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Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2016-2017 since the seventy-seventh session

Country profiles on housing and land management

Draft revised guidelines for the preparation of ECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

Note by the secretariat

Summary

ECE country profiles on housing and land management are the flagship activity of the programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management. Regular reviews of the methodology for the preparation of country profiles are conducted by the Committee in order to reflect international policy developments and new priorities in housing, urban development and land administration and land management in the ECE region and to support governments and stakeholders more effectively with analysis and policy advice.

In 2016, an evaluation on the role of ECE country profiles on housing and land management was conducted; its outcomes and recommendations were presented at the seventy-seventh Committee session. Following the presentation of the evaluation outcomes, the Committee requested the secretariat to review the methodology of the preparation of the country profiles and revise the guidelines for the preparation of country profiles according to the recommendations of the evaluation report. This note contains these revised guidelines. The Working Party on Land Administration was consulted in the preparation of these guidelines.

The Committee is invited to endorse these guidelines. Following the Committee's endorsement, the guidelines will be made available through the ECE website.

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I. Introduction

1. To support housing and land policy reforms in the ECE region, the ECE prepares country profiles on housing and land management. These country profiles are a tool for Governments to analyse their housing, urban development and land management policies, strategies, and institutions. They also help countries to evaluate their progress in these areas with that made by other countries in the region. At the core of the country profiles is an analytical study of housing, urban development and land administration and management written by international experts and peer-reviewed. Practical policy recommendations are formulated based on this analysis and the peer-review.
2. The target groups for country profiles are, most importantly, decision-makers in the national, regional and local authorities; international and non-governmental organizations; academia; and the private sector active in housing, urban development and land administration.
3. ECE was developing Housing Profile studies and Land Administration Reviews since 1994. In 2009, it was agreed by the member States to combine the Country Profiles on the Housing Sector of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Land Administration Reviews to a joint format to be known as Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management, making use of a modular approach (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2009/7). This approach was endorsed by the Committee (ECE/HBP/160) in order to better adjust future Country Profiles to the policy needs of individual ECE member countries and cover a broader range of policy areas.
4. Thus far, ECE country profiles have been produced for Bulgaria (1996), Poland (1998), Slovakia (1999), Lithuania (2000), Romania (2001), the Republic of Moldova (2002 and 2015), Albania (2002), Armenia (2004 and 2017), the Russian Federation (2004), Serbia and Montenegro (2006), Georgia (2007), Belarus (2008), Kyrgyzstan (2010), Azerbaijan (2010), Tajikistan (2011), Ukraine (2013), and Uzbekistan (2015). The country profile of the Republic of Kazakhstan will be completed in 2017.
5. This note contains information on the purpose and the role of country profiles in facilitating legal, political and infrastructural reforms in ECE countries; the rationale behind the country profiles structure; and the guidelines for the country profiles preparation. The guidelines include information on the procedure for the preparation of the country profiles (section III of this document), the structure and content of country profiles (section IV), and the use of country profiles as a tool to promote reforms in housing and land management (section V).
6. The current revised guidelines reflect findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of ECE country profiles conducted in 2016 and ECE management response to the evaluation report recommendations. An important recommendation was to integrate the SDGs in the Country Profiles. Therefore, these guidelines also explain how the country profiles will review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs and other related international commitments, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning.
7. These guidelines are primarily for the use of the member States to be aware of what a country profile is able to cover, analyse and evaluate. The guidelines are also useful for the experts who contribute to country profiles to understand the structure and ultimate aim

of the profiles to guide their work along with the technical guidance they will receive from the secretariat. More information on the country profiles, including technical notes to national focal points and experts preparing chapters on housing, urban development, land administration and management for their work on country profiles are available at the webpage <http://www.unece.org/housing/countryprofiles.html>.

