

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Seventy-fifth session

Geneva, 8 - 9 October 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Update on the preparation of the publication “Challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in ECE region”

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The Committee on Housing and Land Management at its seventy-third session on 24-26 September 2012 requested the secretariat to prepare a publication, which would include short national reports on housing and urban development (ECE/HBP/170). The secretariat prepared the publication outline (ECE/HBP/2013/9), which was then adopted by the seventy-fourth Committee session.

The Committee at its seventy-fourth session (ECE/HPB/173) agreed that this publication would be its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) to take place in 2016.

This informal note presents an update on the status of this draft publication. The Committee is invited to take note of this information.

I. HISTORY OF THE PREPARATION OF THE PUBLICATION

The Committee on Housing and Land Management at its seventy-third session in September 2012 requested the secretariat to prepare a publication, which would include short national reports on housing and urban development (ECE/HBP/170). The secretariat prepared the publication outline (ECE/HBP/2013/9); the outline was adopted by the seventy-fourth Committee session (ECE/HPB/173).

According to the outline, the objectives of this publication are:

- (1) to assess the current situation in housing and urban development in the ECE region; and
- (2) to define the major challenges and priorities for future action in the areas of housing and urban development in the ECE region.

The Committee at its seventy-fourth session (ECE/HPB/173) also agreed that this publication would be its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) to take place in 2016.

Information on the preparation of the publication was presented and discussed at the side event to the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for HABITAT III on 17 September 2014 in New York.¹

II. THE PUBLICATION CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The publication “Challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in ECE region” will highlight the major milestones in the development of the institutional, legal and financial framework for housing and urban development in the ECE region from 2001 to 2014. A special focus will be on those policies, policy instruments, programmes and projects that have improved housing and urban development in the region. Data on: population; demographic and economic dynamics; housing stock and tenure types; housing finance; housing markets; etc., will an important part of this publication.

In 2012, a report on a survey on challenges and priorities in housing and land management in the ECE region was prepared² A summary of the major outcomes of this survey will be also included in the proposed publication.

The structure of the publication is the following:

Introduction

Part 1. Summary of the survey outcomes on regional challenges and priorities for actions in the housing sector in the ECE region

Part 2. Summary of the survey outcomes on regional challenges and priorities for actions in urban development in the ECE region

Part 3. National reports by member States

Policy recommendations towards Habitat III

References and annexes.

¹ <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Side-Events.pdf>

² Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2013/Survey_Report.pdf

III. FORMAT OF NATIONAL REPORTS

National reports constitute Part 3 of the publication. Each national report includes four chapters and an annex with relevant data. In total, each national report should not be longer than 7 pages (Times New Roman, font size 10 and single space), including photos and charts and excluding annexes. The structure is conceived in such a way to provide a full picture of: the economic and demographic dynamics; the geographic situation and political system; housing and urban development challenges, trends and priorities; as well as their impact on the population concerned and the environment. The structure of the national reports is as follows:

Chapter I: Socio-economic conditions (not more than 800 words)

- 1.1 Geographic information
- 1.2 Legal and institutional framework
- 1.3 Population and demographic dynamics
- 1.4 Economy, poverty and employment

Chapter II: Housing and urban development policies in nutshell (800 words)

- 2.1 Milestones in reform of the housing sector
- 2.2. Milestones in reform of the urban development sector
- 2.3. Financial framework for housing and urban development

Chapter III: Housing and urban development – trends and challenges (1,000 words)

- 3.1 Development of cities – key trends and challenges
- 3.2. Policies and practices for the adaptation of cities to climate change as well as natural and human-induced disasters
- 3.3 Access to affordable and adequate housing
- 3.4 Quality of the stock and energy efficiency

Chapter IV: Policy response to major challenges for sustainable housing and urban development (1,000 words)

- 4.1 Vision, goal and objectives of housing and urban development policies
- 4.2 Current policy instruments
- 4.3 Projects under implementation
- 4.4 Project description

III. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE PUBLICATION

The questionnaire for the preparation of national reports was discussed at the meeting of the Committee Bureau in December 2013. Following that a structure of the national reports was elaborated and the questionnaire was distributed to five pilot countries. Results of the pilot study were reported at the June 2014 Committee Bureau meeting, after which the final questionnaire was developed and sent out to member States. The deadline of receiving the countries' contributions was set for the end of July 2014.

By the date of 29 September 2014 the overall response to the questionnaire was 64% (36 countries out of 56 member States). In addition, representatives of 16 countries informed that they are in the process of completing their national contributions.

After receiving the final draft national reports, the secretariat will compile all the national reports into one publication, complete regional analysis on housing and urban development and prepare the “regional” chapters and policy recommendations. The final report will be submitted to the seventy-sixth session of the Committee in 2015.

The Committee is invited to take note of this information.
