



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Housing and Land Management

#### Seventy-second session

Geneva, 3 - 4 October 2011

#### Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### **Draft annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-second session**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 October 2011

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.
3. Work of the Bureau of the Committee and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network.
4. Review of the programme of work:
  - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector;
  - (b) Improvement of urban environment performance;
  - (c) Land registration and land markets;
  - (d) Housing modernization and management.
5. Affordable, healthy and ecological housing.
6. Review of mandates of the Working Party on Land Administration and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group.
7. Inter-divisional and inter-agency activities.
8. Other business.
9. Election of the Bureau.
10. Closing of the session.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda is based on decisions taken by the Committee at its seventieth session (ECE/HBP/162) and on progress made since then in implementing the programme of work. The provisional agenda, which was approved by the Committee Bureau at its meeting in April 2011, is presented to the Committee for approval.

### **2. Matters arising from the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe**

The Committee will be informed about decisions that the Commission adopted at its sixty-fourth session, in March 2011, as well as any other developments which have a bearing on the work of the Committee. It will be invited to take these into account when reviewing the implementation of the programme of work (under item 4 of the provisional agenda).

### **3. Work of the Bureau of the Committee and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network**

The Chair of the Committee Bureau will report on the Bureau's work and the main decisions taken since the previous session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/2011/2). Information will be provided on the outcome of discussion on the future of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN) held by the Bureau in April 2011.

The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Approve the work of the Bureau;
- (b) Decide on the future of the Housing and Urban Development Advisory Network.

### **4. Review of the programme of work**

The Committee will review the implementation of the programme of work agreed upon at its seventy-first session (ECE/HBP/162) as well as the summary report on workshops (ECE/HBP/2011/3).

The Committee will approve its programme of work (ECE/HBP/2011/1), including the list of publications, and its biennial evaluation plan for 2012-2013 (Informal notice 1). The programme of work will be updated in accordance with decisions of the current session.

#### **(a) Country profiles on the housing sector**

The Committee will be provided with updates on the status of the country profiles on the housing sector.

The delegation of Azerbaijan will report on the launching event and progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in the country profile study.

The Committee will be informed about the status of the country profile on housing and land administration of Tajikistan, including plans for its publication. It will also be informed about the organization of a launching event for the country profile of Kyrgyzstan, and on the preparation of the country profile on the housing sector of Ukraine.

The Committee will be presented with conclusions and recommendations of the draft study "Housing Profiles: Implementation Challenges and Opportunities in Housing Policy and Practice in the UNECE Region" developed for the first Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum (Budapest, 4-6 April 2011).

The discussion will start with a presentation by delegations representing countries that have recently conducted housing reviews. This will be followed by interventions by experts who participated in the country profile reviews. They will present their experience in studying specific areas in the housing sector and/or on how the country profile recommendations are being implemented in their countries. The discussion will conclude with interventions from the participants, based on their experience in tackling policy issues relevant to the country profiles.

Delegations of member States are invited to inform the Committee if they are interested in having a country review conducted for their country.

The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Discuss the impact of the country profiles programme in the respective countries;
- (b) Take note of the information provided, including on the next country to be reviewed.

**(b) Improvement of urban environment performance**

At its seventieth session, the Committee agreed to include the issue of climate neutrality under this item of the programme of work and to undertake a study of means and tools for adapting to and mitigating climate change in cities. At its subsequent session, it agreed on the extended outline of the study and asked the secretariat to prepare the study and recommendations and present the text at the seventy-second session. The draft study "Climate Neutral Cities: How to make cities less energy and carbon intensive and more resilient to climatic challenges" will be presented for discussion.

The delegation of Turkey will inform the Committee about the outcome of the workshop on Spatial Planning to Improve Security of Tenure in the UNECE Region. This event was held in Antalya, Turkey, on 28 and 29 October 2010 as part of the programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA).

In addition, the secretariat of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention will inform the Committee about the outcome of the seminar on Land-Use Planning Around High-Risk Industrial Sites, organized jointly with the Committee on Housing and Land Management in The Hague, Netherlands, on 11 and 12 November 2010.

The Committee is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the information provided;
- (b) Discuss and provide comments on the draft study on Climate Neutral Cities.

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

The Chair of the WPLA will report on the outcomes of the seventh session of the Working Party, which was held in Geneva on 30 June and 1 July 2011. He will also report on the activities carried out since the Committee's previous session and on the programme of work for 2012–2013, including:

- (a) Progress made in the development of a study on fraud in electronic conveyance;

- (b) New requests of member States to have a land administration review;
- (c) Recent and upcoming workshops organized by the Working Party.

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

The Chair of the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group will be invited to inform the Committee about the work undertaken since the seventy-first session, as well as about planned activities for 2012-2013.

The Committee may wish to take note of the information presented and provide inputs and advice on future activities of the Advisory Group.

**(d) Housing modernization and management**

**Energy efficiency in housing.** At its latest session, the Committee adopted an Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region and recommended that UNECE member States should adapt its targets and measures to local conditions, as well as implement policies to remove barriers to energy efficiency, and to progressively move towards a low-energy and carbon-neutral housing sector. Following the adoption of the Action Plan, the secretariat issued the document as a UNECE publication (ECE/HBP/164).