II. Evaluation of ECE Country Profiles and its outcomes

8. In 2016, the ECE conducted an evaluation of the role of the ECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in supporting policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land administration and management in the ECE region. The evaluation's aim was to support further improvement of the content of country profiles; to increase the efficiency of the work for the development of country profiles; to promote long term sustainability of the instrument; and to better coordinate the work on the CPs with other areas of work of the Committee. The evaluation focused on the procedure for the preparation, execution, monitoring and follow-up of the country profiles.

9. The evaluation report¹ demonstrated that recommendations of the country profile have resulted in important policy reforms in countries under review. These include the development of new laws, programmes and regulations on housing, urban planning and land administration and management, and the improvement of existing ones. According to the survey of member States conducted as part of the evaluation, the country profile's policy recommendations are highly relevant according to 67 per cent of respondents; are very useful according to 76 per cent; and the country profile's preparation process is good or excellent according to 82 per cent of the respondents. Representatives of the governments in countries where country profiles were conducted, considered that the policy recommendations "significantly influenced the formation" of policy and legal frameworks on housing, urban planning and land administration and management.

10. The evaluation report formulated recommendations aimed at improving mechanisms for the preparation, execution, monitoring and follow-up of the country profiles analytical study. Specifically, the evaluation recommended, among others, to

- Align the preparation of the country profiles with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their indicators;
- Introduce a procedure of peer-review of country profiles to improve their quality;
- Introduce use of online collaboration and knowledge management tools for the preparation of the country profiles;
- Increase fundraising efforts for the preparation of country profiles to ensure sufficient resources for high-quality product;
- Broaden partnerships within and outside of the ECE;
- Strengthen the follow-up and monitoring mechanism;
- Broaden the application and the monitoring of gender issues.

11. Following the evaluation, ECE has prepared its management response with an assessment of the feasibility for the implementation of the evaluation recommendations. The ECE management response highlighted that implementation of some of the

¹ Petradze, N. 2016. Evaluation of the role of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management from 1996 to 2015. Available at <http://www.unece.org/housing/countryprofiles.html>

recommendations, such as the establishment of the peer-review system and strengthening of the monitoring mechanism, is subject to availability of adequate financial resources, and indeed required, as recommended by the evaluator, to increase fundraising efforts to ensure needed resources for the proposed activities.

12. At the moment, it could be recommended to apply the approach adopted in the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) for aligning the EPRs with 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.² The EPR guidance includes a provision for a section or a box with data and analysis devoted to SDGs in each chapter. Such a box or text would include information on (a) the existence of an enabling framework and resources for achieving the goals and/or targets, and (b) progress towards achievement of the goals and/or targets. Experts responsible for chapters are recommended to reflect on the global indicator(s), if data is available, and are encouraged to reflect upon relevant targets, also looking beyond the global indicator(s). Formulating policy recommendations, experts are encouraged to provide recommendations on how to foster the progress towards the achievement of the goals and/or targets.

13. The country profiles should also become an important instrument to review the implementation of the UN New Urban Agenda adopted by the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III (Quito, 17-20 October 2016). For the next year efforts will be made to integrate the content of the New Urban Agenda and the Quito implementation plan.

14. Following the recommendations to broaden the application and the monitoring of gender issues, the gender dimension was introduced through the whole process – from consultations during a research mission to the inclusion of this aspects in drafting chapters on housing and land administration and management; and to monitoring and review of the implementation of recommendations.

15. One of the proposals for the country profiles could be to rename them to country profiles on housing, urban development, land administration and management to reflect better the provisions of the New Urban Agenda and its implementation plan.

III. Procedure for the preparation of country profiles

16. **Request.** The Committee considers the preparation of a country profile after receiving a request from the relevant national agency or ministry, addressed to the director of the division servicing the Committee. If the Committee approves the request, the ECE secretariat (hereinafter, secretariat) requests the country to nominate a focal point for the country profile project.

17. **Nomination of a focal point.** The country assigns a representative of the requesting ministry as a focal point for the project. The focal point coordinates country efforts to facilitate the country profile preparation process. The focal point regularly communicates with the secretariat regarding the preparation and execution of research missions and the coordination of national experts. The focal point must be able to communicate in English.

