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Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-ninth session

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Housing and Land Management held its seventy-ninth session in Geneva from 4 to 5 October 2018.

II. Attendance

2. Representatives of the following ECE countries participated: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
3. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Food Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
4. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: the International Finance Corporation – World Bank (IFC), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Union for the Mediterranean.
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended: AIIC Ltd. and National Real Estate Association, American Institute of Architects – AIA Europe, the Association for Farmers Rights Defense, the Centre for Socio-Economic Development, Community Realization European Aid Masterplan, (C.R.E.A.M.) Europe PPP Alliance, Development Solutions Institute Foundation, ES VICIS Foundation, EUROCITIES, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), Fédération des Entreprises Sociales pour l'Habitat, Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, Global Sanitation Fund, Habitat for Humanity International, Housing Europe, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Passive House, International Real Estate Federation, Inter-Agency Network for Education on UN-International Goals, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), the International Union of Tenants, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Tirana European Network of Housing Research 2017, Union sociale pour l'habitat, Renaissance Urbaine, the Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER).
6. Private-sector representatives, independent experts and academics from universities and research institutions also attended, at the invitation of the secretariat.

III. Opening of the meeting

7. The Chair reported that 253 delegates had registered for the meeting.
8. The Executive Secretary of the UNECE, Ms. Olga Algayerova, welcomed the participants and pointed to the main challenges raised by past and future urbanisation. To tackle these issues, she stressed the importance of promoting urban planning and management practices that are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

and other relevant international commitments. In order to achieve greater urban sustainability in the future, the Executive Secretary stressed the need of governments and the UN System to re-focus their activities, especially when a key goal remains ensuring that no one is left behind. To support the 2030 Agenda and other agreements, policy changes at all relevant levels regarding developing capacities for data driven and indicator-based review are necessary. In addition, she highlighted the key role of developing holistic approaches to ensure better governance, especially with regards to the integration of different sectors of planning and the need to find innovative finance mechanisms such as public-private partnerships. The topic of the 68th Commission Session 2019 will be “Smart Sustainable Cities”, the Executive Secretary invited consultation of the Committee and its participation.

9. Ms. Åsa Jonsson, Chief, Best Practices Unit, UN-Habitat, delivered opening remarks on behalf of UN-Habitat. She highlighted progress on the implementation of SDG11, the importance of data knowledge and management, coherent policy to cities and innovative finance mechanisms.

IV. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

10. The Committee adopted its agenda as contained in ECE/HBP/193/Rev.1.

V. Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2018-2019 (agenda item 2)

A. Review and follow-up to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and other relevant agreements

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/1; ECE/HBP/2017/7; ECE/HBP/2017/4; ECE/HBP/2016/3; ECE/HBP/Inf.1 ; ECE/HBP/Inf.2

11. Mr. Kevin McCloud, a British TV producer and presenter, designer, writer as well as a private constructor of affordable homes, delivered a keynote speech. He highlighted the importance of the sustainability, affordability and design in housing development, as well as the importance of providing green public spaces to ensure high quality of life for inhabitants. The presentation is available on the Committee Session’s webpage¹.

12. The secretariat reported on the implementation of the Committee’s Programme of Work 2018-2019 since the seventy-eighth Committee session, including on the Programme of Work 2017-2018 of the Committee’s Real Estate Market Advisory Group and introduced several proposals for the work of the Committee.

13. Mr. Pedro Neves, UNECE Consultant, introduced the draft guidance document on the alignment of the activities of the Committee with the 2030 Agenda and other key agreements within its existing mandate.

14. Ms. Agata Krause, Consultant with UN-Habitat and UNECE, presented draft guidelines for data collection for evidence-based housing and urban development policies.

