



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/HBP/144  
21 June 2007

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

Sixty-eighth session  
Geneva, 17–18 September 2007

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
FOR THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

To be held at the Palais des Nations,  
starting on Monday, 17 September 2007, at 10 a.m.\*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of UNECE.
3. Challenges and integrated policy responses for informal settlements.

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\* 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 (<http://www.unece.org/hlm/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, no later than two weeks before the meeting, namely, by **3 September 2007**, either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail ([evelina.rioukhina@unece.org](mailto:evelina.rioukhina@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG 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.

4. Programme of work for 2008–2009:
  - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector;
  - (b) Improvement of urban environmental performance;
  - (c) Land registration and land markets;
  - (d) Housing modernization and management.
5. Endorsement of the proposal and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM).
6. Adoption of the Programme of Work.
7. Reporting on programme performance.
8. Work of the Bureau and the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN).
9. Other business.
10. Election of the Bureau.
11. Closing of the sixty-eight session.

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Monday, 17 September 2007 (full day, starting at 10 a.m.)

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (ECE/HBP/144)**

1. The provisional agenda is based on the decisions taken by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session (ECE/HBP/142) and on progress made in the Programme of Work since then. The proposed agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Committee's Bureau at its April meeting and are presented for approval to the Committee.
2. The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda.

### **Item 2: Matters arising from the sixty-second session of UNECE**

3. The Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-second session in April 2007, notably on:

- (a) The implementation of UNECE reform;
- (b) The adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Committee;
- (c) Holding a third regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development on 28–29 January 2008 on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa;
- (d) The request of the Commission to the Sectoral Committees to conduct biennial evaluations related to their subprogrammes' performance.

4. The Committee will take into account the information provided when taking decisions on the Programme of Work.

**Item 3: Challenges and integrated policy responses for informal settlements**

5. An in-depth discussion with a focus on current challenges and integrated policy approaches towards informal settlements will be held, as decided by the Committee's Bureau. The debate 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 on Land Administration, and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) (see document ECE/HBP/2007/7-ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/8), and on the discussion paper (see document ECE/HBP/2007/10-ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/6) which outlines possible issues for discussion. The discussion will start with a short introduction by the chair, followed by keynote presentations.

6. Selected countries will present their experiences and challenges with informal settlements. The debate will conclude with interventions from the floor.

7. 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 a consultant to prepare the study, and to establish a reference group to supervise the work.

8. The Committee may wish to

- (a) Highlight the issues and provide a conceptual framework for the outline of the study on informal settlements, based on the outcomes of the in-depth discussion;
- (b) Discuss the modalities for the preparation of the study;
- (c) Invite interested delegations to designate experts for the reference group and to financially support the exercise.

**Item 4: Programme of Work for 2008–2009**

9. The Committee will review its draft Programme of Work for 2008–2009 (ECE/HBP/2007/1) and take decisions on each item of the Programme.

**(a) Country profiles of the housing sector**

10. The delegation of Georgia will be invited to report on the results of the country profile study (ECE/HBP/143) and the Government's intentions and plans for implementing the recommendations, including the organization of a local launching event.

11. The secretariat will provide information on the latest country profile of Belarus.

12. The secretariat will report on other countries that have expressed interest in having a country profile review. The Bureau requested to seek synergies between the country profiles and the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) in cases where both exercises are being carried out in the same country more or less simultaneously.

13. The secretariat will inform the Committee about the ongoing self-evaluation regarding the preparation of the country profiles (CRP. 1).

14. The Committee may wish to:

(a) Take note of the information provided and discuss the progress of the country profiles programme element;

(b) Agree on the next study to be carried out, based on countries' requests and as agreed on by the Bureau.

**(b) Housing modernization and management**

15. The delegation of Romania will report on the workshop "The Relationship Government-Local Administration-Owner Associations. Partnerships for Sustainable Housing" held in Bucharest on 21 and 22 June 2007 as a follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting in September 2006 and to the UNECE guidelines on condominium management.

