



**Launch of the update to the
UNECE Policy Framework for
Sustainable Real Estate Markets**

2 October 2019

Conference Room I, Palais des Nations, Geneva

13:15 -14:45



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Organized by the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group

Introduction

The global financial crisis that started in 2008 has led to more inequalities in the UNECE region, lowering the income of a substantive part of the population, and negatively affecting many aspects of people's lives, especially in regard to housing affordability and accessibility of urban services. The process of urbanization resulted in in some cities – in urban concentration and in others – in shrinking of the cities and the population decline. There is a general tendency towards urban sprawl. All these pose problems for environmental and economic sustainability. These problems are likely to be exacerbated by the consequences of the ageing of the population. An integrated and coordinated approach at the global, regional, national, subnational and sub-regional levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, is important to address the challenges of urban development and to ensure access to affordable decent housing, environmental sustainability and much more.

Objectives of the event

The event will launch an updated publication of the “Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets” which was developed by the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM).

About the publication

The Policy Framework presents a simple set of twelve Principles which if implemented, will promote sustainability of real estate markets and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Multiple recommendations, guidelines and other policy documents, which are relevant to different areas of managing real estate markets, exist. However, most of them are based on a sectoral approach unlike the principles of the updated “Policy Framework” (2019 edition), which support an integrated approach to the management of real estate markets. Further, they demonstrate how sustainability principles can be incorporated into the policies of national, local, and municipal governments and applied to various forms of real estate. The principles cover topics such as access to social and affordable housing, innovative approaches to financing of housing and urban infrastructure, and many more. The principles clearly outline how their implementation will contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Background

In 2010, the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM), prepared the first edition of the UNECE Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets, which presents a principle-based framework for the development of a real estate sector promoting access to affordable decent housing. In 2016, the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management invited the REM to update the Policy Framework in order to integrate the concepts of key UN documents, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the Basel III Agreement. The updated UNECE Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets, the 2019 edition, integrates the concepts of the new international agreements and takes into account issues that could potentially affect the real estate market such as urbanization, migration and mobility flows; technology and innovation; growth of emerging markets and asset competition; change in housing demand oriented towards green buildings and new designs; energy consumption and climate change; and other relevant phenomena.

The launch of the 2019 Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets, developed by the UNECE REM, is organized as part of the UNECE Sustainable Cities Week

<https://www.unece.org/housing/sustainablecitiesweek.html>. The event language is English.



Draft agenda

Introduction – Ms. Paola Deda, Officer in Charge, UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division

About the development of the Policy Framework - Mr. Giampiero Bambagioni, REM Chair

Presentation of the Policy Framework - Prof. Michael Malloy, Distinguished Professor of Law, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Comments and reflections on the applicability of the Policy Guidelines – Ms. Irena Perfanova, Vice-Chair, National Association of Real Estate Companies, Bulgaria

Questions and comments. Discussion.