



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Housing and Land Management

#### Seventy-third session

Geneva, 24 – 25 September 2012

#### Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Review of the programme of work

## Proposal for the amendment of some elements of the Programme of Work

### Note by the secretariat

#### *Summary*

At its meeting that took place on 2-3 July 2012 in Geneva, the Bureau of the Committee agreed that there is a need to adjust and change some of the elements and activities of the programme of work. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a table summarizing this proposal and to submit it for consideration to the Committee, subject to the final results of the ongoing EXCOM review of the UNECE's work. Changes approved will be reflected in the documents to be prepared for the seventy-fourth session of the Committee to take place in the fall of 2013.

## I. Introduction

1. The Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management met on 2-3 July 2012 in Geneva (ECE/HBP/2012/1). Bureau members reviewed elements of the programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Managements (ECE/HBP/2011/1).
2. Bureau members highlighted that there is a need to refocus and adjust some of the areas of work in order to better reflect the needs of member States. They then asked the secretariat to reflect their proposals in a table.
3. In particular, Bureau members considered that the areas of work need renaming and refocusing as follows:
  - “Housing modernization and management” to be renamed to “Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets”. This programme element would cover issues such as ecological, healthy energy efficient housing; housing affordability and accessibility (barrier-free housing); resilience to earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters (including fires), as well as maintenance, management and refurbishment of the existing housing stock. The possible negotiation of a framework convention on housing issues would also be under this area of work. The Bureau emphasized the close linkage of real estate markets and housing and considered that moving this topic together with sustainable housing would reflect better to the challenges post 2008 economic crisis and would, in addition, further strengthen the work of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group. However, the functions of the Advisory Group should not be limited only to the Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Market programme element.
  - “Urban environmental performance” to be renamed to “Sustainable Urban Development”. In particular, the work on cities should be strengthened. Green Economy seminars, initiatives on smart cities and disaster resilience would be covered by this area of work.
  - “Land registration and land markets” to be renamed to “Land Administration and Land Management” as it would reflect better the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration (main body dealing with those issues). At the same time, although the Working Party is mainly in charge of this programme element, the Working Party should also advise the Committee in all other areas of work. This is because land administration and land management are closely linked to both sustainable housing and real estate markets and particularly closely related to sustainable urban development. In addition, the Bureau recommended that the topic of informal settlements be addressed by the Working Party. It was also recommended that the Real Estate Market Advisory Group would provide future assistance to the Working Party on topics related to the collection of registry data for fiscal purposes.
  - “Country profiles on the housing sector”. It was suggested that the title of this work area and related publications be changed to include the words “housing and land management” since in recent years, the studies have covered both topics. Therefore, the area could be renamed to “Country profiles on housing and land management”. Studies including only one of those areas will mention only it in the title. It was further suggested that the methodology should be reviewed and monitoring and review of implementation be strengthened. Countries should be encouraged to establish high-level national inter-sectoral steering committees to review the situation before undertaking a study. Once a study is finalized, these committees could assist in monitoring the implementation.

## **II. Proposals of the Bureau on adjustment of programme of work elements**

4. The table below summarizes the proposals of the Bureau and is for consideration by the Committee as part of its discussion on priorities and issues to be included in the next programme of work.

<b>Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets</b>	<b>Sustainable Urban Development</b>	<b>Land Administration and Land Management</b>	<b>Country Profiles on Housing and/or Land Management</b>
<p>Negotiations on the possible framework Convention on Sustainable Housing (if approved).</p> <p>Guidelines, analyses and training on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing management (in particular condominium management);</li> <li>• Healthy and energy efficient housing;</li> <li>• Affordable and social housing;</li> <li>• Security of tenure;</li> <li>• Barrier-free housing (with regard to ageing and disability)/Universal design;</li> <li>• Resilience to natural disasters; housing quality and safety;</li> <li>• Financing housing and real estate;</li> <li>• The role of governments in housing and regulating real estate markets as a central topic at REM National Round Tables and workshops;</li> <li>• Guidelines and reports supporting real estate market stability, including on greening the real estate market.</li> </ul>	<p>Coordinate UNECE interdivisional working group: organize joint activities on sustainable urban development and smart cities, including UNECE Green Economy Seminars.</p> <p>Maintain network of experts on energy-efficient housing and cities</p> <p>Guidelines, analyses, training on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency in urban settings, including aspects of energy poverty and energy standards;</li> <li>• Climate-neutral cities</li> <li>• Urban planning, in particular related to impacts of demographic change (declining and ageing population)</li> <li>• Resilience to natural disaster risks (earthquakes, other);</li> <li>• Spatial planning/land use planning.</li> </ul>	<p>Exchange of experiences among member States and development of the capacities of land administration authorities in the UNECE region to facilitate sustainable development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPLA workshops;</li> <li>• Casebook on best practices on informal settlements in the UNECE region;</li> <li>• Model technical projects on different aspects of land management, including land consolidation;</li> <li>• Benchmarking study of land administration systems;</li> <li>• Other WPLA guidelines and publication.</li> <li>• Land management reviews as a part of Country Profiles.</li> </ul>	<p>Put in place an updated methodology of the Country Profiles (CPs), which would include dimensions of Green Economy, Gender, and Disaster Risk Reduction.</p> <p>Work on the Ministerial Conference publication with national reports on housing policies.</p> <p>Development and implementation of National Action Plans to implement CP recommendations for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine;</p> <p>On-going work on:</p> <p>CP Moldova, CP Russian Federation, CP Ukraine</p>
<b>Working Party on Land Administration supports the Committee's work in all areas of work, although, mainly in the area of land administration and management</b>			
<b>Real Estate Markets Advisory Group supports the Committee's work in all areas of work related to real estate markets</b>			