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Committee on Housing and Land Management

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2018-2019

Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-ninth session and its future activities for 2020

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the Committee's activities since the seventy-ninth session and outlines a list of activities for 2020.

The Committee is invited to take note of information on activities implemented. The Committee is also invited to approve the list of activities proposed for 2020 containing detailed information on all activities needed to implement the Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020.



I. Implementation of the programme of work 2018-2019

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

1. Aligning Committee activities with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda

1. In 2018-2019, the Committee continued the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Housing and Urban Development. Representatives of the secretariat and Bureau of the Committee participated in the following high-level events which addressed the implementation of the above documents, specifically at:

(a) The First UN-Habitat Assembly (Nairobi, 27-31 May 2019) where the ECE secretariat organised a joint side event with the UN-Habitat and other UN Regional Commissions to disseminate information on the ECE activities on housing and urban development;

(b) The European Union Meetings on Territorial Cohesion and on Urban Matters Bucharest (Bucharest, 7 and 8 May 2019);

(c) The United Nations High Level Political Forum 2019 in July 2019 where the ECE activities under the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative were presented at a side event.

2. To promote the implementation of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration, which was adopted by the Committee in 2017, a policy paper and guidelines for the collection and analysis of the national data on housing and urban development were prepared as part of the joint ECE/UN-Habitat UNDA Tenth tranche project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition". The UNDA project was implemented in four pilot countries – Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

3. The following four national training workshops were organised:

(a) National workshop on evidence-based policies in housing as part of the Expocongress "Business for Smart Cities" (Kyiv, 28-31 January 2019);

(b) National workshop on evidence-based policies in Albania (Tirana, 2-4 May 2019);

(c) National workshop on evidence-based policies in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 18-19 June 2019); and

(d) National workshop on evidence-based policies in Georgia (Tbilisi, 26-27 June 2019).

4. In addition, a joint workshop was organised with the European Committee of Regions on "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in Europe and beyond" on 13 December 2018 in Brussels. The secretariat also participated with a presentation in a workshop in Kazakhstan on "Strengthening of national potential for SDGs implementation" organised by the ECE Statistics Division, the Green Economy Centre of Kazakhstan, the OECD and the UNDP Kazakhstan.

2. Implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

5. The implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing was supported by work of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence. The following key activities were implemented by the Charter Centres.

6. The Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Glasgow, UK, established on 8 November 2017 and hosted by the Glasgow Urban Lab of the Glasgow School of Art with support of the Glasgow City Council:

(a) Contributed to the preparation of the draft policy paper on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development which is being developed under the Committee's programme of work 2018-2019 with the support of the joint ECE/UN-Habitat UNDA Tenth tranche project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition"

(b) Published a study on "Scotland's Urban AGE: Aberdeen, Glasgow & Edinburgh in the Century of the City" (Glasgow, 2018)¹. The study is used as a training material by the secretariat at capacity buildings events in countries with economies in transition in the ECE Region.

7. The Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing in Tallinn, Estonia, established on 2 May 2017 and hosted by the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations (EKYL),

(a) Participated in the peer-review of and provided its inputs into the development of the draft of the Guidelines on the Management and Ownership of Condominium Housing;

(b) At the request of the secretariat, elaborated a training curricular on management of multiapartment buildings in English and Russian for housing managers in countries with economies in transition based on its training curricular developed and extensive experience of training housing managers in Estonia. The training curricular is used by the secretariat for organisation of trainings on housing management within the UNDA 10 tranche project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition"

(c) During April-June 2019, organised trainings for local governments' representatives and housing managers in cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv, Ukraine. Organisation of the trainings was supported by a grant from Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to EKYL. The trainings complemented the ECE activities in Ukraine under the UNDA 10 tranche project supporting reforms in the housing sector;

(d) Provided trainers to ECE national and regional trainings, including to the national workshop in Ukraine on "Evidence-based policies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals: sustainable housing and urban development in Ukraine" (30 January 2019, Kyiv) and the regional training for housing managers from CIS countries "Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: housing management, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable urban development" (21 - 24 May 2019, Minsk, Belarus).

8. The Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Vienna established on 4 October 2018 and hosted by the Organization for International Economic Relations (OIER):

(a) Established an online Investment Marketplace for cities to promote city-based investments and access to best available technologies and approaches for smart sustainable cities;

(b) Co-organised with the ECE a series of capacity building events for representatives of local authorities, including "In focus: SDG 11" (2 October 2018, Geneva)²; "United Smart Cities" workshop at the Smart City Expo World Congress (14 November 2018, Barcelona, Spain)³, and a workshop "United Smart Cities:

¹ Evans, Brian, Lord, John and Robertson, Mark (2018) Scotland's Urban AGE: Aberdeen, Glasgow & Edinburgh in the Century of the City. Glasgow Urban Laboratory, Glasgow. Available at <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/6608/>

² <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49623>

³ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50380>

implementing smart sustainable cities approaches worldwide” which took place at the Smart Cities EXPO Ukraine (29 January 2019, Kyiv, Ukraine)⁴

(c) Co-organised a side event at the ECE Day of Cities on “KPIs for SDGs: Mobilizing Data for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities of the UNECE Region” (8 April 2019, Geneva)⁵.

