ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

126th meeting Geneva, 13 January 2023

Item 6(a) of the provisional agenda

Informal Document 2023/3

Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Report by the Chair

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

- 1. The Chair of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM), Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania), is pleased to submit her report to the 126th meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee (EXCOM).
- 2. This report outlines the main achievements of CUDHLM in implementing its programmes of work for the period 2021–2022 since its eighty-second session in October 2021. Detailed information is contained in the report of the eighty-third session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/213).
- 3. The eighty-third session of CUDHLM was organized in two parts. Part I, the Second Forum of Mayors, took place on 4 and 5 April 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, back-to-back with the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)as mandated by EXCOM (ECE/EX/2020/L.16). It was held in a hybrid format and brought together around 500 online and in-person participants, representing cities and member States from across the ECE region and beyond, the United Nations regional commissions and specialized organizations, non-governmental organizations and the academia. Part II of the session took place on 3–6October 2022 in San Marino. The meeting was held in person as per the advice of the Bureau of the Committee and brought together 206 participants, representing member States and cities from across the ECE region as well as the United Nations specialized organizations, non-governmental organizations and the academia. It was open to the public and streamed live on YouTube with around 1000 views from the ECE region.

I. Achievements since the eighty-second session

A. Affordable, accessible and healthy housing for women and youth

1. Study "#Housing2030 - Improving Housing Affordability in the UNECE Region"

- 4. The study "#Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region" was developed by ECE and Housing Europe in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and published in 2021. The study explores the following four topics: (a) housing governance and regulation; (b) access to finance and funding; (c) access and availability of land for housing construction; and (d) climate-neutral housing construction and renovation. It also addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the housing sector and highlights good practices for improving the affordability and long-term sustainability of housing.
- 5. The aim of the study is to: (a) provide an analysis of housing affordability challenges and existing policy instruments for improving housing affordability in the ECE region; (b) facilitate the exchange and dissemination of good practices in improving housing affordability among countries and cities of the ECE region; and (c) identify the needs of policymakers to further develop and implement policies for addressing housing affordability.

2. Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes

6. The draft Regional Action Plan was endorsed by the ECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management¹ (Geneva, 6–8 October 2021) and was

¹ https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364158

published in 2022 with illustrative sketches by the renowned architect Norman Foster (ECE/HBP/215).

7. The Regional Action Plan provides an integrated and balanced approach for supporting local and national development efforts until 2030 in two inter-linked policy areas: cities, neighbourhoods, homes and rural life; and sustainable housing and homes. It contains clear and concise guiding principles, goals, targets and actions for building more resilient, inclusive and sustainable people-centred cities in the ECE region with affordable, accessible and climate-neutral housing.

3. Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 8. The following impacts were observed as a result of work on affordable housing:
- (a) Identification of common challenges facing local and national governments in the ECE region to addressing housing affordability;
- (b) Improved understanding among local and national governments in the ECE region of best practices and successful policies for ensuring housing affordability.
- 9. The following policy related events were carried out to promote work on affordable housing:
- (a) Side event to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) on "Decarbonising the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way" (Glasgow, 4 November 2021);
- (b) Event organized as part of the Europe Housing Forum "#Housing2030 Time to Think and Do Differently. How to combine energy and social policies to address energy poverty in Central and Eastern Europe" (Brussels, 18 November 2021);
- (c) Presentation of "#Housing2030" initiative at the Barcelona Housing and Renovation Forum (Barcelona, 24 November 2021);
- (d) "Housing 2030: effective policies for affordable housing in the ECE region", a side event to the Second Forum of Mayors (Geneva, 6 April 2022);
- (e) H22 City Expo Dialogue of Eminent Experts on smart, sustainable and inclusive cities, (Helsingborg, 31 May-1 June 2022);
- (f) Side event to the International Housing Festival "Climate-neutral housing Decarbonizing the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way" (Helsinki, 15 June 2022);
- (g) Side events to the World Urban Forum "Innovative financing for cities", "Affordable, adequate and climate neutral housing" and "National Urban Policies" (Katowice, 27-30 June 2022).
- 10. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on housing: podcast "Your #Housing2030 Making a House a Home" series, the dedicated ECE website at housing2030.org and the social media platforms of ECE, UN-Habitat and Housing Europe.
- 11. The following impacts were observed as a result of work on the Regional Action Plan:
- (a) Increased awareness among local and national governments in the ECE region about the Regional Action Plan;
- (b) Identification of the main priorities and capacity needs of local and national governments in the ECE region for implementing the Regional Action Plan.

- 12. The following policy related events were implemented to promote the Regional Action Plan:
- (a) Housing 2030: effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region, a side event to the Second Forum of Mayors (Geneva, 6 April 2022);
- (b) Side events to the ECE 2020 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 4 to 7 April 2022);
- (c) Panel discussion "Bolstering the roles of urban professionals, local and national authorities in localizing and implementing the New Urban Agenda" as part of the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 28 April 2022);
- (d) H22 City Expo Dialogue of Eminent Experts on "Smart, sustainable and inclusive cities" (Helsingborg, 31 May-1 June 2022);
- (e) Side event to the International Housing Festival "Climate-neutral housing Decarbonizing the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way" (Helsinki, 15 June 2022);
- (f) Side events to the World Urban Forum on "Innovative financing for cities", "Affordable, adequate and climate neutral housing" and "National Urban Policies" (Katowice, 27-30 June 2022).
- (g) Side events to the Eleventh World Urban Forum³ (Katowice, 26 to 30 June 2022);
- 13. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on the Regional Action Plan: the dedicated ECE website at unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030, videos, podcasts, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

B. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the city level and building urban economic resilience

14. At its eighty-second session in 2021, the Committee "welcomed the activities of the secretariat regarding supporting the response to COVID-19 at the city level and building urban economic resilience (ECE/HBP/208, para. 25). In response to the Committee's request and under the guidance of the Committee Bureau, the secretariat launched activities to help cities recover from the pandemic and build more resilient economies and societies.