18. **Establishment of a national team of experts.** The national team of experts is established by the host government to support the international team. This is done before the preliminary mission of the secretariat is conducted. National experts represent the government institutions dealing with housing, urban development and land administration

² <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/environment/2016/eprs-to-support-the-achievement-and-monitoring-of-sdgs/doc.html>

and management issues in the country under review. The experts provide available information relevant to the country profile prior to the research mission and assist the international team during and after the mission. The work of the national team of experts is an in-kind contribution of the host government to the country profile project.

19. **Preliminary mission.** The secretariat will undertake a preliminary mission to the country in order to establish contacts with the national, regional and local organization stakeholders involved in housing, urban development and land administration and management and to collect information materials that could be useful to the international experts. After the mission, the structure of the country profile is drafted and a list of national experts with contact data is established. The structure of the country profile will be decided, in consultation with national authorities, based on the main housing, urban development and land administration and management challenges identified during the mission.

20. **Establishment of an international team of experts and collection of background data and information.** A team of international experts is established by the secretariat. The team includes professionals in housing policy, housing finance, urban planning and management, land administration and land management. Experts act in their personal capacity and are chosen on the basis of their expertise and knowledge of the region. Experts are not from the country under review in order to avoid conflicts of interest and to provide an external, independent perspective.

21. The secretariat invites cooperation from member States, other ECE divisions and partner organisations in the preparation of a country profile. With regard to the evaluation recommendation to broaden partnerships within and outside of the ECE, representatives of countries, other ECE divisions and partner organisations will be invited to participate in the development of country profiles. ECE has a good record of cooperation on the development of the country profiles with UN Habitat, UNDP, OECD and Housing Europe and other organisations.

22. The secretariat and the national focal point facilitate the initial contact between international experts and national experts via email so that international experts can communicate directly with national experts to collect necessary background information for their chapters and, thus, prepare for the research mission.

23. National experts are requested to participate actively in the collection of relevant background information and data. Information is provided to international experts well in advance of the research mission and not later than four weeks before the mission. Each expert will provide the national focal point with a questionnaire that needs to be answered at least two weeks before the mission.

24. Background information includes policy documents, reports, publications, lists and copies of relevant legal acts as well as available and relevant economic data for the last 10 years. Earlier data will be requested as needed.

25. The secretariat creates password protected access to an online document repository, which international experts could refer to, for background information collected from national experts and research information from the secretariat.

26. **Research mission.** The research mission is conducted by the secretariat and the international team of experts. International experts are requested to submit a two-page draft outline of their chapters, with the main points to be covered by the chapters, to the secretariat at least one month prior to the research mission. The research mission involves fact-finding and in-depth discussions with the national team of experts and housing and land administration and management stakeholders in the country. It also includes consultations with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations, women's

groups, experts and private sector representatives. Close cooperation between the international and national expert teams is a prerequisite for a successful research mission. Technical visits to housing sites can be organized during the mission.

27. **Preliminary chapter drafts.** International experts prepare comprehensive first drafts of their chapters after the research mission. The expected length of a chapter is 7-10 pages (in 11 point Times New Roman with single line spacing). Each chapter includes proposed policy recommendations. While these drafts are being written, the national expert team is expected to answer additional queries from international experts or the secretariat as needed. When possible, the use of communication technology such as video conferencing is encouraged to facilitate communication exchange.

28. **Revised draft.** The secretariat and the international experts cooperate to create a revised and harmonised draft with the recommendations. This draft is then sent to country authorities for acknowledgement and verification.

29. **Peer review process with experts of the Committee and with the government representatives.** This procedure is conducted to discuss findings and draft recommendations of the country profile.³

30. **Final draft.** The secretariat produces a final draft, incorporating all the comments. The final draft is presented to the Committee for approval.