¹ <https://www.unece.org/housing/committee79thsession.html>

15. The Committee:

- Endorsed the Guidance for the alignment of the Committee activities with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing; and approved printing the guidance document as an official publication in English and Russian, digital and print.
- Took note of the preparation of the policy paper and the guidelines for data collection for evidence-based housing and urban development policies and invited the Bureau to update the guidance document and present it for the Committee's endorsement at its eightieth session.
- Endorsed the Bureau's proposal to rename the Committee to the 'Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management', as this name reflects a higher priority on urban issues as reflected in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda with its SDG 11 and other urban related SDGs; and the New Urban Agenda and is in line with the Committee's existing mandate. The name change proposal was forwarded through the ECE Executive Committee to the ECE Commission in 2019 for adoption.
- Endorsed the Bureau's proposal to update the title of its flagship programme Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management to the Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.
- Took note of the information on the activities organised for World Habitat Day 2018 on the topic of 'homelessness'; and invited the Bureau to conduct a survey and develop a policy paper on homelessness in the UNECE region, which is to be prepared for the attention of the eightieth session of the Committee.
- Took note of the information on the established cooperation with THE PEP (Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme) and recommended Committee members to get actively involved in cooperation with THE PEP on its objective related to urban planning and development.

B. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

1. Implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and activities of UN Charter Centres for Excellence

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/1; ECE/HBP/2013/3; E/ECE/HBP/1478/Rev.1, ECE/HBP/2016/2

16. The Committee was informed on activities of the Geneva UN Charter centres, on capacity building on sustainable housing and real estate markets conducted by the secretariat and strengthening cooperation and synergies with partner organisations on capacity building.

17. The Committee:

- Took note of the information provided and formulated recommendations for the future implementation of the Charter by member States, including for possible activities to be implemented by the Charter Centres of Excellence.
- Endorsed the recommendations of the study on capacity building and requested the secretariat to conduct a survey of member States to identify the needs and priorities of member States for capacity-building activities.
- Requested the secretariat to develop a three-year action plan for capacity building based on the conclusions and recommendations of the study and the survey of member States.

2. World Habitat Day 2018 in Geneva: Highlighting Homelessness

18. The Committee was informed of the events organised to celebrate the World Habitat Day 2018 in Geneva, including an exhibition “Women without Walls” organised at the Palais des Nations and a panel discussion which highlighted the need to alleviate homelessness through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.

19. The Committee took note of the information provided and recommended to the Bureau to consider conducting a survey and developing a policy paper on homelessness in the UNECE Region, which is to be prepared to the attention of the eightieth session of the Committee.

3. Energy efficiency in buildings

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2017/3; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.3; ECE/HBP/Inf.4

20. Ms. Kat Grimsley, Member of the REM and Director of MSc Real Estate Development at George Mason University, presented the updated Guidelines for Condominium Management and Ownership, which were revised by the REM in 2018 on the request of the Committee at its seventy-eighth session.

21. The Committee endorsed the Guidelines on the management and ownership of condominium housing and approved them as an official publication in English and Russian languages, digital and print.

22. The secretariat presented information on the progress achieved by the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings.

23. The Committee took note of the progress in mapping the energy efficiency standards and technologies in buildings in the ECE region, in delivering training course on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings, and in promoting the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and encouraged member States to continue support for the Joint Task Force through extrabudgetary funding.

4. Fire safety standards in buildings

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.5

24. Mr. Gary Strong, Global Building Standards Director at the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors, UK informed the Committee of the establishment of the International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition and the development of new, high-level international standards on fire safety for buildings.

25. The Committee:

- Invited the Real Estate Market Advisory Board to include the activities on the development of the high-level standard in its work plan for 2019-2020.
- Invited the Bureau to assess the feasibility of adopting the IFSS Coalition standard as a UNECE standard.

5. Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

Documentation: ECE/EX/2016/L.10; ECE/HBP/2016/3; ECE/HBP/2018/L.2; ECE/HBP/2018/L.3; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.6

26. The Committee was presented with information on the activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group, including on the preparation of the publication of the Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets.

