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Working Party on Land Administration

Fifth session

Geneva, 19–20 November 2007

Item 2 of the provisional agenda **

**PROPOSAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REAL ESTATE MARKET
ADVISORY GROUP (REM) TO THE WORKING PARTY ON LAND
ADMINISTRATION**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

Following the provisions of the Work Plan on UNECE Reform, real estate activities previously carried out under the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme shall be integrated into the Housing, Land Management and Population Subprogramme (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, para. 63). To that end, coordination meetings between the Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA), real estate experts and the UNECE secretariat were held in November 2006 and March 2007. It was decided that an advisory group to the WPLA be established to provide additional expertise on the real estate sector. This decision was subsequently discussed in the Bureaux of the WPLA and of the Committee, taking into account the UNECE guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists (ECE/EX/2).

* ECE/HBP/144

** ECE/HBP/WP.7/2007/1

The Committee is expected to discuss the modalities for establishing the advisory group, such as its name, composition, areas of cooperation and its activities, as well as its Terms of Reference, and inform the Executive Committee of the UNECE (EXCOM) on its deliberations.

I. NAME AND COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

1. It is proposed to assign the name Real Estate Market Advisory Group and the acronym REM.
2. Regarding the composition and structure of REM, the following rules and principles shall apply:
 - (a) The group should initially consist of six people, who will be invited in their personal capacity;
 - (b) Functional and geographical representation should be considered in the selection process;
 - (c) A Chair and a Vice-Chair of REM will be elected;
 - (d) The composition should relate to the substantive needs of the WPLA as reflected in its programme of work;
 - (e) Experts from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector are eligible to become members of the advisory group; however, their participation must not be motivated by commercial interests.
3. Members of REM will be selected and invited by the WPLA Bureau; the advisory group can propose suitable candidates.

II. PURPOSE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

4. REM will, according to the needs and decisions taken by the Working Party:
 - (a) Provide practical advice on the challenges the Working Party is facing, to improve the environment for real estate investments, real estate markets and housing development;
 - (b) Propose activities related to the real estate and housing sector in order to stimulate interest from local investors in individual countries;
 - (c) Assist countries in training and capacity-building within the real estate and land administration sectors. When appropriate, it will participate as an expert in advisory missions and in workshops, and provide expertise for preparing documentation and studies;

- (d) Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) in land administration;
 - (e) Collect good practice of experiences on land administration reform in the UNECE region.
5. Thus the main areas of cooperation and provision of real estate expertise will be on:
- (a) Real estate markets;
 - (b) PPPs;
 - (c) Real estate sector in the e-society;
 - (f) Capacity-building;
 - (g) Financing and regulation of real estate.

III. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION WITH THE WPLA

7. REM reports to and is supervised by the WPLA. An activity report is submitted to the biennial sessions of the WPLA. The WPLA ensures that work is carried out on a continuous basis, holding regular Bureau meetings between sessions; thus REM members may participate in Bureau meetings as observers. Attendance at Bureau meetings may be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair of REM. Members of REM can meet in conjunction with the Bureau of WPLA to discuss their contribution to the work of the Working Party. The secretariat does not service meetings of REM, but provides the necessary administrative support once their activities have been decided upon by WPLA.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

8. The activities of REM contribute to the programme of work of the WPLA. REM may put forward proposals for activities within this framework according to its Terms of Reference (see annex). The final decision on activities to be carried out remains with WPLA. The Working Party is expected to benefit from the additional expertise on real estate markets that will be provided.

V. STEPS TO BE TAKEN

9. The proposal on the establishment of REM (including its Terms of Reference) will be submitted to the Committee, EXCOM and the WPLA plenary session. Thereafter, suitable experts will be invited by WPLA, and their activities in support of the WPLA programme of work will be discussed. The Working Party will assess the work carried out by the REM in two years' time and make adjustments as necessary.

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
THE REAL ESTATE MARKET ADVISORY GROUP**

1. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) of the Working Party on Land Administration consists of experts from the private sector, financial institutions, NGOs, and professional associations dealing with the promotion of the real estate market, financial services and land administration. The Bureau of the Working Party invites experts to become members of REM in their personal capacity. The Group works in close cooperation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the Working Party and participates in its meetings as observers. The objectives of the Group are to:

(a) Advise the Working Party on its activities and UNECE member States on practical arrangements for the implementation of policy recommendations and specific activities to achieve optimal results in member countries;

(b) Contribute to the activities of the Working Party in capacity-building activities and in dissemination of information, good practices and know-how in UNECE member countries in specific policy areas which are the most important for practical activities and projects in individual countries;

(c) Expand the contacts for relevant activities through networking with global and regional financial institutions, lender and donor organizations, NGOs and the business community, with a view to making the activities and its assistance to the UNECE member countries more efficient and practical;

(d) Submit to the Working Party biannual progress reports.

2. The Group of experts creates no additional financial implications for the United Nations.