**Building and construction safety.** At its seventieth session, the Committee highlighted the importance of building and construction safety in the context of disaster preparedness. To address those issues, an international forum on Natural Disasters and Building and Construction Safety was hosted by Azerbaijan on 16 and 17 November 2010 in collaboration with UNECE and the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The delegation of Azerbaijan will inform delegations about the main outcomes of the Forum.

**Training activities.** The Committee will be informed about the main outcomes of the joint UNDP-UNECE training workshop on the legal aspects of housing privatization and management held in Tbilisi, on 22 and 23 November 2010 as a follow-up to the country profile on the housing sector of Georgia. Information will also be provided on the possibility of organizing other joint training activities in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Georgia. The delegation of Belarus will report on the main outcomes of the training workshop on affordable housing provision in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States held in cooperation with the Government of Belarus and UN-Habitat in Minsk from 14 to 17 March 2011 as a follow-up to the country profile on the housing sector of Belarus. The secretariat will also inform delegations about the possibility of organizing other joint training activities in cooperation with UN-Habitat.

The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented and provide advice and guidance on possible future activities, including on:

- (a) Implementation of the Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region;
- (b) Capacity-building activities.

**5. Affordable, healthy and ecological housing**

To explore the desirability of establishing a more formal UNECE-wide policy framework on affordable, healthy and ecological housing, the Committee, for its seventy-first session, drew up a background paper on “Principles and Goals for Affordable, Healthy and Ecological Housing” (ECE/HBP/2010/6). Following discussion of this document at that

session, the Committee decided to set up a Working Group to explore the possibility of establishing a legally binding instrument. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Working Group held two meetings in 2011 and produced a report on its findings (ECE/HBP/AC.1/2011/4). The discussion at the current session will begin with three presentations by experts, in which they examine the role of such an instrument in addressing the challenges of sustainable housing at the international level.

The Committee will also explore the possibility of organizing a high-level Ministerial meeting in conjunction with its seventy-fourth session (September 2013) to assess progress in implementing UNECE housing instruments and to define future policy directions of its work (ECE/HBP/2011/5). The last Ministerial meeting took place in 2006 and adopted the Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Areas in the UNECE Region. Depending on the recommendations made by the Working Group, the high-level meeting may also agree on a course of action on future work on affordable, healthy and ecological housing.

With this in mind, the Committee may wish to:

- (a) Consider the outcome of the work of the Working Group and related recommendations for action;
- (b) Agree to hold a Ministerial Segment back to back with the seventy-fourth session in September 2013;
- (c) Invite member States to host that Ministerial Segment and Committee session.

## **6. Review of mandates of the Working Party on Land Administration and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (ECE/HBP/2011/4)**

By the seventy-second session of the Committee, the mandates of WPLA, REM Advisory Group and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network will have expired. As outlined in the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within the UNECE (ECE/EX/1), the mandate of a Working Party is reviewed by its parent sectoral committee every five years. According to UNECE guidelines (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1), the work of advisory groups, including the need to perform additional tasks, is to be reviewed by their parent body every two years.

To assess the work of WPLA, the secretariat has prepared an overview of its activities undertaken during the last five years, including workshops, seminars, publications and other initiatives (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2011/8). The document was discussed by WPLA at its seventh session held on 30 June and 1 July 2011. In addition, WPLA also evaluated the work of the REM Advisory Group, based on a document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2011/5).

The Committee is invited to decide on the following:

- (a) Extension of the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration;
- (b) Extension of the mandate of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group.

## **7. Inter-divisional and inter-agency activities**

In line with the request of UNECE and with general United Nations advice on cooperation between agencies, the Committee and the secretariat carried out a number of activities in cooperation with other UNECE programmes and other United Nations agencies.

**Ecological building.** The Chair will report on the initiative taken by the UNECE Timber Committee to establish a Task Force on Green Building to be composed of experts from the Timber Committee, Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

**Energy efficiency.** A representative of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will provide information on the outcome of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 project relevant to the programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

**Cooperation with other United Nations agencies.** Information will be provided on current and future joint activities with UN-HABITAT and its regional offices, as well as with the UNDP Office in Georgia.

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

## **8. Other business**

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. Other issues may be raised by members States under this agenda item.

## **9. Election of the Bureau**

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

## **10. Closing of the seventy-second session**

The Chair will sum up the major decisions taken by the Committee. After the session, the Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will prepare the report of the seventy-second session.

### III. Tentative Timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	
Monday, 3 October	10:00 – 10:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
	10:10 – 10:40	2	Matters arising from the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe
	10:40 – 11:15	3	Work of the Bureau of the Committee and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network
	11:15 – 13:00	4 (a)	Review of implementation of the programme of work for 2011–2012 - Country profiles on the housing sector
	15:00 – 16:00	4 (b)	Improvement of urban environment performance
	16:00 – 17:00	4 (c)	Land registration and land markets
	17:00 – 18:00	4 (d)	Housing modernization and management
Tuesday, 4 October	10:00 – 13:00	5	Affordable, healthy and ecological housing
	15:00 – 15:45	6	Review of mandates of the Working Party on Land Administration and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group
	15:45 – 16:20	7	Inter-divisional and inter-agency activities
	16:20 – 16:40	8	Other business
	16:40 – 17:00	9	Election of the Bureau
	17:00 – 17:30	10	Closing of the seventy-second session