27. The Committee:

- Approved the publication of the Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets as an official publication in English and Russian languages, digital and print.
- Endorsed the new terms of reference of the Advisory Group until 2020, adopted the Advisory Group programme of work 2019-2020 and entrusted the Bureau with overseeing the Advisory Group's programme of work, in support of the extension of the Group's mandate to 2020.

C. Sustainable urban development and smart sustainable cities

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.7; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.8; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.9; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.10; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.11

28. The secretariat reported on the activities on sustainable urban development and smart sustainable cities, including on the UNECE-ITU global initiative United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) and the United Smart Cities.

29. The Committee:

- Approved the publication prepared under the U4SSC of the Guidelines on strategies for circular cities as an official online publication.
- Approved the publication of the Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities as an official online publication.
- Approved the publication of the smart sustainable city profile of Voznesensk, Ukraine, as an official publication in English and Russian languages, digital and print.
- Endorsed the Guidelines for the Development of a Smart Sustainable City Action Plan and approved them as an official online publication.

30. Ms. Susanne Bauer, Policy Advisor – City of Vienna, delivered a statement on behalf of the City of Vienna in which she informed on the outcomes of the 2018 Conference on Sustainable Housing hosted by the City of Vienna. She urged local and national governments to address the needs of different groups of the population, and that these needs are clearly reflected in housing policies (i.e. aiming at socially mixed communities).

31. Ms. Susan Aitken, Councillor, Leader of Glasgow City Council, presented information on the activities undertaken by the city to promote sustainable urban development. She informed the Committee that the City of Glasgow will host the next conference on sustainable housing in Glasgow in spring 2019 in cooperation with the ECE.

She underlined the added value of the work of the Centre of Excellence for the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing which was established under the Committee in 2017 and is hosted by the Glasgow School of Arts.

32. The Chair of the Committee reminded that the ECE will host its sixty-eighth Commission Session on 9 and 10 April 2019 with the overall theme of “Smart Sustainable Cities”. A Day of Cities will be organised on the 8th of April which will include a mayors’ roundtable. She invited the delegates to propose possible mayors from their countries to present initiatives in their cities at the Day of Cities and to provide input into the draft concept paper.

D. Land administration and management

Documentation: ECE/HBP/S/2016/3; ECE/EX/2017/L.1; ECE/HBP/2017/4;
ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.12; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.13

33. Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration, reported on the activities carried out by the Working Party since the last session of the Committee.

34. Mr. Rik Wouters, Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration informed on the progress made on the preparation of the Technical Guidelines on Informal Development in the ECE Region.

35. The Committee took note of the information provide and approved the publication of the Technical Guidelines on Informal Settlements in the ECE Region as an official publication in English and Russian; digital and print.

E. Country profiles on housing and land management

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/4; ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.4

36. The Committee was provided with key conclusions and recommendations of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Belarus, which is being developed by the UNECE in cooperation with the UN-Habitat and with input of UNDP Belarus.

37. The Chair of the Committee informed delegates that a request has been received from the Government of Kyrgyzstan for the next country profile to be prepared.

38. The Committee endorsed the key outcomes of the Country Profile of Belarus and agreed with the requests of Kyrgyzstan to conduct the Country Profile.

39. The Representative of the Government of Cyprus expressed the interest to conduct its Country Profile. The secretariat will follow-up with request.

40. The Representative of the Government of Azerbaijan expressed the interest to conduct its Country Profile. The Government of Azerbaijan will follow-up with an official request.

VI. Planning of work to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant global agreements at national, regional, subregional and local levels (agenda item 3)

41. Interactive discussions on the future objectives of the Committee in promoting sustainable housing and urban development was organised through a plenary panel and four roundtables' discussions. The participants of the events included representatives of national and local governments, regional and sub-regional organisations and networks.

42. The panel opened with presentations on innovative experiences, best practices and tools which would support the acceleration of the achievements of the SDGs and objectives and targets of key international agreements by the World Economic Forum, the Danish Transport and Construction and Housing Authority, Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing of Denmark, Astana Innovations and the ECE Working Party on Land Administration.