31. **Publication.** After the country profile is approved by the Committee, it is published in English and, when requested by country authorities, in Russian. Country authorities translate the study into the national language. The document is made available in hard copy and online on the Committee website at <http://www.unece.org/housing>.

32. **Launch event.** A launch event is held in the country with the participation of a wide range of international and national actors in the housing and land sectors to disseminate findings and recommendations of and create awareness among stakeholders about the country profile.

33. **Distribution.** Hard copies of the publication are sent to the government of the country for which the country profile was prepared and on request to other ECE member States, organisations and experts.

34. The following factors should be taken into consideration in planning and organizing a country profile study:

- **Financing.** Country profiles are financed through extrabudgetary funds, mostly in the form of contributions from member States or other organisations to the ECE. Member States and partner organisations sometimes provide in kind assistance as well, by contributing and paying the travel costs of international experts. Countries under review may contribute in kind, for instance, by (1) providing work time of their national experts to participate in research mission, collect data and information; (2) supporting by organising translation of relevant documents, interpretation and local transport during the missions, etc. The secretariat explores possible partnerships with ECE divisions and other UN agencies and international organizations in the preparation of country profiles. For this purpose, templates of the invitation letter and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are available.

³ A modality of the peer review requires further discussion in meetings after the end of the seventy-eighth Committee session to be able to agree on the procedures that are most effective and efficient given scarcity of resources.

- **Cooperation with international organizations and non-governmental organizations in countries under review.** During the country profile missions, the secretariat establishes contacts with international organizations in the country of the mission in order to take advantage of existing knowledge and information as well as to obtain possible support with the implementation of country profiles recommendations.
- **Sources.** Analyses prepared by international experts should be based on the reliable and verifiable data and information provided by the country under review, non-governmental organizations and on the reports and publications of international organizations and donor agencies active in the country.
- **Approximate timeframe of the county profile study.** When possible, the process of preparing a country profile should take approximately 46 weeks, including a pre-mission (one week), collection of background data and information (eight weeks), research mission (one to two weeks), drafting the chapters and recommendations (twenty-four weeks), editing and translation (six weeks) and publication (six weeks). In practice this period maybe longer, depending on the size of a country under review, available financial and human resources for the study, etc.

IV. Structure and content of country profiles

35. Countries under review vary geographically, politically and socioeconomically and it is therefore impossible to establish a single country profile structure for all countries. The proposed structure is indicative and should be adapted as needed.

36. International experts should consult the Committee website⁴ before preparing their chapters. The website contains published country profiles and other useful links and information.

37. Country profiles have various end users and each may seek different information. Nonetheless, especially for national authorities of reviewed countries, the most important component of the profiles is the conclusions and policy recommendations. These are summarized in the last chapter of the country profile.

38. Policy recommendations are a key chapter of the country profiles. Policy recommendations should be focused on identified shortcomings and clearly prioritised, taking into account the needs of the country under review and medium to long-term goals. They should be direct, clear and realistic and include a timeline. They should also indicate actions that are needed in order to effect change and the public actors who are responsible for each action. Last but not least, the recommendations should include guidelines for the coordination of different actors.

39. **The following structure for the country profiles** is recommended (the structure of the study is adjusted to reflect more efficiently the geographical, social and economic conditions of countries under review and their political priorities):

40. **Preamble.** This part of the profile includes a foreword by the ECE Executive Secretary, a preface, acknowledgements, and an executive summary.

41. **General overview of the country situation.** This chapter includes summary information on geography, political framework, population and socio-economic conditions.

⁴ Available from <http://www.unece.org/housing/countryprofiles.html>

42. **Housing stock, including the legal and institutional framework.** This section includes an analysis of the housing stock, including its physical condition, accessibility, affordability, habitability and cultural adequacy, as well as housing maintenance and management practices, including the role of the private sector in housing management.⁵

43. The section, first of all, analyses housing tenure systems (such as home ownership, individual ownership, condominiums and cooperatives). This includes discussion on housing ownership by women. There are interlinkages with land tenure systems in the chapter on land administration and management, including the legal and institutional framework, as well as all other relevant chapters.