9. The Centre of Excellence in Albania was undergoing restructuring in 2018-2019; there were no activities during the reporting period. In addition to the already established centres, at least two new centres are planned to be established in 2019 - in Trondheim, Norway, to be hosted by the Norwegian University of Technology and Science and City of Trondheim; and in Geneva, Switzerland, to be hosted by University of Geneva.⁶

B. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

1. Affordable and decent housing

10. A study on housing for migrants and refugees in the ECE region is being finalised after a consultation meeting with member States on the draft publication which was held on 13 June in Geneva. The study was prepared with the support of the City of Vienna and the Swiss Federal Office for Housing. The study examines the current challenges and practices in housing migrants and refugees in the ECE region and formulates recommendations to better accommodate migrants. It underlines the importance of the engagement of beneficiaries in housing projects as well as the host communities in the integration process for migrants. When finalised, the report will be published as an official publication (ECE/HBP/197).

11. The “Guidelines on the Management and Ownership of Condominium Housing” were developed by the Committee’s Real Estate Market Advisory Group. When finalised, the Guidelines will be published as an official publication (ECE/HBP/198).

12. To develop capacities of national and local governments in the ECE Region for the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and improving access to affordable and decent housing, the following workshops and other events were organised:

(a) World Habitat Day: "Women Without Walls" photography exhibition (1 - 12 October 2018, Geneva);

(b) "Right to Housing: Homeless No More" Library Talk (3 October 2018, Geneva);

(c) International training workshop “Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: housing management, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable urban development” (Minsk, 21-24 May 2019). Organisation of the workshop was supported by the Government of Belarus, UNDP Office in Belarus and the ECE Regional Programme on Technical Cooperation;

(d) European High-level Roundtable on Housing: Bridging the Gap in Affordable Housing (Lyon, France, 7 June 2019). The Roundtable was organised by the Metropolitan Government of Lyon, Housing Europe Federation, the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the European Committee of the Region;

(e) International Conference “Strategic Planning of Affordable and Sustainable Housing in Cities” (Prague, 21-22 June 2019). Organisation of the conference was supported by the Ministry of Regional Development of Czech Republic and Technical University in Prague;

⁴ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50917>

⁵ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50283>

⁶ <http://www.unece.org/housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html>

(f) International Conference on Affordable and Social Housing (Glasgow, the UK, 12-13 September 2019). The conference was organised jointly by the City Government of Glasgow and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

2. Fire safety standards in buildings

13. The International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition was established in July 2019. The Coalition is working to develop a set of new, high level international standards, which will aim to provide greater clarity and global consistency in the application of fire safety in building projects at a state, national, regional or international level. It is expected that the Coalition will establish a set of international standards for fire safety aspects of design, engineering and construction, occupation and ongoing management in 2020. The standards will be relevant to all property classes and all regions and nations regardless of the differing political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal differences between nations.

3. Energy efficiency in buildings

14. The Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings continued its work with a focus on capacity building to promote energy efficiency in buildings, including through the improved management of multiapartment buildings. The project on “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the ECE Region” supported by contributions from Denmark and the Russian Federation was completed.

15. Two studies were prepared under the project⁷:

(a) “Mapping of Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region” and

(b) “Compendium of Best Practices for Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies in Buildings in the UNECE Region”.

16. The Third Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings - Workshop on the results of mapping the technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings was organised on 3 October 2018 in Geneva.

17. The Fourth Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was held on 13 November 2018 in, Kyiv and a concluding event, the Joint UNECE-UNDP Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, - on (14 and 15 March 2019 in Yerevan.

18. The secretariats of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and of Committee on Sustainable Energy actively cooperated with the ECE Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies and other international organisations, such as UNDP, International Standards Organisation (ISO), Passive House Institute, the Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency, the Building Performance Institute Europe, who were engaged in the work of the Task Force and contributed to its outputs.

4. Real Estate Market Advisory Group

19. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) continued to contribute to the work of the Committee on energy efficiency, smart sustainable cities and land administration. An updated and revised “Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets” was finalized and will be published as an official publication.

20. REM also contributed to the WPLA benchmarking series surveys and are working on two key studies on the topics of sharing economy in housing sector and housing finance, which will be finalised at the end of 2020.

⁷ The studies have been finalized and are available on the ECE webpage at <https://www.unece.org/housing/publications.html>

21. The Advisory Group organized the following meetings as per its programme of work:
- (a) International workshop "My city, my home, my business" (15 - 16 November 2018, Sofia); and
 - (b) International Conference "European Smart and Sharing Cities" (22 - 23 November 2018), Prague, Czech Republic.
22. REM members contributed to the organisation of and discussions at the following Committee events:
- (a) International Conference "Affordable Housing in the 21st Century" (21 - 22 June 2019, Prague);
 - (b) Regional workshop "Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: housing management, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable urban development" (21 - 24 May 2019, Minsk).