43. The four interactive roundtables addressed the following topics: (1) Providing access to decent, affordable, adequate and healthy housing for all, (2) Promoting energy efficiency in buildings and effective management of multi-apartment buildings, (3) Measuring progress towards smart sustainable cities, and (4) Integrated urban planning and development. The rapporteurs' statements will be available on the Committee session's webpage.

(1) *Round table "Providing access to decent, affordable, adequate and healthy housing for all"*

44. The round table focused on securing future funding and finance for public infrastructure, and access to affordable and adequate housing, which are among the key challenges for the ECE region. It also discussed the role of the state and private sectors and their interplay in housing financing and how various sources of finance can meet different needs. The round table addressed best practices and approaches to tackle social and economic challenges, including new models of public and private partnerships and the contribution of appropriate regulatory and policy frameworks to support long-term stability.

45. The round table highlighted examples such as how to provide access to affordable, adequate, decent and sustainable housing. It also showcased solutions to the rising challenges in provision of affordable housing: including local population's views into housing-related matters/policy, provision of social housing, land use regulation, provision of permanent housing to homeless populations and data sharing through cooperating and partnering with various stakeholders, innovative financial mechanisms in ensuring housing affordability. The roundtable further stressed that housing is often considered a commodity and not as a human right.

(2) *Round table "Promoting energy efficiency in buildings and effective management of multi-apartment buildings"*

46. The round table highlighted challenges to support energy efficiency and carbon neutrality in cities through examples on how countries and cities have addressed specific issues and provided a platform for peer learning.

47. The case studies presented by the U.S.A., Ukraine, the Passive House, and the Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe as well as the contribution provided by the ECE Sustainable Energy Division and the World Meteorological Organization illustrated different approaches to making our cities more energy efficient and climate neutral.

48. Case studies demonstrated that there are several issues that hinder the deployment of energy efficiency in cities and buildings are key elements to reduce the energy footprint of cities. In order to address the challenges, an inter-sectoral and participatory approach to urban planning and design which takes into account energy and climate-related aspects is needed together with an effective multi-stakeholder cooperation at all levels.

(3) *Round table “Measuring progress towards smart sustainable cities”*

49. The round table highlighted the major aspects to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities, including cities’ circularity, financing mechanisms and data collection through practical examples from cities and countries and recent studies and trends at the global level.

50. The case studies presented by United Kingdom, City of Pully, Deutsche Telekom, and the International Finance Corporation, as well as the contribution provided by the International Telecommunication Union, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile and Rubicon illustrated different approaches to measuring and monitoring smart and sustainable development in cities of our region.

(4) *Round table “Integrated urban planning and development”*

51. The roundtable addressed intersectoral cooperation to promote better spatial planning, sustainable urban mobility, the creation and access to public space, disaster risk reduction and strengthening national urban policies.

52. The roundtable discussions included interventions from Slovenia, Switzerland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, academia and ECE. The panellists stressed the importance of promoting a strategic approach to addressing key challenges going beyond sectoral approaches to implement urban policies and moving toward effective in-country, regional, and international cooperation. The importance of using data across sectors for informed decision- and policy-making, as well as for the effective evaluation of infrastructure projects was also stressed; in addition to the preparedness needed to meet the challenges of digital transformation of the management system of spatial development and digital representation of urban planning solutions. It was noted that the opportunities for stakeholder cooperation lie in several areas and the need for closer alignment of urban policies with best practices.

53. The PEP encouraged participants to submit case studies for the forthcoming publication on sustainable urban transport (from a health, environmental and spatial planning perspective).

VII. Reform of the United Nations Budget planning and budgeting process (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.4

54. The Committee was informed of recent development regarding the preparation of the United Nations plan and budget and implications for the work of the Committee and took note of the information provided.

