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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

Seventieth session  
Geneva, 23-25 September 2009  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008-2009  
AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2011**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2011**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

This note contains information on updates to and progress achieved in the implementation of the programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management for 2009-2010 (ECE/HBP/149, paras. 9-22). The note takes into account related decisions of the Committee's Bureau at its last meeting (20 April 2009). This updated version will assist member States and the secretariat with respect to the programme of work's implementation up to the Committee's next meeting in September 2010. It should be noted that implementation of the activities is subject to the availability of funds and will reflect commitments of member States and their willingness to support and contribute in terms of expertise and human and financial resources. This note will be updated after the Committee's sixty-ninth session to reflect the decisions taken at the session.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 10: HOUSING, LAND MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION**

### **10.1.1 Country profiles on the housing sector**

**Description:** The housing sector plays a critical role in ensuring the success of economic and social development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region and the reform process in countries in transition. At the same time, the transition to a market economy has had a profound impact on housing policy implementation and management. This item of the Committee's programme of work enables Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, and institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare these with progress made internationally. The country profile is an analytical study on the housing sector drafted by international experts and members of the secretariat. It places much emphasis on the linkages between housing, spatial planning and land administration policies. Recommendations and guidance for improving policies and practices are an essential part of this activity, which also aims to provide housing-related information to potential investors.

**Work accomplished:** To date, country profiles on the housing sectors of Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Serbia and Montenegro have been published. The country profile of Georgia was translated into Georgian by the host country. The launching event took place in Tbilisi in July 2009. The country profile of Belarus, which also includes a chapter on land administration and spatial planning, is being printed; it is currently available online as document ECE/HBP/150 (<http://www.unece.org/hlm/sessions/70thsession.htm>). The country profile of Kyrgyzstan is being finalized. As in the case of Belarus, the country profile of Kyrgyzstan contains a chapter on land administration and spatial planning. A fact-finding mission for the development of the country profile of Azerbaijan took place in May 2009, and a draft of the review is under preparation.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Committee will continue its activities to prepare country profiles on the housing sector. The launching event of Belarus is expected to be organized in late 2009. The secretariat is preparing the mission for the development of the country profile on housing and land administration of Tajikistan, pending receipt of the relevant information from the ministries involved and from local experts nominated. Cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the European Commission and the World Bank will be maintained and strengthened, in particular vis-à-vis the implementation of recommendations contained in the reviews.

### **10.1.2 Improvement of urban environmental performance**

**Description:** Cities and towns are efficient starting points for promoting sustainable quality of life. Numerous initiatives have already been launched in cities and towns to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of individual consumption behaviours, as well as to promote environmentally sound goods and services and the sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and land by individuals and communities. The spatial planning process focuses on a broad range of issues and factors, including social, economic, environmental, financial and

cultural ones. It is important to develop an effective local planning process as an integral part of strategic national and regional development planning.

***Work accomplished:***

- (a) Spatial planning. The study, *Spatial Planning – Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance, with Special Reference to Countries in Transition* was published and posted on the UNECE website. The publication was presented to the Bureau and to the press on 9 May 2008;
- (b) Informal settlements. An analytical study on challenges and policy responses for informal settlements was completed. The book, entitled *Self-made cities: In search of sustainable solutions for informal settlements in the UNECE region* identifies the different characteristics of informal settlements in the UNECE region, analyses the root causes of their formation and development, provides an overview of existing policy responses, gives specific case studies and includes recommendations and guidance to member States on how to address the challenges posed by informal settlements. The study, undertaken jointly by the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration, was launched during the Working Party's sixth session (18–19 June 2009).

***Work to be undertaken:***

- (a) Spatial planning. Member States identified urban sprawl as an issue needing further consideration. Opportunities to organize a workshop on the subject in 2010 and possible partners in this endeavour will be explored;
- (b) Informal settlements. The study will be followed by specific outreach and capacity-building activities, including subregional workshops;
- (c) Climate neutral cities. An event on climate neutral cities, to take place as part of the Committee session and involving member States, local authorities and the private sector, will discuss policies and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities. The outcomes and conclusions of the workshop will be further discussed during the session, to enable the Committee to decide upon specific follow-up activities.

### **10.1.3 Land registration and land markets**

**Description:** The Working Party on Land Administration is the subsidiary body of the Committee that specifically addresses land administration issues. Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of reforms in economies in transition, as well as in the context of European integration and the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The Working Party's activities aim to provide assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastral and land registration systems and in sharing information and experience regarding the modernization of

land administration systems in the more advanced economies through education, training, research and development, exchange of experience, transfer of technology and standardization.