1. Project on "Post COVID-19 Recovery in Informal Settlements in the ECE Region"

15. The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of national and local governments in ECE countries to address the needs of the most vulnerable population groups living in informal settlements. It was implemented in 2020 and 2021 with funds from the ECE Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation.

2. "Rapid response" project on building urban economic resilience during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

16. This project was being implemented from 2020 to 2022 by the five regional commissions of the United Nations with funds from the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) programme and in cooperation with UN-Habitat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The project focused on strengthening the capacities of local governments in 16 cities to promote urban. It involved the development of an urban

³ https://unece.org/housing-and-land-management/events/wuf11-unece-events

economic resilience diagnostic and planning tool and the exchange of good practices in developing and implementing post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

3. Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 17. The following impacts were observed as a result of work on post COVID-19 recovery in informal settlements:
- (a) Identification of the different factors affecting post-COVID-19 recovery in informal settlements; and the needs of the most vulnerable groups living in these settlements;
- (b) National and local governments in the ECE region provided with evidencebased policy recommendations to support post-COVID-19 recovery in informal settlements and address the needs of the most vulnerable groups living in these settlements.
- 18. The following outputs related to post-COVID-19 recovery in informal settlements were delivered:
- (a) Publication "COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements for countries in the ECE region" (ECE/HBP/214);
- (b) Online subregional training workshops: "Kickstarting the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region Western Balkans" (10 November 2021); and "Kickstarting the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region CIS, Ukraine and Georgia" (12 November 2021);
- (c) Concrete recommendations for upgrading informal settlements and supporting post-pandemic recovery in four pilot cities Albania (Tirana), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Montenegro (Podgorica) and North Macedonia (Skopje);
- (d) Online courses "Guidelines for the formalization of informal constructions"; and "Implementing COVID-19 recovery action plans for informal settlements".⁴
- 19. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on post-COVID-19 recovery in informal settlements: podcasts, videos, press releases and ECE social media platforms.
- 20. The following impacts were observed as a result of work on COVID-19 recovery:
- (a) Improved understanding of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting implications for urban development;
- (d) Increased capacity of local and national governments to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 21. The following outputs related to work on urban resilience and COVID-19 recovery were delivered:
- (a) City COVID-19 impact assessment reports for Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Kharkiv (Ukraine) and Tirana (Albania), including economic recovery and resilience action plans for each city;⁵
- (b) Collaboration with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) to help ECE beneficiary cities mobilise the required resources for implementing the recommendations. CDIA held a Virtual Clinic in Bishkek and helped the city develop a concept note for elaborating bankable project proposals.

⁴ Available at https://www.cityresiliencetraining.com/course/

⁵ Available at https://unece.org/housing/cudhlm-session83

22. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on urban resilience and COVID-19 recovery: a dedicated project website at www.urbaneconomicresilience.org, press releases, and ECE social media platforms.

C. Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level

1. Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region

- 23. The secretariat, in cooperation with municipalities in Norway, the Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development Goals City Transition in Trondheim and other relevant stakeholders, developed Guidelines for the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) in the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The draft Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-second session.
- 24. The draft VLR Guidelines provide cities with a standardized approach to localizing the SDGs and to reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The secretariat revised the draft VLR Guidelines in consultation with development partners, as requested by the Committee at its eighty-second session. The revised Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-third session.

2. Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 25. The following outputs related to VLRs were delivered:
 - (a) An online training module on VLRs;⁶
- (b) Updated Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region (ECE/HBP/2022/6).
- 26. The following events related to VLRs were organized:
 - (a) Side events to the Second Forum of Mayors (Geneva, 4 to 6 April 2022);
 - (b) Side events to the World Urban Forum (Katowice, Poland, 27-30 June 2022).
- 27. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on VLRs: a dedicated joint project website with the United Nations regional commissions and UN-Habitat, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

D. Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative

- 28. The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative is a global platform dedicated to helping cities harness information communication technologies for achieving the SDGs. The initiative involves developing strategic guidelines and measurement tools for use by cities, and membership includes 14 United Nations organizations and programmes. The ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UN-Habitat, coordinates the U4SSC activities.
- 29. In the framework of the U4SSC initiative, the Committee secretariat implemented the following activities to promote smart sustainable cities:

⁶ Available at https://www.cityresiliencetraining.com/course/.

⁷ www.urbaneconomicresilience.org

1. U4SSC thematic group on Innovative Financing

30. The "Compendium of Practices on Innovative Financing" was finalized for publication. The Compendium will be used as training material to support capacity-building activities in cities in the ECE region.

2. UNDA 12th tranche project "Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region"

31. The project is implemented jointly with UN-Habitat from 2020 to 2023 and supports the transition of selected beneficiary cities – Grodno (Belarus), Astana (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Tbilisi (Georgia), and Podgorica (Montenegro) - towards smartness and sustainability with a view to accelerating the implementation of SDG 11 and other urban-related SDGs.