16. The delegation of Spain will provide information on the Spanish-Latin American conference on urban best practices held in Madrid from 25 to 27 June 2007.

17. The delegation of Albania will elaborate on the outcomes of the workshop "Integrated Approaches in Housing Development" held in Tirana from 4 to 6 July 2007 as a subregional follow-up to the UNECE guidelines on social housing, housing finance and condominium management.

18. The delegation of Norway will touch upon the preparations of the planned workshop on homelessness in 2008, as announced at the Committee's last session.

19. The Committee will be informed about the detailed proposal of HUMAN to conduct a study on the multi-family housing stock (CRP. 2) and ways to fund the project, as requested by the Committee at its last session. The Bureau discussed this issue at its April meeting and agreed that a preliminary phase of the project could be started after the Committee session, exploring the present situation of the multi-family housing stock in four pilot countries. To facilitate the preliminary phase, it was suggested to select countries in which country profiles had been carried out. HUMAN is invited to elaborate on the linkages between the different stages of the project.

20. The Committee may wish to discuss the HUMAN proposal, including the schedule for the different project phases, and possibilities of fund-raising.

Tuesday, 18 September 2007 (full day, starting at 9.30 a.m.)

**(c) Improvement of urban environmental performance**

21. The UNECE draft publication "Spatial Planning – Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance, With Special Reference to Countries in Transition" will be presented. To facilitate the discussion, an executive summary including questions for discussion (ECE/HBP/2007/9) is provided. Selected countries and organizations will be invited to present good practices and case studies in spatial planning. The delegation of Belarus will highlight the specific questions to be discussed at the workshop on spatial planning for small and medium-sized towns in October 2007. Case studies from Switzerland will be presented, focusing on different approaches to involve citizens in local decision-making processes in spatial planning.

22. The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the workshop on Sustainable Urban Transport held in Tbilisi from 18 to 20 October 2006 within the framework of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), run jointly by the UNECE and the World Health Organization.

23. The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Carry out an in-depth discussion on spatial planning on the basis of the information received;
- (b) Agree on the publication of the study;
- (c) Discuss follow-up activities to the publication, such as workshops.

**(d) Land registration and land markets**

24. The Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) will report on the preparations for the fifth session of the WPLA to be held in Geneva on 19 and 20 November 2007,

particularly stressing the activities with close linkages to other areas of work of the Committee, such as informal settlements and rural development.

25. The Committee will be informed on the progress in the Land Administration Reviews, notably on the Land Administration Review on Azerbaijan (see documents ECE/HBP/2007/3 and Add.1) and the preparations for the Land Administration Review on Bulgaria to be held from 14 to 19 October 2007.

26. The Chairperson of the WPLA will briefly report on the recent and upcoming workshops, highlighting their conclusions and their relation to the Committee's Programme of Work. Workshops were held on:

(a) Land administration and e-society held in Prague on 26 and 27 October 2006 (see document ECE/HBP/2007/4);

(b) Effective and sustainable land management held in Munich, Germany, on 24 and 25 May 2007 (see document ECE/HBP/2007/5).

The upcoming workshops will take place in Dublin ("Registering the World") from 26 to 28 September 2007; in Bergen, Norway, ("Legal Empowerment of the Poor") on 10 and 11 April 2008; and in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 9 and 10 October 2008.

27. The secretariat will provide information on the planned self-evaluation of the workshop series organized by the Working Party (CRP. 3).

28. The Committee may wish to:

(a) Discuss and comment on the preparations for the fifth session of the Working Party and the workshop programme;

(b) Take note of the progress of work of the Working Party.

**Item 5: Endorsement of the proposal and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM)**

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

30. The Committee is expected to endorse the proposal on the establishment of REM, including its Terms of Reference.

**Item 6: Adoption of the Programme of Work**

31. The Committee is expected to adopt its Programme of Work for 2008–2009.

**Item 7: Reporting on programme performance**

32. The Bureau decided to distribute a questionnaire on the implementation of the *ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the Twenty-First Century* (ECE/HBP/120) every two years according to the biennial reporting cycle, starting in 2007. The replies will be used for the evaluation of the subprogramme's performance at the end of the 2006–2007 biennium. A questionnaire for a test run had been distributed as an annex of the agenda for the last Committee session (ECE/HBP/141). A brief summary of the replies will be presented (ECE/HBP/2007/2).