44. It further provides an analysis on the links between housing and poverty. Drawing on the sustainable livelihood approach (SLA), it provides an analysis of how housing conditions influence the ability of disadvantaged households to achieve sustainable livelihoods; on the households' strategies to improve living conditions and on the influence of institutions and policies in mediating access to available resources.

45. The section also provides an analysis of housing demand and supply, rental housing, provision of social and affordable housing, and housing programmes; as well as of housing policies, including the housing policy framework and policy instruments.

46. It analyses the use of local building materials, utilities, housing energy efficiency and energy saving, and addresses adaptation to climate change and strategies to combat natural and human-induced disasters through better housing standards and design.

47. Finally, the section provides an analysis of the legal and institutional framework for housing, identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the legal and institutional systems for housing and inform on key actors and their roles in housing, the level of engagement of the public and public sectors and the participation of the public in decision making.

48. The section reviews the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs, in particular:

- SDG 1, including
 - Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”
 - Target 1.5 “By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”.
- SDG 7 partially, including
 - Target 7.1 “By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services”
 - Target 7.3 “By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency”.

⁵ See also “Elements of the right to adequate housing”, available from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/toolkit/Pages/RighttoAdequateHousingToolkit.aspx>

- SDG 10 Target 10.3. “Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard”
- SDG11
 - Target 11.1 “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”
 - Target 11.7 “By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”
 - Target 11.b “By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels”
 - Target 11.c “Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials”.
- SDG 13, including
 - Target 13.2. “Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”.

49. **Urban development and planning, including the legal and institutional framework.** This section explores the state of urban development, including issues such as urbanization, the abandonment of urban or rural areas, the densification of inner cities or urban sprawl, social inclusion, gentrification, socially mixed development as well as planned and unplanned housing development in the context of the development of smart and compact cities. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and UN-Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning are used as a global guidance document to prepare this chapter. The section also analyses large housing development projects, the reconstruction of degraded areas (greenfield development and brownfield regeneration), spatial planning, the management of urban growth, the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and informal settlements. Linkages with territorial planning of transport are explored. The section addresses the policy framework for spatial development and land-use regulations, including master plans and zoning. This section also informs on the technical framework e.g. availability of geoinformation, land records or a spatial data infrastructure. Open-government, Open Data initiatives, and IT-infrastructure. Finally, the section analyses the legal and institutional framework for urban development, identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the legal and institutional systems for urban development and provide information on key actors and their roles in urban development; and on participation of the public in decision making.

50. The section reviews the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs, in particular:

- SDG 11, in particular:
 - Target 11.3 “By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”

- Target 11.4 “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”
- Target 11.7 “By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”.
- SDG 13, including
 - Target 13.2. “Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”.

51. **Infrastructure and public services.** This section analyses the quality of infrastructure and public services and the roles of different actors in their provision and management. The chapter provides analysis of management systems in the country and the extent to which they facilitate the provision of services. It assesses innovation in the sectors under review and investment priorities. The legal and institutional frameworks for the infrastructure shall be addressed in the urban development chapter.

52. The section reviews the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs, in particular:

- SDG 9 Target 9.1 “Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all”.

53. **Land administration and management, including the legal and institutional framework.** This section usually consists of two chapters: one on land policies and good governance and the other on the legal, institutional and technical framework for land administration and management. The first chapter includes analyses on achievements in the land sector, ongoing and planned land reforms (if applicable), development and transparency of real estate markets and regulatory and legal framework.; The chapter also includes issues related to land rights, forms of ownership and tenure, mortgages and foreclosures, data policy and access to information as well as analysis on e-government and land taxation. It also covers women’s and minorities access to land, land dispute resolution mechanisms as well as public participation in decision making.