VIII. Election of the Bureau (agenda item 5)

55. The Committee elected the Bureau for its eightieth session as follows:

- Ms. Elena Szolgayová, Slovakia (Chair)
- Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová, Czech Republic (Vice Chair)
- Mr. Elshad Khanalibayli, Azerbaijan (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Doris Andoni, Albania (new member)
- Mr. Andrey Chibis, Russian Federation
- Ms. Beatriz Corredor, Spain (new member)
- Mr. Nino Gventsadze, Georgia
- Ms. Marge Martin, USA (new member)
- Mrs. Maja-Marija Nahod, Croatia (new member)
- Ms. Lise Heinesen, Denmark
- Ms. Alena Rakava, Belarus
- Mr. Aša Rogelj, Slovenia
- Ms. Stefano Scalera, Italy
- Ms. Emma Vincent, UK
- Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Sweden (ex officio)

56. The Bureau was elected by acclamation.

IX. Other business (agenda item 6)

57. The representative of the Czech Republic invited all participants to the European Smart and Sharing Cities 22-23 November 2018 in Prague.

58. The Committee requested the all future meetings of the Committee be held in room XII as has been the case in the past as the space is more suitable to the size of the meeting and the discussion.

X. Adoption of the report and closing of the session (agenda item 7)

59. The Committee adopted its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. The Chair proposed a date for the organization of the next Committee session. The Committee agreed to organize the next Committee Session from 2 to 3 October 2019.

60. The seventy-ninth session was closed at 13:00.

Annex I

Proposals for changing the name of the Committee and updating its areas of work

A. History of the Committee

1. The Committee is the only intergovernmental body that deals with housing, urban development and land management for the entire ECE region, which is home to one fifth of the world's population. The Committee was established in 1947 to provide support to governments in the post-war reconstruction of the housing stock in Europe. There was a need to rebuild quickly buildings, including housing, and this required establishing common building standards and exchanging best practices in the construction. Against this background, after the establishment of the Economic Commission for Europe as a UN body with an original mandate to assist the reconstruction and economic development of Europe, the Panel on Housing Problems was established in July 1947, which was tasked by member States to deal with housing issues. The Panel was specifically requested to "study housing problems of common interest to European countries and advise the Commission on means, technical and economic, of assisting, and expediting housing problems of member countries" and "collect, analyse and disseminate statistical and other information".

2. In 1948, the Panel's scope of work expanded to deal with problems related to construction materials and the provision of a centralized statistical service for locating available materials. To give it a "better defined place within the Commission to carry on its important tasks", the Panel was transformed into a Housing Sub-committee under the Committee on Industry and Materials.

3. The Housing Sub-committee eventually became a fully independent committee in March 1951, and was named the Housing Committee. The succeeding years saw the evolution of the Committee's name to Housing, Building and Planning in 1963 and Human Settlements in 1992 to reflect the changing concerns of governments and the integration of social, environmental, and financial dimensions of housing, urban development, and land administration and management in its work.

4. In 1990s, the scope of work of the Committee extended to include urban planning and land use. In February 1996, the Meeting of Officials on Land Administration (MOLA) was established to deal with these additional tasks. In recognition of its work in the promotion of land privatization and land registration in the UNECE region and the need for such work to continue, MOLA was granted a standing character by the Commission in August 1999 and became the Working Party on Land Administration (Working Party) under the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

5. In 2000 and 2006, the 56 UNECE member States articulated and affirmed their vision for the role of the Committee and the scope of its activities. The 2000 Ministerial meeting on Human Settlements reviewed and appraised the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the ECE region as a contribution to the 2001 special session of the General Assembly, Istanbul +5. As an outcome, the Ministers and Heads of States adopted the UNECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century, which is based on the provisions of the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21, with particular emphasis on issues of common interest and concern for all countries of the UNECE region. The strategy outlined the goal of the Committee "*to promote the sustainable development of human settlements in the UNECE region while fostering economic and social prosperity and supporting democratic governance*".