33. Selected countries which have highlighted concrete examples in the test questionnaire will present major policy, legal and institutional initiatives in housing, spatial planning and land administration.

34. The Committee is requested to conduct biennial evaluations related to their subprogrammes' performance as set out in item 2 (para. 3 (d)). To this end, it will review, for each cluster of activities, the draft expected accomplishments together with related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies (CRP. 4).

35. The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Invite countries to fill in the questionnaire if they did not participate in the test run;
- (b) Invite countries which have filled in the test questionnaire to update the information provided, if necessary;
- (c) Endorse the draft expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies.

**Item 8: Work of the Bureau and report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN)**

36. The Chairperson of the Committee's Bureau will report on the work of the Bureau and the main decisions taken since the Committee's previous session. The Chairperson of the Advisory Network will report on its activities (CRP. 5).

37. The Committee is expected to approve the work of the Bureau and the Advisory Network.

**Item 9: Other business**

38. Information will be provided on the UNECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements. Delegations are invited to announce their contributions to the Trust Fund for particular programme activities.

**Item 10: Election of the Bureau**

39. The Committee is expected to elect the Bureau for its sixty-ninth session.

**Item 11: Closing of the sixty-eighth session**

40. The Chairperson will sum up the major decisions taken by the Committee. After the session, the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, will prepare the report of the sixty-eight session.



Annex**UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
for the Programme Performance Assessment 2006–2007**

The Bureau of the Committee decided to distribute this questionnaire for the programme performance assessment of the 2006–2007 biennium. The main objectives were to gather information on the programme activities of the Committee, on major initiatives in the countries, and on the use and implementation of UNECE policy recommendations set out in various guidelines.

The questionnaire should be sent back to the UNECE secretariat (michael.kunz@unece.org) by **31 August 2007**. Countries which have already completed the 2006 questionnaire are kindly requested to update the information as necessary and to answer part IV, Housing finance.

<b>COUNTRY:</b>
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**I. General trends and policies in housing, spatial planning and land administration**

*Which major programmes and initiatives in housing, spatial planning and land administration have been taken in your country?*

**II. Affordable and social housing**

(a) *What are the main characteristics of the affordable and social housing policies in your country?*

(b) *What are the major developments in the area of affordable and social housing in your country?*

(c) *How does the government try to involve the private sector in affordable and social housing programmes?*

**III. Housing modernization and management**

(a) *What programmes are being implemented with regard to modernization and construction of multi-family residential buildings?*

(b) *What progress has been made in the organization and management of housing condominiums?*

**IV. Housing finance**

(a) *What system of housing finance is in place in your country?*

(b) *What measures have been taken to improve the functioning of the housing finance system?*

## **V. Land administration**

- (a) *What is your country's experience of public/private partnership (PPP) in land administration?*
- (b) *What areas of land administration are currently under reform?*

## **VI. Spatial planning**

- (a) *Has spatial planning been in use or revised in recent years? At which level of government is it applied (local, regional, national)? What does a spatial plan aim at in your country?*
- (b) *To what extent do the problems of informal settlements and illegal construction exist in your country, and what approach is used to overcome these problems?*

## **VII. Evaluation and new proposals**

- (a) *How many recommendations from UNECE policy guidelines on condominium ownership, housing finance and social housing have been applied in your country or have influenced policy decisions, and in what areas?*
- (b) *What topics would you suggest for future activities and in-depth discussion by the Committee?*
- (c) *What aspects of the Committee's work are most useful? What areas require improvements in order to increase the effectiveness of the Committee's activities?*
- (d) *What is your experience, if any, with the implementation of recommendations put forward in the following UNECE activities, including proposals to improve these programme elements:*
- (i) *Country profiles of the housing sector;*
  - (ii) *Land administration reviews.*

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