3. UNDA 12th tranche project "Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda"

- 32. Through this project, the five United Nations regional commissions and UN-Habitat supported national governments and selected cities in increasing policy coherence as well as developing national capacities and expertise skills for supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).
- 33. The project involved the following activities: (a) building the capacity of national-and local-level decision makers to implement the NUA and urban SDGs; (b) establishing mechanisms for information sharing; and (c) facilitating regional monitoring and reporting on sustainable urbanization.

4. "Improved sustainable urban development in Norwegian cities" project

34. This project was implemented in 2020–2021 with funds from the City of Trondheim, Norway. It involved the evaluation of the performance of Norwegian cities against the KPIs for SSC and the development of Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles. The project also supported the dissemination of the experiences of Norway in the preparation of VLRs.

5. "Strengthening capacity for the implementation of urban-related SDGs in San Marino through the development of the City Profile on Smart Sustainable Urban Development" project

35. This project was implemented in 2022 to assist the Government of San Marino in implementing the urban-related SDGs. The project involved the development of a Smart Sustainable Country Profile for San Marino using the KPIs for SSC and the dissemination of the country's experience in promoting smart sustainable urban development.

6. Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 36. The following impacts were observed as a result of the work on the implementation of the U4SSC programme in 2021–2022:
- (a) Local and national government provided with KPIs and recommendations for developing and implementing evidence-based sustainable urban policies;
- (b) Increased awareness among local and national governments about best practices and approaches towards ensuring vertical and horizontal coordination and engaging citizens in the development of sustainable urban policies.

37. The following outputs related to smart sustainable cities were delivered:

(a) Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles: Aalesund, Asker, Baerum, Rana and Trondheim in Norway (ECE/HBP/211);

- (b) Smart Sustainable Country Profile: The Republic of San Marino, contains the results of the evaluation of San Marino against the KPIs for SSC and proposes actions for the local and national governments to upscale progress towards achieving the SDGs (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 8);
- (c) Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Tbilisi, Georgia, contains the results of the evaluation of Tbilisi against the KPIs for SSC and proposes actions for the city to upscale progress towards achieving the SDGs (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 9);
- (d) KPI evaluation for the city of Almaty, which will be used for preparing the Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- (e) KPI evaluation for the city of Podgorica, which will be used for preparing the *Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Podgorica, Montenegro*.
- 38. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on urban resilience and COVID-19 recovery: a dedicated website at https://unece.org/housing/sustainable-smartcities, press releases, and ECE social media platforms.

E. Promoting multilevel governance through the ECE Forum of Mayors

1. The Second Forum of Mayors

- 39. The Second Forum of Mayors was held under the theme "Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the implementation of the SDGs" and was chaired by the Committee Chair, Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania).
- 40. Mayors and vice-mayors from 44 cities shared their experiences in finding people-centred solutions, which simultaneously meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens, hedge against disasters and rise to the challenges of climate change in a manner that ensures the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These experiences were shared during four thematic sessions, which focused on global challenges identified in the Geneva Declaration of Mayors sustainable urban transport, shared mobility and safer roads; vibrant public spaces, greener cities and nature-based solutions; resilient, healthy and climate-neutral buildings and affordable and adequate housing; and sustainable urban planning, the 15-minute city and smart urban development solutions.
- 41. The Second Forum also featured three side events, which were jointly organized with UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Health Organization, the Geneva Cities Hub and the University of Geneva, to enable participants to delve deeper into the issues raised during the thematic sessions. The Committee secretariat also organized a special side with European Football Associations (UEFA) on "Football as accelerator of change".

2. Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 42. The following impacts/outputs were observed as a result of the work for multilevel governance through the ECE Forum of Mayors:
- (a) The Second Forum of Mayors received wide media coverage. It generated 195 articles and 858 social media posts, which reached a readership of 756,273,594 and 11,191,829 followers.
- (b) The Forum provided substantive input to the reports of RFSD and the Committee in accordance with the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) decision ECE/EX/2020/L.16. A summary of the discussions was prepared by the secretariat

⁸ https://forumofmayors.unece.org/

⁹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%20declaration%20booklet%20-%20ver.4.pdf.

(ECE/HBP/2022/3) and presented to RFSD on 6 April 2022 by the rapporteur of the Second Forum of Mayors, Ms. Josiane Lei, mayor of Evian, France.

- (c) A document containing the future scenario of the Forum, as envisaged by the participating mayors from the ECE region, was informally approved for the consideration of CUDHLM (ECE/HBP/2022/1).
- 43. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the Second Forum of Mayors: a dedicated ECE website at https://forumofmayors.unece.org, social media platforms of ECE and its partners, press releases and video on the Second Forum of Mayors. 10

F. Activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities

- 44. To support the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, endorsed by ECE member States in 2015, eight Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities have been established.¹¹ The Centres provide capacity-building and training activities; conduct research and analysis on housing and urban development policies; and undertake outreach activities to promote the Charter.
- 45. The following impacts were observed as a result of the activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence:
- (a) Improved understanding among local and national governments in the ECE region of the guiding principles contained in the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing;
- (b) Increased exchange of experience and best practices among local and national governments in the ECE region for supporting the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.
- 46. The following outputs related to the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence were delivered:
- (a) The Centre of Excellence in Canada developed a three-year roadmap for flagship events and key deliverables to advance collaboration, research and policy to prevent and end youth homelessness in countries with limited access to donor funds;
- (b) The Centre of Excellence in Estonia launched a Local Energy Poverty Alleviation Office in January 2022 within the context of the European Union *POWERPOOR* initiative; 12
- (c) The Centre of Excellence in Italy consolidated the content of its multilingual portal, including a tableau de bord on European infrastructure funds, ¹³ and will be publishing a book titled "PPP & Private Capital for sustainable infrastructure and smart cities";

¹⁰ https://youtu.be/aKh-zp_J9PA.