6. The 2006 Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas validated the strategy's goals and challenges. Following the adoption of the 2006 Ministerial Declaration, along with the 2000 Strategy, which provided guidance to the Committee's work, the Committee was renamed in 2006 the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

7. In 2013, at the Ministerial Meeting the Committee adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region for the Period 2014-2020.² The Committee's mandate, as reconfirmed by the Ministerial Meeting, is "*to promote the sustainable development of human settlements in the ECE region while fostering economic and social prosperity and supporting democratic governance*"³. Its mission is to improve housing and land management throughout the ECE region in a sustainable manner, in particular, by providing practical solutions and guidelines.

8. Since 2013, the Committee has further broadened its activities to tackle better the emerging challenges in the region on which the housing, urban and land sectors have an impact and vice versa, such as: environmental sustainability; real estate market stability; informal settlements; energy efficiency; urbanization; etc. These changes in the content of the work of the Committee were implemented to reflect the adoption of global and regional agreements relevant to the mandate of the Committee.

B. Role of the Committee in 2018: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other key global and regional agreements

9. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016 and of other key international agreements established new policy frameworks for future activities of the Committee on sustainable housing and urban development within the Committee's mandate. Above all, an integrated and coordinated approach to the global, regional, national, subnational and sub-regional levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, is required for meeting the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and others.

10. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The United Nations General Assembly adopted in September 2015 the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It represents an ambitious, transformative global framework for sustainable social, economic and environmental development with the primary commitment of "not leaving anyone behind". Achieving the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals is highly dependent on the joint efforts by governments and stakeholders working at national, global, regional and local levels, including especially private sector, civil society and local communities. The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of an integrated approach to addressing diverse challenges and the importance of cooperation between and within countries. Sustainable urban development is the focus of SDG 11 – "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Work on achieving SDG 11 is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, since more than half of the planet's inhabitants live in cities and this continues to grow. It is estimated that up to 70% of the world's population will live in cities by 2030. Further, given the interconnectedness of the SDGs, most of them are directly

² <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2013/ece.hbp.2013.3.e.pdf>

³ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2013/ece.hbp.173.en.pdf>

relevant to the work of the Committee due to the integrated nature of housing and urban development challenges.

11. **New Urban Agenda (NUA):** The Habitat III Conference in October 2016 was the first of the UN global conferences discussing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference approved the NUA, which embodies a major shift in UN policy as it emphasizes the direct link between urbanization and sustainable development. The NUA addresses principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas along its five main pillars of implementation: national urban policies, urban legislation and regulations, urban planning and design, local economy and municipal finance, and local implementation. The NUA provides more details to the SDG 11, it emphasises the important role of local authorities in achieving urban related goals and promotes territorial approach to the implementation.

12. To support the implementation of the global agreements, including the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, Addis-Ababa Framework on Financing for Development, the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and others, the Committee has included in its programme of work the development of projects and policy documents promoting sustainable urban development, energy efficiency and adequate housing:

(a) In April 2014, the multi-stakeholder project United Smart Cities was launched. The project addresses major urban issues in medium-sized cities in countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region. After the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015, the project also supported achieving the SDGs at the local level. In December 2015, the UNECE/ITU United Smart Sustainable City indicators were endorsed by the Committee;

(b) In April 2015, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, which supports countries in ensuring access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, was officially endorsed by UNECE. The Charter is based on four principles: environmental protection, economic effectiveness, social inclusion and participation, and cultural adequacy;

(c) In May 2016, the UNECE and ITU launched the global smart sustainable city initiative United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) in response to SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

(d) In 2016-2017, the Committee supported the preparation of a regional report for the UNECE region for Habitat III (Habitat III Regional Report). The Report reflected on the trends influencing the cities of the UNECE region in the 20 years since Habitat II. It also estimates the trends for the next two decades and showcases the positive contribution that could be made to the ‘essence of a city’, and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

