau will complement on the work of the Bureau since the fourth session of the Working Party concerning issues that were not discussed so far.

30. The Working Party is expected to elect a new Bureau which will be in office until the end of the sixth session of the Working Party in November 2009.

Item 9: Other business (5 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

31. Delegations wishing to discuss other issues under this item of the agenda are kindly invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING PARTY ON LAND ADMINISTRATION

As adopted by the Committee on Housing and Land Management on 20 September 2006

1. The Working Party on Land Administration operates under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management. Members of the Working Party are the national land administration authorities and related authorities of member countries of the UNECE.
2. The overall goals of the Working Party are the promotion and improvement of land administration and land management in the UNECE region. The Working Party aims at supporting security of tenure, the introduction and improvement of cadastre and land registry, and the development of real estate markets.
3. The activities of Working Party are based on cooperation and the exchange of experience among all countries of the UNECE region through seminars and workshops organized in UNECE member countries, land administration reviews (LAR), publication of studies and guidelines on specific land management topics, and the provision of policy advice and expert assistance. In particular, the Working Party deals with:

(a) Land administration:

General task: Acquisition, registration, storing, maintenance and dissemination of information on real property rights, as well as the geometric and physical characteristics of land.

Activities: Documentation of ownership rights, leases and mortgages, land cover, land-use and land-use restrictions, geo-referenced addresses; transfer of ownership rights; adjudication of land rights; solving of land disputes; cadastral mapping; database activities; real property valuation; personal data protection; other related activities.

(b) Planning and development of land:

General task: Contribution to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land policy and geo-data policy (including financial matters).

Activities: Pricing of services; cost-recovery requirements; development of professional skills; taxation of land and real properties; development of e-services; geo-spatial data policy; sustainable development of urban and rural areas; land consolidation; protection of natural resources; other related activities.

4. The Working Party shall review its programme of work to ensure coherence of its activities with the work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and within the overall objectives of UNECE.

5. The Working Party coordinates its activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in related fields, such as the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT) and other United Nations regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union institutions concerned with land management activities (e.g. the INSPIRE Initiative, the EULIS Project), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC), the International Centre of Registration Law (CINDER), the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI), EuroGeographics and the European Land Registry Association (ELRA).

6. The Working Party cooperates with international financial and donor organizations that fund programmes and projects related to land administration in countries of the UNECE region, such as programmes of the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank.

7. The Working Party encourages partnership among the public and private sectors and their involvement in managing land resources and capacity-building for sustainable development. The Working Party encourages cooperation with educational institutions for enhancing capacity-building activities.
