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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Seventieth session
Geneva, 23–25 September 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTIETH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 September 2009¹

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising from the sixty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe
3. Work of the Bureau and the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN)
4. Consideration of the outcomes of the seminar on “Climate Neutral Cities”

¹ 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 Committee on Housing and Land Management (<http://www.unece.org/hlm/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting, namely **by 9 September 2009**, 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). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499/2553.

5. Review of implementation of the programme of work for 2008–2009 and draft programme of work for 2010-2011:
 - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector
 - (b) Improvement of urban environment performance
 - (c) Land registration and land markets
 - (d) Housing modernization and management
 - (e) Monitoring of implementation
6. Building and construction safety
7. Cross-sectoral activities
8. Other business
9. Election of the Bureau
10. Closing of the seventieth session

I. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Wednesday, 23 September 2009 (full day)

1. A seminar on the topic of “Climate Neutral Cities” will be held on the occasion of the Committee on Housing and Land Management’s seventieth session. Details on the programme are contained in the document ECE/HBP/2009/1. The background paper for the seminar is contained in document ECE/HBP/2009/2.

Thursday, 24 September 2009 (morning, starting at 10 a.m.)

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda (ECE/HBP/151) is based on decisions taken by the Committee at its sixty-ninth session (ECE/HBP/149) 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 (ECE/HBP/2009/3), and are presented for the Committee’s approval. The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda.

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe

3. The sixty-third session of the Commission, held from 30 March to 1 April 2009 in Geneva, consisted of a general and a high-level segment. The latter comprised two thematic sessions covering the issue of economic integration within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, with reference to the financial crisis, as well as the issue of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The secretariat will report on relevant decisions that are of interest to the Committee's work.
4. With regard to climate change, the presentations highlighted that despite the obvious need and opportunities for reducing energy consumption in buildings, potential remained largely untapped in most countries. Further to the presentation of the Committee representative from Austria and related interventions, the Commission suggested the development of an action plan for energy efficiency in housing for the UNECE region.
5. The Bureau meeting also suggested that the workshop in Vienna on energy efficiency in housing would offer an opportunity to develop elements of the action plan on energy efficiency in housing (see agenda item 5(d)).
6. The Committee may wish:
 - (a) To request country representatives to report on their countries' positions vis-à-vis integrating building into the post-Kyoto framework;
 - (b) To provide preliminary thoughts on what the action plan should contain.

Item 3: Work of the Bureau and the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN)

7. 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.
8. The Chairperson of HUMAN will report on the Network's activities for the period 2008–2009, in accordance with the group's terms of reference.
9. In accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Team of Specialists within UNECE (ECE/EX/2) there is a need for the Committee to review the Advisory Network's terms of reference and its membership. HUMAN will present a proposal for a programme of work for the next biennium for the Committee's consideration, as well as a report about outgoing and incoming members and their expected roles and contributions.
10. The Committee is expected to evaluate the work of HUMAN to date and to review the proposal for its programme of work; based on these, it will review the related terms of reference, if needed, and/or decide upon the renewal of its mandate.

Item 4: Consideration of the outcomes of the seminar on “Climate Neutral Cities”

11. Specific recommendations stemming from the background paper and the discussion held at the seminar on 23 September will be presented to the Committee. The Committee will be invited to comment on the recommendations, and to consider how best to reflect them in the Committee’s programme of work. It may also suggest ways to integrate them into national programmes for housing and urban development.

Item 5: Review of implementation of the programme of work for 2008–2009 and draft programme of work for 2010–2011

12. The Committee will review the implementation of activities as part of the programme of work for 2008–2009. Based on activities completed in 2009 and those still ongoing, as well as decisions made at the Committee session, the secretariat will update the draft programme of work for 2010–2011 (as contained in ECE/HBP/2009/4), and annex it to the report of the session.

(a) Country profiles on the housing sector

13. The delegations of Georgia will report on the launching event.

14. Information will be provided on the finalization of the country profiles of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan (ECE/HBP/150 and ECE/HBP/154), including plans for their publication and launching events.

15. The delegate of Azerbaijan will provide information on the fact-finding mission (2–10 May 2009) to develop that country’s profile review.

16. The delegate of Tajikistan may wish to inform the Committee about its interest in having a country profile review undertaken. Other countries may wish to follow.

17. The secretariat will also introduce document ECE/HBP/2009/5, containing a proposal for the modular approach developed at the request of the Committee to make the preparation of country profiles and land administration reviews more tailor-made to the needs of countries.

18. The Committee may wish:

- (a) To take note of the information provided including on the next country to be reviewed, and to discuss the progress of the country profiles programme element;
- (b) To discuss the document on the modular approach, and to agree on the proposal it contains.

(b) Improvement of urban environment performance

19. The Committee will be briefed on the launching of the publication, *Self-made cities: in search of sustainable solutions for informal settlements in the UNECE region*. The publication

contains an analysis of informal settlements in the region, as well as related guidance to member States developed by the Committee and the Working Party.

20. The Committee will be invited to consider follow-up activities by member States and discuss how to implement guidance at the national level.

Thursday, 24 September 2009 (afternoon, starting at 3 p.m.)