¹¹ The following Centres of Excellence have been established: (i) Centre of Excellence on Sustainable and Resilient Settlements in Tirana, Albania; (ii) Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (iii) Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing in Tallinn, Estonia; (iv) Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development Goal City Transition in Trondheim, Norway; (v) Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Geneva, Switzerland; (vi) Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University, Canada; (vii) Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Finance for Infrastructure and Smart Cities at LIUC – Cattaneo University, Italy; (viii) Centre of Excellence on the Forum of Mayors and Sustainable Urban Development at the Norman Foster Foundation, Spain.

¹² https://powerpoor.eu/.

¹³ https://exsuf.liuc.it/.

- (d) The Centre of Excellence in Norway collected and analysed the KPIs for SSC for 17 Norwegian cities and prepared five detailed UNECE smart sustainable cities profiles (ECE/HBP/211). It also contributed to the ECE online training module on VLRs; provided a case study on "Powerhouse", the first energy-positive building in Trondheim; and developed the training curriculum "Leadership and Governance for Sustainable Development" in cooperation with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the BI Norwegian Business School (student association) and the Nord University (Norway);
- (e) The Centre of Excellence in Spain is leading the development of a new masterplan for the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine. In addition, Norman Foster developed the logo of the Second Forum of Mayors;
- (f) The Centre of Excellence in Switzerland is developing the data visualization of the KPIs for SSC for use in ECE Smart Sustainable City Profiles. It also developed an open-access e-learning platform¹⁴ to host United Nations e-learning content on urban sustainability, and designed two e-learning courses (content, video recording, editing and exercises) on Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements and VLRs in collaboration with ECE;
- (g) The Centre of Excellence in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contributed to a major study "Scotland's Urban AGE 2022", which assessed the impact of COVID-19, the climate crisis and Brexit on sustainable urbanism in the AGE cities (Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh).¹⁵
- 47. The following activities related to the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence were organized:
 - (a) The Centre of Excellence in Albania held/contributed to the following events:
 - (i) Workshops on Resilient Cities and Emergent Urbanism (Tirana, October 2021);
 - (ii) Online international workshop for PhD students "Planning Cities for the Post-Pandemic/Crisis Era", jointly with Polis University (Tirana, Albania) and *Università di Ferrara* (Ferrara, Italy), on 1 February 2022;16
 - (iii) First Co-Design Workshop in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Project "WBC-RRI.net Embedding Responsible Research and Innovation in Western Balkan Countries"¹⁷, jointly with Co-PLAN (Albania), Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania (Kune-Vain-Tale 13 April 2022);
 - (iv) Second Co-Design Workshop in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Project "WBC-RRI.net Embedding Responsible Research and Innovation in Western Balkan Countries", jointly with Co-PLAN (Albania), Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania and the Regional Agency for the Protected Areas (Kune-Vain-Tale, 27 April 2022);

¹⁴ www.cityresilience.com.

¹⁵ https://www.agcc.co.uk/files/SUA-2022-Full-Report-24May2022.pdf.

 $^{^{16}\} https://ombresearchseries.org/2022/02/01/international-workshop-2022-planning-cities-for-the-post-pandemic-crisis-era/.$

¹⁷ https://wbc-rri.net/event-review-1st-co-design-workshop-in-kune-vain-tale-lagoon/.

- (v) Participated in the coordination meeting "Horizon Europe Project: GREENFORCE – fostering research excellence for green transition in Western Balkans" 18 (Brussels, 25 May 2022);
- (vi) Participated in the online workshop of the Western Balkans Network on Territorial Governance, organized jointly by Co-PLAN (Albania), Polis University (Albania), POLITO (Italy) Center for Economic Analysis (Northern Macedonia), Nordregio (Sweden) and the Global Environment Facility -Serbia (26 and 27 May 2022);
- (vii) Organised a training workshop on "Smart Sustainable City Tirana" in cooperation with the Centre of Excellence in Spain (Tirana, 26 September to 8 October 2022).
- (b) The Centre of Excellence in Canada held/contributed to in the following events:
 - (i) A roundtable on Cross-systems Prevention Approaches to Youth Homelessness during the FEANTSA Policy Conference 2022: Towards a Vision for Ending Homelessness (Dublin, 2 and 3 June 2022);
 - (ii) Presented its work in support of the Geneva UN Charter at the special event on Affordable Housing and Ending Homelessness, coorganized by UN-Habitat and Madagascar as part of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, held in New York on 27 April 2022;
 - (iii) Presentation on "Promoting access to affordable housing to women and youth" during the eighty-third session of CUDHLM (San Marino, 4 October 2022).
- (c) The Centre of Excellence in Italy conducted a series of webinars on "Public and Private finance for smart sustainable cities". ²⁰
 - (d) The Centre of Excellence in Norway held/contributed to the following events:
 - (i) A workshop on Leadership and Governance for Sustainable Development (Trondheim, 2 and 3 June 2022);
 - (ii) Lectures by Norwegian experts as part of the ECE online training workshops on VLRs in 2021 (together with the Centre of Excellence in Switzerland).
 - (e) The Centre of Excellence in Spain held the following events:
 - (i) Workshop and public debate on sustainability (October 2021);
 - (ii) Workshop and public debate on rematerializing housing (November 2021);

¹⁸ https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101059411.