(e) At its seventy-eighth session in November 2017, the Committee endorsed revised guidelines for the preparation of UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management, which included guidance on the integration of the SDGs in the Country Profiles. These revised guidelines also explained how the country profiles will review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs and other related international commitments; and

(f) At the Ministerial Segment of the same seventy-eighth session in November 2017, Ministers and Heads of Delegations of UNECE member States adopted the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. The Ministerial Declaration reiterates the importance of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other agreements for the work of the Committee. It also underlines the need to promote coherence,

partnership and cross-sectoral links in implementing the above-mentioned global and regional accords, and recognizes the role of the United Nations Regional Commissions in the regional implementation of, follow-up to, and review of, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

13. As the Committee continues its work, it develops guidance documents to support the alignment of its activities with the 2030 Agenda; develops studies and recommendations promoting evidence based policies on specific topics of affordable and energy efficient housing, smart sustainable cities, urban planning and land administration. The Committee is actively involved in the preparations and organisation of the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region.

C. Proposal to change the name of the Committee to adequately reflect the nature of its work

14. The Committee's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the housing, urban and land-related Sustainable Development Goals cannot be understated. As described above, the content of the work of the Committee thoroughly reflects upon the key United Nations policy documents on housing and urban development. However, the title of the Committee and its areas of work have not changed since 2006. The current title does not adequately reflect the content of the work of the Committee. Hence, the Committee at its seventy-eighth session requested the Bureau to formulate proposals for changing the name of the Committee to ensure the name reflects accurately its activities - related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant agreements. The Committee invited the Bureau to prepare its proposals for a decision at the Committee's seventy-ninth session.

15. The Committee Bureau at its meetings on 14 April and 2 July 2018 discussed possible options and proposed to rename the Committee to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. According to the Bureau members, this title would reflect adequately the content of the Committee's activities as well as give a higher priority to urban issues received after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda with its SDG 11 and other urban related SDGs; and the New Urban Agenda.

D. Proposal to update the title of the area of work: Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

16. The Bureau also recommends that in view of the growing prominence of the work of the Committee on the review and follow-up to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional agreements, to update the area of work "Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management" to "Review and follow-up to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and other relevant agreements". This area of work would include Country Profiles which already serves as an important tool for review of the implementation of the mentioned global and regional agreements at the national level.

17. Finally, the Bureau recommends to the Committee to update the title of its flagship programme Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management to the Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

Annex II

Draft Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2019-2020

A. Objectives

1. The Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group supports the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration in the implementation of their programmes of work, with special attention to cluster one of the Committee's programme of work, "Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets".
2. The Advisory Group assists the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration to develop stronger and more sustainable housing real estate markets and reports to both bodies.

B. Activities

3. The activities of the Advisory Group address:
 - (a) Energy efficient housing;
 - (b) Building standards;
 - (c) Affordable and social housing and real estate economics (including sharing economy);
 - (d) Housing finance (including transparent and advanced financial products for housing);
 - (e) Management of multi-apartment buildings;
 - (f) Property valuation and registration;
 - (g) Smart and sustainable urban development; and
 - (h) Land markets and land administration.
4. The Advisory Group will, according to the needs expressed by member States and following the decisions taken by the Committee:
 - (a) Provide practical advice on the challenges addressed by the Committee and the Working Party in order to improve conditions for sustainable housing, urban development, and land management;
 - (b) Prepare guidelines and best practices that support sustainable housing, urban development and land management, including best practices for encouraging investment in national housing real estate markets;
 - (c) Recommend activities to the Committee and Working Party for their programmes of work;
 - (d) Assist the Committee and the Working Party to undertake studies and advisory missions; organize seminars and training workshops; draft policy documents and guidelines; collect data; disseminate information on the activities of the Committee and develop training material;

- (e) Work with the Committee and the Working Party to assist countries with training and capacity-building for stakeholders acting in the housing market;
 - (f) Collect examples of good practice in housing, urban development and land administration reforms in the UNECE region; and
 - (g) Assist the Committee and the Working Party with specific projects at their request.
5. The Advisory Group may propose specific activities. The final decision on activities to be carried out by the Advisory Group remains with the Committee.
 6. The Chair of the Advisory Group will, when possible and necessary, attend meetings of the Bureau of the Committee to discuss and present the work of the Advisory Group.