***Work accomplished:***

- (a) Working Party on Land Administration session. The sixth session of the Working Party was held on 18 and 19 June 2009.
- (b) Land administration reviews. A land administration review of Bulgaria was completed and then launched and discussed during the workshop organized by the Working Party in Sofia in April 2009. A land administration review of Kyrgyzstan was developed jointly and included in the country profile (see 10.1.1 above for details).
- (c) Workshops. In 2008–2009, workshops were held: (a) in April 2008 in Bergen, Norway, on the institutional aspects of land administration (“Legal Empowerment of the Poor”); (b) in October 2008 in Cavtat, Croatia (“Influence of Land Administration on People and Business”); and (c) in April 2009 in Sofia (“Experience with Data Management to Improve Land Administration in ECE Countries”). A self-evaluation exercise for these Working Party workshops was undertaken and presented at the Working Party’s session.
- (d) Real Estate Market Advisory Group. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) was established at a meeting of the Working Party’s Bureau (Bergen, Norway, 9 April 2008). Since then, two REM/UNECE events have taken place: the first in New York in December 2008 (“The Real Estate and Financial Crisis: Causes, Effects and Impacts on Development”) in December 2008, and the second in Rome in June 2009 (“Rethinking Real Estate Markets: Sound Rules towards Social and Economic Benefits”).
- (e) Fees and charges. A draft study on fees and charges has been finalized and published. A new topic (“Fraud to land management institutions”) was introduced for in-depth review.

***Work to be undertaken:***

- (a) Working Party on Land Administration session. The next session of the Working Party will take place in June 2011;
- (b) Land administration reviews: The secretariat is preparing the mission to Tajikistan – expected to take place in late 2009 – to develop the land administration review of that country, possibly in conjunction with the country profile exercise;
- (c) Workshops. The next Working Party workshops will take place in Baku on 1 and 2 October 2009 and in Minsk in spring 2010;

- (d) Real Estate Market Advisory Group. Activities will be developed in cooperation with the Working Party. A workshop on “Greening the Real Estate Market” is foreseen for late 2009;
- (e) Fraud to land management institutions. Work on this topic will continue. It will be based on the discussions held at the Working Party session (to be updated);
- (f) Informal settlements. see item 10.1.2.

Cooperation will continue to be pursued with key partners, e.g. the World Bank, the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union, EuroGeographics and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

#### **10.1.4 Housing modernization and management**

Description: The main goal of this activity is to identify and provide tools for tackling problems related to housing stock and its management. Housing systems are an important factor with regard to both safeguarding social cohesion in UNECE countries and responding to environmental challenges. The activity focuses in particular on urban renewal and housing refurbishment policies and on existing and emerging housing problems, especially those connected with housing financing and energy efficiency. As a result of privatization in countries in transition, the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in multifamily housing is the major form of tenure. It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership and establish a legal and institutional framework for operating housing condominiums. This programme element also focuses on the basic mechanisms for social housing development and for the enhancement of building performance.

##### ***Work accomplished:***

- (a) Studies and workshops. A workshop on homelessness was held on 18 and 19 May 2009 in Oslo. The first workshop on energy efficiency in housing was held in Sofia on 21 and 22 April 2009 (see [www.ee-housing.com](http://www.ee-housing.com));
- (b) Multifamily housing management. Further to attempts to develop an assessment of the situation in some pilot countries, the Bureau decided to analyse in particular the case of Slovakia. A revised project proposal on multifamily housing is contained in document ECE/HBP/2009/7 for the consideration of the Committee, reflecting lessons learned from the Slovak case and guidelines for its replicability in other contexts in the region;
- (c) Energy efficiency in housing. A study on this issue has been developed that focuses on addressing the political, institutional, financial, technological and institutional gaps in the UNECE region. The study contains an in-depth discussion and highlights the main challenges as well as policies to overcome them; this forms the basis for future work in this area (see ECE/HBP/2009/6);

- (d) Building safety. 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 secure norms and techniques. The Committee will discuss how to address this issue, including through the organization of a workshop.

***Work to be undertaken:***

- (a) Studies and workshops. A second workshop on energy efficiency in housing, (“Towards a UNECE Action Plan on Energy Efficiency in Housing”) will be held from 23 to 25 November 2009 in Vienna;
- (b) Multifamily housing. The Committee will consider how to apply and extend guidance provided by the Slovak case to other countries in the region, including through capacity-building workshops;
- (c) Energy efficiency in housing. The Committee will discuss the development of an Action Plan on Energy Efficiency in Housing, as well as a schedule and timetable for this exercise.

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