¹⁹ https://unece.org/isu/documents/2022/10/presentations/mr-stephen-gaetz-director-centre-excellence-youth-homelessness.

²⁰ https://exsuf.liuc.it/exsuf/.

- (iii) Masterclass series "On Cities", published online²¹ as free of charge resource material;
- (iv) Conversation series "Future of Cities", which are published online²² as free of charge resource materials.
- (f) The Centre of Excellence in Switzerland contributed to the following two side events to the Second Forum of Mayors: "Local Resilience to climate change and COVID-19 No one left behind in urban resilience building", organized jointly with Geneva Cities Hub and UN-Habitat, and "Localizing the SDGs: Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE region-experiences and good practices" (Geneva, 4 and 5 April 2022).
- (g) The Centre of Excellence in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contributed to the following events:
 - (i) Side event "#Housing2030, effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region" to the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 6 October 2022).
 - (ii) Side event to the International Housing Festival "Climate-neutral housing Decarbonizing the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way" (Helsinki, 15 June 2022).
- (h) Meetings of the network of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence were held in January, March, June, and September 2022 to discuss progress updates and activities for the coming year.
- 48. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence: a video was developed in 2022 to disseminate information on the activities of the centres at unece.org/housing/charter-centres, and dedicated webpage at https://unece.org/housing/charter and social media platforms of the ECE and the centres.

G. Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

- 49. The Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group continued to support the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) through contributing to the work on affordable and energy-efficient housing, smart sustainable cities and land management.
- 50. The following impacts/outputs were observed as a result of the activities of the REM Advisory Group:
- (a) Support to the Committee and WPLA in the implementation of their programmes of work;
- (b) Increased exchange of experience and best practices among local and national governments in the ECE region in the areas of affordable and energy-efficient housing, smart sustainable cities and land administration.
- 51. The following outputs related to the work of the REM Advisory Group were delivered:

 $^{^{21}\} https://normanfosterfoundation.org/the-norman-foster-foundation-presents-on-cities-master class-series/.$

 $^{^{22}\} https://normanfosterfoundation.org/the-norman-foster-foundation-presents-the-future-of-cities-conversations-series/.$

- (a) The publication Sharing Economy in the Housing Sector in the UNECE Region;²³
- (b) Provided input to the Committee background document *Emerging needs of the ECE region in the areas of housing, real estate and urban development* (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 2);
- (c) Supported the International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition in promoting the implementation of the International Fire Safety Standards: Common Principles "Safe Buildings Save Lives", endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-first session (Geneva, 6-9 October 2020).
- 52. The following activities related to the REM Advisory Group were organized:
 - (a) Meeting of the REM Advisory Group (21 January 2022);
- (b) Presentation at "Scaling-up financing for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Experiences from the UNECE Region" (Geneva, 7 April 2022). A paper on innovative finance was presented during the meeting;
- (c) Side event to the International Housing Forum on "Sources of lack of housing affordability: Evidence from different countries" (Madrid, 17 May 2022);
- (d) Presentation at AHA Forum meeting on Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing. Panel on barriers to "Ownership and Tenure" (Madrid, 20 May 2022);
- (e) Side event to the World Urban Forum "Housing challenges for Circular Cities: Socioeconomic challenges to make smart cities more sustainable" (Katowice, 26-30 June 2022);
- (f) Presentation at the annual Conference of the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) (Barcelona, 30 August 2 September 2022). A paper on the sharing economy in the housing sector was presented during the meeting;
- (h) Contribution to CUDHLM discussions on accelerated digitalization in land administrations in the ECE region (San Marino, 6 October 2022);²⁴
- (i) Side event to the eighty-third session of CUDHLM on "The impact of the energy crisis on housing, the real estate market and urban development in the Economic Commission for Europe Region: Perspectives from the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group"²⁵ (hybrid, 6 October 2022);
 - (j) Annual meeting of the REM Advisory Group (14 October 2022).
- 53. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work of REM: the dedicated ECE website at https://unece.org/housing/advisory-group, press releases, and the social media platforms of ECE and REM members.

H. Land administration and management

54. To assist member States in improving land administration and land management, the Working Party on Land Administration promotes security of tenure and improvement of cadastres and land registries, including institutional arrangements for land registration. Activities focused on improving e-governance, land tenure, spatial information and cadastres,

²³ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-

^{10/}ECE%20HBP%20216 Sharing%20Economy E web.pdf.

²⁴ https://unece.org/isu/documents/2022/10/presentations/ms-nuria-raga-sastre-member-rem-and-land-registrar-colegio-de

²⁵ https://unece.org/info/events/event/370771

with a special emphasis on innovation, accelerated digitalization and capacity-building in land administration. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the land administration was also assessed.