54. The second chapter covers study on the legal, institutional and technical framework for land administration and management, relevant authorities (including local governments and authorities) and stakeholders, and and their capacities, roles and cooperation. It also covers the private sector involvement, procedures for cadastre and land registration as well as analysis on provision of services and mechanisms for land transactions and. Aspects on data policy and quality, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), the geodetic framework and topographic information; are considered. The chapter also includes analyses on real estate market data and real estate valuation as well as aspects on land management, including spatial planning, land consolidation and, if relevant, informal settlements. The technical infrastructure is also covered.

55. The section reviews the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs, in particular:

- SDG 1 Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”.
- SDG 5, including

- Target 5.1 “Eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”
- Target 5.a “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”.
- SDG 10 Target 10.3. “Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard”

56. **Financial framework for housing, urban development and land management.**

This section addresses the public and private financing of housing and land, including urban land, the availability of housing finance, housing affordability, the financing of housing improvements, land taxation issues and measures to increase housing energy efficiency, including for the poor. The section also addresses the link between housing policy and the banking system and the role of national, regional and local housing finance authorities.

57. The section reviews the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs, in particular:

- SDG 1 Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”;
- SDG 9 Target 9.1 “Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans- border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all”; and
- SDG 11 Target 11.1 “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”.

58. **Policy recommendations.** This section will summarize the recommendations of each chapter in order to provide a sound proposal for a national action plan.

V. Country profiles as a tool to promote reforms in housing, urban planning and land management

59. Country profiles provide concrete policy recommendations. It is important to ensure the implementation of those recommendations and to support policy reforms. Following the preparation of country profiles, the government is recommended to prepare **national action plans** with specific measures for the implementation of country profile policy recommendations. ECE can assist in the preparation of such an action plan, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources⁶. With regard to the country profiles evaluation recommendation to strengthen the follow-up and monitoring mechanism of the policy recommendations, it is proposed that countries for which country profiles were conducted, will be invited to the Committee sessions regularly to report on the implementation of

⁶ Recommended approaches to the development of national action plans, their structure and examples of national action plans developed are available at <http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html>

policy recommendations. Regional surveys involving all countries reviewed could be organised at biannual basis, given availability of financial resources for such surveys.

60. To support the preparation and later to monitor the implementation of the action plans, countries are recommended to form **interagency steering committees**, which should include all key ministries and agencies involved in housing, urban planning and land administration and management as well as representatives of local authorities, academia, private sector and civil society. It is recommended that the steering committees are established officially by governments, for instance, through an order of a minister or a head of the lead agency. The steering committee should meet regularly to discuss the implementation of the national action plan.

61. To effectively address the recommendation of the evaluation to improve monitoring and follow up, and to facilitate sharing of best practices and information dissemination, the secretariat is recommended to collect information on legislation, policies, programmes and strategies implemented based on the recommendations of country profiles, as well as the status of their implementation. Information will be published online through the ECE website. Reviewed countries are invited to speak at future Committee sessions to present on developments after the elaboration of the profile and recommendations.

62. Several years after the country profile has been produced, the country under review may request the team of international experts to conduct an assessment of reforms carried out. The team would evaluate the implementation of the recommendations, discuss future strategies for housing and land management and assess the impact of the country profile on housing policy. This may allow long-term monitoring of reforms and the creation of new policy objectives to meet evolving challenges.

63. The Committee on Housing and Land Management is invited to

(a) endorse these revised methodological guidelines for the preparation of country profiles on housing and land management

(b) reaffirm the importance of the leadership of the ECE in the preparation of the country profiles and

(c) encourage the cooperation within the ECE between the divisions and of the ECE with other international organizations and agencies interested in contributing to the preparation of the country profiles on housing and land management for specific countries in the ECE region

(d) invite the member States to provide the needed extrabudgetary and in kind contributions to support the preparation of country profiles

(e) invite member States to propose their experts to participate in expert meetings on the establishment of the most effective and efficient procedure for the peer review process

(f) rename the instrument to country profiles on housing, urban development, land administration and management.