(c) Land registration and land markets

21. The Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration will report on its sixth session (Geneva, 18–19 June 2009) and the main decisions taken for consideration by the Committee, including information on the activities carried out and on the programme of work for 2010–2011, including:

- (a) The issuance of the study on fees and charges;
- (b) Progress in the land administration reviews, notably with the review of Bulgaria and with preparations for other reviews;
- (c) Recent and upcoming workshops organized by the Working Party.

22. On the basis of progress made in the work of the Working Party the Committee may wish to provide inputs and advice on future activities.

23. The Chairperson of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) will be invited to update the meeting on the Advisory Group's activities and future plans. The Committee may wish to take note on the information provided.

(d) Housing modernization and management

24. The delegation of Norway will report on the results of the workshop on the topic of homelessness held on 18 and 19 May 2009 in Oslo, as well as on the results of the related questionnaire distributed to Committee members on the subject.

25. **Energy efficiency in housing.** The Committee's sixty-ninth session had agreed to address, as part of its programme of work, the issue of energy efficiency in housing, to analyse relevant trends, to assess the situation in the region and to provide policy advice. To this end, it also decided to hold two workshops in 2009: the first held in Sofia on 21 and 22 April 2009, and the second one to be held in Vienna from 23 to 25 November 2009. The delegate of Bulgaria will report about the Sofia workshop, focusing in particular on the workshop outcomes. The delegate of Austria will inform the Committee on the status of preparations for the Vienna workshop, as well as its programme developed on the basis of the recommendations of the Sofia workshop (ECE/HBP/2009/6).

26. **Multi-family housing.** The Committee will be presented with a revised project proposal on multi-family housing sector (ECE/HBP/2009/7), reflecting lessons learned from the Slovak case and guidelines for its replicability in other contexts in the region.

27. The Committee may wish:

- (a) To take note of the results of the Sofia workshop and to comment on the programme of the second workshop in Vienna, including the development of an action plan for energy efficiency in housing (see item 2);
- (b) To discuss and advise on further steps for the project on multi-family housing sector.

(e) Monitoring of implementation

28. Over the years, the Committee has developed a number of guidelines and tools to assist member States on issues related to housing and land management (e.g. guidelines on condominium management, guidance on housing finance, recommendations on spatial planning, guidelines on social housing and guidance on informal settlements). To ensure that guidance from the Committee is effectively used by member States and also to learn about constraints and success stories, the Bureau meeting in April discussed the issue of the monitoring of implementation. It agreed that the topic should be further discussed at the Committee session, and that the Committee should consider flexible reporting mechanisms that would not add additional burdens for countries but instead allow them to showcase progress made vis-à-vis the Committee's guidance documents. The Bureau also suggested that opportunities to report on the use of the Committee's guidance and tools should be offered to other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations, the private sector and local authorities.

29. The Committee will be invited to discuss and identify possible options for reporting, including the possibility of countries giving oral reports at Committee sessions on a rotational basis.

Friday, 25 September (morning only, starting at 10 a.m.)

Item 6: Building and construction safety

30. At its meeting in April 2009, the Bureau highlighted the importance of building and construction safety and disaster preparedness. Despite the existence of advanced technologies in many countries, institutional, legal, financial and awareness issues still hinder the correct application of safe and security norms and techniques. From events such as earthquakes to the growing effects of climate change (e.g. floods, sea level rise and severe weather events), the Bureau recognized the need to address this issue more thoroughly and to bring it to the attention of member States at the session. The Committee will be invited:

- (a) To discuss the relevance of this topic to the Committee's work of and the importance of Committee's advice on the issue to member States;

- (b) To identify possible ways to address the issue and develop related advice and guidance.

Item 7: Cross-sectoral activities

31. In line with the request of the Economic Commission for Europe and general United Nations advice on cooperation between agencies, a number of activities have been undertaken by the Committee and the secretariat in cooperation with other UNECE programmes as well as relevant United Nations agencies.

(a) Green building

32. The Bureau considered current inter-divisional activities on the topic and suggested that the issue of green building be discussed more thoroughly at the Committee session. One issue of note was how the Committee could fully contribute and advise the Timber Committee on work undertaken on green building. The Committee will be invited to advise on future inter-divisional cooperation on this issue, and to offer advice on the aspects that UNECE work on green building should cover.

(b) Reporting

33. The secretariat will report about other inter-agency and inter-divisional activities, including:

- (a) The publication of the booklet on housing and population matters, developed in cooperation with the Population Unit;
- (b) Inputs and contributions from the secretariat to current UNECE work on gender issues, including the input to the Beijing+15 process and the inclusion of information on gender and access to land in the country profile of Kyrgyzstan;
- (c) Current and future joint activities with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT) and its regional offices in Warsaw and Moscow;
- (d) Outcomes and implications of decisions made at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

34. Based on the information provided, the Committee may wish to advise on how to further cooperation with these or other key agencies and/or UNECE divisions and units.

Item 8: Other business

35. 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. In addition, other issues may be raised by members States under this agenda item.

Item 9: Election of the Bureau

36. The Committee is expected to elect the Bureau for its seventy-first session.

Item 10: Closing of the seventieth session

37. The Chairperson will sum up the major decisions taken by the Committee. After the session, the Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, will prepare the report of the seventieth session.