- 55. The following impacts/outputs were observed as a result of the work on land administration and management:
- (a) Scenario Study on Future Land Administration publication in English and Russian (ECE/HBP/209). The document serves as an instrument to initiate a continuous dialogue among and within national land administration authorities and to guide them in the development of long-term strategies for the sustainability of their work and services;
 - (b) A list of key effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on land administration;
- (c) The following two online courses were developed: "Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Constructions" and "Implementing the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plans for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region".
- 56. The following publications were developed jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG):
- (a) Digital transformation and land administration Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond publication;
 - (b) Knowledge for Investment" policy brief, drawing on the publication in 54 (a);
- 57. The following capacity-building events related to land administration and management were organized:
- (a) Webinar "Cadastral mapping and land registration authorities' strategies in Europe" (3 February 2022);²⁶
 - (b) Webinar "Geospatial information advanced education and competence needs", organized jointly with the University of Gavle (Sweden) (22 March 2022);²⁷
- (c) Webinar "Benefit and Challenges of open data in land administration", organized jointly with *Colegio de Registradores de la Propiedad, Mercantiles y de Bienes Muebles de España* (Spain) (27 April 2022);²⁸
- (d) Webinar "Socio-economic benefits of geospatial information" drawing on experience gained from Norwegian funded activities for implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, organized jointly with the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (19 May 2022);²⁹
- (e) Webinar "Data Interoperability: The benefits for the Land Administration sector" (24 June 2022).³⁰
- 58. The Bureau and the Working Party secretariat have also presented the Working Party activities at the following international events focused on land administration:
- (a) Conference and Plenary Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC), Slovenia (11 November 2021). The Chair of WPLA

²⁶ https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364529.

²⁷ https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364956.

²⁸ https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/366530.

²⁹ https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/367024.

³⁰ https://unece.org/info/events/event/368344.

participated online and shared the experience of Working Party in bolstering the role of national mapping, cadastre and land registry authorities in resilience and recovery programmes;

- (b) Conference and Plenary Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC), Paris, France (31 May- 1 June 2022). The Chair of WPLA participated online and shared the experience of the Working Party in valorising digital cadastral data.
- (c) Arab Land Initiative, Reference Group Meeting, organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon (13 July 2022, in-person). The Chair of WPLA presented the activities of the Working Party in support of land administration reforms in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and discussed avenues for sharing knowledge with the Arab Land Initiative.
- (d) Special session at the twenty-seventh Congress of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), organized jointly with FIG, WPLA and FAO, Warsaw, Poland (14 September 2022).³¹ The WPLA secretariat presented work on accelerated digitalization in land administrations and on informal settlements in the ECE region.
- 59. The following dissemination tools were used to promote the work on land administration and management: the dedicated ECE website at https://unece.org/land-administration-and-management, videos, thematic articles, podcasts, press releases and the social media platforms of the ECE and WPLA members.

I. Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management

60. Following requests from the national governments of Albania and Montenegro, preparations are underway to raise the required extrabudgetary funds to conduct country profiles on housing, urban development and land management in the two countries. The country profile for Montenegro will integrate the results of the ECE assessment of the country's housing system.

II. Major activities planned for 2023 and beyond

A. Affordable, accessible, adequate and healthy housing with focus on needs of women and youth

- 61. The Committee adopted the programme of work of the Housing and Land Management Component of Housing, Land Management and Population Subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/HBP/2022/9) and planned official publications and promotional materials for 2024 (ECE/HBP/2022/10).
- 62. The Committee will continue its engagement in the #Housing2030 initiative. As part of the Initiative and in cooperation with its partners, Housing Europe and UN-Habitat, it will develop thematic studies, organize regional and subregional policy workshops and capacity building events on #Housing2030 topics.
- 63. The Committee will also continue collecting experiences and best practices at national and local levels and disseminate those through the #Housing2030 online platform at www.housing2030.org.

³¹ https://www.fig.net/fig2022/program.htm.

- 64. The #Housing 2030 experts will be engaged in the Housing working group of the National Recovery Plan Council of Ukraine.
- 65. Furthermore, the Committee will continue reviewing housing policies at the national level, including through the preparation of country profiles on housing, urban development and land management. In 2023, subject to availability of extrabudgetary financial resources, the Committee will work on Country Profiles for Albania and Montenegro.
- 66. The Committee will work on supporting the implementation the Regional Action Plan through workshops, training events and publications. Countries will be invited to report on implementing the Regional Action Plan on a regular basis during the annual sessions of the Committee.
- 67. The Committee will work with the network of Charter Centres of Excellence to implement the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.

Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 68. The implementation of the activities listed under heading A is expected to support building the capacity of national and local authorities for developing and implementing policies for ensuring affordable housing.
- 69. The following dissemination tools will be used to promote the work on housing: #Housing2030 online platform at www.housing2030.org, the ECE Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence website at https://unece.org/housing/charter,, podcasts, videos, thematic articles, press releases and the social media platforms of the ECE and the centres.

B. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the city level and building urban economic resilience

1. Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Informal Settlements

70. The COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region (ECE/HBP/214) will be further disseminated to relevant stakeholders through the organization of at least two subregional workshops and local online trainings in the pilot cities, in addition to preparing policy briefs on experiences in implementing the Plan.