C. Membership

7. The selection of an Advisory Group member will be in line with the document “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE” (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the following rules and principles:
 - (a) Members of the Advisory Group must be nominated by member States or by non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council or identified and proposed by the secretariat;
 - (b) Members shall be representatives of private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and municipalities;
 - (c) Each member State or non-governmental organization may nominate, at most, one member of the Advisory Group at a time;
 - (d) Nominations must be submitted to the secretariat at least 14 days before the Committee session in which the nomination is to be submitted;
 - (e) Nominations must be renewed, or new nominations submitted, when the mandate of the Advisory Group is extended, normally, every two years.
8. The composition of the Advisory Group should, to the extent possible, include members whose knowledge and experience cover all areas under the Committee’s programme of work with special focus to the area of “Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets”.
9. Members of the Advisory Group participate in activities of the Committee in their own personal capacity⁴
10. The Advisory Group will select from its own members a Chair and one or two vice-chairs. The Chair and the vice-chair(s) remain in charge for a period of maximum two years. The renewal of their appointment is possible for a maximum of two more years.

⁴ Members who have proved not to be active for at least one whole year without a written notification to the secretariat will be automatically removed by the secretariat who will inform him/her via email. Members who prove not to be active include those members who do not participate in meetings and e-meetings, do not contribute in written to studies and other activities of the Group, do not reply to emails and messages by the secretariat.

Annex III

Draft Programme of Work of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2019-2020

A. Objectives

1. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group supports the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration in the implementation of their programmes of work, with special attention to cluster one of the Committee's programme of work, "Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets". In this regard, the Advisory Group assists the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration to develop stronger and more sustainable housing real estate markets and reports to both bodies.

B. Activities

2. The activities of the Advisory Group address, according to its terms of reference (ECE/HBP/2018/6), the following thematic priorities:

- (a) Energy efficient housing;
- (b) Building standards;
- (c) Affordable and social housing and real estate economics (including sharing economy);
- (d) Housing finance (including transparent and advanced financial products for housing);
- (e) Management of multi-apartment buildings;
- (f) Property valuation and registration;
- (g) Smart and sustainable urban development; and
- (h) Land markets and land administration.

C. Proposed activities for the programme of work 2019–2020

3. The Advisory Group will:

(a) Organize, in cooperation with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration, international workshops and side events that will promote the implementation of the Committee's and the Working Party's programmes of work and the dissemination of information about the Committee and Working Party's activities, including on the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing;

(b) Support the dissemination of information on the Charter through presentations at international meetings, and the preparation of articles in books, journals and mass media, including social media;

(c) Provide input into the Committee's activities on smart cities, including the preparation of smart city indicators and standards, the development of smart city profiles and

cities action plans⁵. REM members will participate in events and capacity building workshops as experts in the preparation of smart city profiles, and will also support the ECE secretariat with fundraising for future activities under this topic. REM members will also participate in the initiative United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC);

(d) Participate in the Committee's activities on energy efficient and affordable housing, including workshops, training sessions, the preparation of studies as agreed upon by the Committee, and fundraising for future activities under this topic;

(e) Prepare studies under the above-mentioned thematic priorities. Other specific activities in support of the Committee and the Working Party Programme of Work should be in line with point B3 above. Prior to implementing new proposals, they must be submitted for consideration to the secretariat by the Committee's Bureau.

4. The Committee is invited to endorse the REM programme of work for 2019-2020.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/housing/smartcities.html>