2. Support efforts of local governments across the Economic Commission for Europe region in developing and implementing plans for sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery

71. Following the finalization of the UNDA Rapid Response project "Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19", the work will focus on continuing support to the beneficiary cities, including Bishkek, Kharkiv and Tirana. This includes helping the three cities scale up on achieved results through capacity-building and mobilise the required financial resources for implementing policies and initiatives for sustainable post-COVID-19 urban economic recovery and resilience.

Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 72. The implementation of the activities listed under heading B is expected to support building the capacity of national and local authorities for developing and implementing policies for ensuring sustainable post-COVID-19 urban economic recovery and resilience as well as for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population groups living in informal settlements.
- 73. The following dissemination tools will be used to promote the work on post-COVID-19 urban resilience and on informal settlements: videos, thematic articles, podcasts, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

C. Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level

Pilot testing the revised Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region

- 74. The revised Guidelines for the development of VLRs are intended to help local governments track progress towards the achievement of the SDGs; strengthen synergies between local, national and global level policies and initiatives; increase local ownership of SDGs; and improve the engagement of local governments in the preparation of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and other national processes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- 75. The Committee will pilot test the revised Guidelines in the interested cities, subject to availability of funding. In cooperation with the Centres of Excellence, it will also work to further develop a detailed methodology for the implementation of the Guidelines.

2. Promoting evidence-based policies to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the city level and implementation of the U4SSC programme

76. The Committee will continue its activities to promote evidence-based housing and urban development policies at the local and national levels through the evaluation of cities' performance using the KPIs for SSC, preparation of City Profiles based on the evaluation, and capacity-building activities to support the cities to become smart and sustainable.

3. Innovative financing for urban infrastructure, including housing

77. The Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities and the U4SSC Compendium of Practices on Innovative Financing publications will be adapted for use as training materials to help city governments in the ECE region finance investments in the area of urban development. Further, ECE will establish the Project Catalyst platform to assist cities in developing bankable project proposals.

Activity impacts and dissemination of results

- 78. The implementation of the activities under heading C is expected to support further localisation of the SDGs and building urban resilience in cities.
- 79. The following dissemination tools will be used to promote the work on VLRs: videos, thematic articles, podcasts, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

D. Activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities

- 80. The secretariat will continue implementing the recommendations of the evaluation conducted in 2019 to increase overall effectiveness and efficiency of the network of the UN Charter Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities. This will include strengthening the networking between the Centres by further developing the shared online space for exchange of information and organizing biannual meetings (online or in-person) and fostering the exchange of best practices between the Centres. In addition, the secretariat plans to discuss and identify opportunities for joint fundraising with the Centres of Excellence.
- 81. The activities of the network will be expanded to cover city diplomacy with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ECE and the Columbia Global Centres | Europe (CGC|E), on behalf of the City Diplomacy Lab (CDL) | Paris, France

in December 2022. The MOU established the CDL as a Centre of Excellence for the implementation of the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing. CDL will provide best practices, research, support, and training on city diplomacy and sustainable urban development.

Activity impacts/outputs and dissemination of results

- 82. Through strengthening the network of the Centres, proposals for new innovative joint activities to support the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing as well as the Regional Action Plan will be developed.
- 83. The following dissemination tools will be used to promote the work of the Centres of Excellence: the dedicated ECE website at https://unece.org/housing/charter, videos, thematic articles, podcasts, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

E. Promoting multilevel governance through the ECE Forum of Mayors

- 84. The 112th session of EXCOM in December 2020 decided to evaluate the Forum and submit the results for the consideration of CUDHLM at its 2022 session as well as EXCOM. The results of the evaluation are to provide the basis for deliberations on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum, if extended beyond 2022 (ECE/EX/2020/L.16).
- 85. To feed into the evaluation, recommendations were developed by mayors during informal briefings in February-March 2022, and informally approved at the Second Forum of Mayors. The recommendations of the mayors were transmitted to the Committee for its consideration at its eighty-third session (ECE/HBP/2022/1), together with the results of the evaluation (ECE/HBP/2020/4)³² and a document reconciling the recommendations from the mayors and the evaluation (ECE/HBP/2022/Inf.12).
- 86. The Committee reviewed the above documents during its eighty-third session and made a series of recommendations for the consideration of EXCOM (ECE/HBP/213, paragraph 30). In addition, informal consultations with ECE member States in Geneva were held on 27 October and 14 November 2022, based on the recommendations from CUDHLM.
- 87. Should the Forum of Mayors be extended further, and depending on the format and frequency agreed, the secretariat will organize the third Forum in 2023, when and how decided by EXCOM.

F. Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

89. At its eighty-third session, CUDHLM updated the title of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group to "Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities". It also approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group for 2023–2024 (ECE/HBP/2022/7) and programme of work for the period 2023–2024 (ECE/HBP/2022/8).

F. Land administration and management

90. The mandate of the WPLA is reviewed every five years by its parent Committee as outlined in the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within the ECE (ECE/EX/1).

³² The entire evaluation report is contained in information document ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 1.

- 91. The thirteenth session of WPLA review and approve its programme of work for 2024–2025. The Working Party will also review and approve the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party for the period 2025–2030 and recommend the renewal of its mandate to CUDHLM at its eighty-fourth session in October 2024.
- 92. The approved Terms of Reference of WPLA are to be endorsed by the Committee and the Working Party's mandate renewed in October 2023 and approved by EXCOM in 2023.

III. Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

- 93. The eighty-third session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management was organized in two parts. Part I, the Second Forum of Mayors, took place on 4 and 5 April 2022 in Geneva. Part II took place on 3–6 October 2022 in San Marino. The report of the eighty-third session is contained in document ECE/HBP/213. As part of its deliberations, the Committee adopted the programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population Subprogramme for 2023, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/9. Further, the Committee updated the title of the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group to "Advisory Group on climateneutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities" and recommended the extension of its mandate for the period 2023–2024. It also approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/7, and its programme of work 2023–2024, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/8.
- 94. The Executive Committee is invited to approve these decisions and to consider decisions related to the Forum of Mayors, as contained in document ECE/EX/2023/L.4.

IV. Follow-up to the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

- 95. As part of its efforts to promote circularity in cities, the Committee adopted the "San Marino Declaration on principles for sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture in support of sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities" (ECE/HBP/2022/2/Rev) during its eighty-third session. Developed by the Committee Bureau with the support the secretariat, the Declaration provides a first-of-its kind indivisible, action-oriented principles for bolstering the roles of city mayors, architects, engineers, urban planners, designers, surveyors, building and city managers, developers and infrastructure operators in ensuring sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and encouraging circularity in homes, urban infrastructure and cities. The principles are ethical equivalent and constitute a manifesto for a global future, where no one is left behind.
- 96. The Committee also organized an online workshop on "Promoting circularity in rebuilding Ukrainian cities" on 25 November 2022. ³³ In addition, the Committee continues activities to disseminate best practices and recommendations of the "Guide to circular cities" ³⁴ and build local capacities to promote circularity. Recommendations to support circularity in cities were developed as part of the smart sustainable city profiles for Tbilisi, Georgia as well as the Smart, Sustainable Country Profile for the Republic of San Marino.

³³ https://unece.org/info/events/event/372763.

³⁴ https://unece.org/housing/publications/guide-circular-cities.

V. Intersectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing intersectoral activities

- 97. The Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management cooperation within their Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.
- 98. Representatives of ECE subprogrammes were engaged in the organization of the Second Forum of Mayors as members of the Steering Committee.
- 99. The Committee co-organized the following events with other ECE subprogrammes:
- (a) UNFCCC COP26 collaborative UN system side event "Climate-neutral housing Decarbonizing the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way",³⁵ 4 November 2021, Glasgow, UK, co-organized with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division;
- (b) UNFCCC COP 27 collaborative UN system wide event "Climate action and New Urban Agenda: SDGs localization and sustainable urban policy for resilience",³⁶ 16 November 2022, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt;
- (c) Online workshop "Energy-efficient buildings and progress towards carbon neutrality in Ukrainian cities",³⁷ 18 November 2022, Kyiv, Ukraine, co-organized with and the Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine with the contributions from the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division.

VI. Technical cooperation activities

- 100. Technical cooperation activities were being carried out within the context of the thematic projects presented in section I.
- 101. The outbreak of the war in Ukraine, on 24 February 2022, has caused the destruction of urban infrastructure in many towns and villages across the country. In response to a request by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, the Committee secretariat launched #UN4Kharkiv Initiative and #UN4Mykolaiv Initiative to help local and national governments "build back better".
- 102. The two initiatives are supported by a dedicated Task Force, which brings together 12 United Nations agencies, the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, the city governments of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv and Ukrainian experts. The initiatives also involve Norman Foster Foundation, which is leading the development of a new master plan for the reconstruction of Kharkiv, and One Works, which is leading the development of a new master plan for the reconstruction of Mykolaiv. The initiatives are coordinated by the Forests, Land and Housing Division, working closely with other ECE divisions and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Country Team in Ukraine with funds from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation.

VII. Cooperation with other organizations

103. The annual roundtable "In focus: SDG 11",³⁸ which took place on 3 October 2022, back-to-back with the eighty-third session of CUDHLM, was organized in cooperation with

³⁵ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/COP%2026%20side%20event%20draft%20programme% 20v%201%20Nov%202021 0.pdf.

³⁶ https://unece.org/info/events/event/372630.

³⁷ https://unece.org/info/events/event/372485.

³⁸ https://unece.org/housing/cudhlm-session83.

the Geneva Cities Hub. The Geneva Cities Hub is actively involved in promoting the Forum of Mayors.

- 104. The Committee secretariat cooperates with the regional commissions of the United Nations and UN-Habitat within the context of its technical cooperation activities. UN-Habitat also provided case studies to the updated Guidelines for the VLRs and is collaborating with the secretariat within the framework of the #UN4Kharkiv and of #UN4Mykolaiv Initiatives. The secretariat also collaborates with Housing Europe within the context of the #Housing2030 initiative.
- 105. The Committee secretariat actively participates in the Making Cities Resilience 2030 initiative. The secretariat participated in regular coordination meetings with other United Nations agencies to promote city resilience in Eastern and South-East Europe and Central Asia
- 106. The Committee secretariat actively participates in the Local2030 initiative coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme and UN-Habitat.
- 107. The Committee secretariat signed an MoU with UEFA in April 2022 with the aim of showing how football and hosting UEFA events can support cities to become more sustainable.
- 108. WPLA regularly cooperates with other United Nations agencies and international organizations involved in land administration in the ECE region, including UN-Habitat, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the European Union Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (EU INSPIRE) Directive, FIG and *EuroGeographics*.