C. Sustainable urban development

1. National urban policies and urban planning

23. The secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management was involved in the following missions and training workshops:
- (a) Roundtable "In focus : SDG 11" (2 October 2018, Palais des Nations, Geneva)
 - (b) "Infrastructures and Urban Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities from the ground" (2 October 2018, Geneva)
 - (c) Side event to the 9th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on the "Future of Asia and Pacific Cities Report 2019: Sub-regional meeting for North and Central Asia" (5 October 2018, Geneva)
 - (d) National workshop on "National Urbanisation Strategy Uzbekistan 2030" in May 2019; this was a joint workshop with UNDP Uzbekistan and UN-Habitat and it was supported by UNDP Uzbekistan and the ECE Regional Programme on Technical Cooperation (RPTC), and
 - (e) "Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus" (Chisinau, 22-24 May 2019). The workshop brought together land-use planning and industrial safety experts from countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (including representatives of authorities, industry, NGOs and academia and experts in related fields) to share experiences and good practices on the topics of: coordination of land-use planning and industrial safety procedures and cooperation between the relevant experts for industrial accident prevention, including in a transboundary context

2. Smart Sustainable Cities

24. In the framework of the "United for Smart Sustainable Cities" (U4SSC) initiative, the secretariat, together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the other 16 UN bodies, who are involved with the U4SSC initiative, developed the following studies:
- (a) Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities projects; and
 - (b) Guidelines on strategies for circular cities.
25. The ECE finalised the smart sustainable city profile for the city of Voznesensk in Ukraine.
26. The following events were organised:
- (a) United Smart Cities at the Smart City Expo World Congress (14 November 2018), Barcelona, Spain, and

(b) International Conference "European Smart and Sharing Cities" (22 - 23 November 2018, Prague).

27. A session on "Measuring Performance in the Transition to Becoming a Smart Sustainable City" at the ECE Commission session (9 April 2019, Geneva). The session shared insights into how evidence-based policies are important as they help governments, international organisations and other stakeholders to make well-informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects, by placing the best available evidence at the heart of policy development and implementation.

28. On 8 April, the Committee secretariat in cooperation with the ECE Executive Office organized the Day of Cities to discuss with Mayors and Deputy Mayors from cities that have taken sustainability seriously how to make urban areas smarter and more sustainable, and to learn from their experience of how digitalization and technologies can contribute to this transition. The event gathered over 50 Mayors from 33 countries of the UNECE region, and over 400 participants. Mayors emphasized that further strengthening the support of ECE to the work of local authorities could help to address main challenges of SDGs implementation in urban areas. A follow-up to the Day of Cities will be discussed at the 80th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management; more information is available in the session official document (HBP/ECE/2019/3).

D. Land administration and management

29. To assist member States in improving land administration and land management, the Committee activities promote security of tenure and improvement of cadastres and land registries, including institutional arrangements for land administration.

1. Eleventh session of the Working Party on Land Administration and related workshops

30. The Working Party held its eleventh session on 27-28 February 2019 in Geneva. The session discussed the megatrends impacting land administration, such as, new business ecosystems, urbanization, climate change, disruptive technology, migration, etc. and how to incorporate the needs and priorities of land administration in the ECE region in support of Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda. The Working Party approved its Programme of Work 2020-2021 and endorsed its Terms of Reference of the Working Party for 2021-2025.

31. On the margins of the eleventh session, the Working Party held the side event: "Measuring Progress in the Implementation of SDGs, the Role of Data and Statistics in Monitoring Land Administration and Management" (28 February 2019, Geneva). Member States were given the opportunity to reflect on progress made in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDG1 and 5 and share their experiences in land data production and reporting. Building on highly developed country data infrastructure from ECE member States, participants also reflected on the new emerging requirements for monitoring land in the SDGs and their application in the region.

32. The Working Party held a joint conference of the WPLA, the FIG and the Technical Chamber of Greece (7-8 November 2018, Athens). The conference theme was "Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate". The conference promoted the exchange of experiences and practices in cadastre and property rights registry.

33. The Working Party also co-organized a session on "The Cadastre – A Sustainable basis for property registration and investments" as part of the international workshop "My City, My Home, My Business" (15 November 2018, Sofia).

34. The ECE will continue its cooperation with International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the Food and Agriculture Organisation, UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) on land management issues.

2. Land Administration Reviews

35. The review of the land administration and real estate markets of Belarus was developed by experts from the Netherlands and the Russian Federation. The land administration review was published as a chapter of the Country Profile for Belarus (ECE/HBP/195).

3. Studies on selected topics in land management

36. The WPLA continued its activities on the preparation of “Informal Development: Guidelines for Formalization of Informal Constructions in the ECE Region”, which was finalised in 2019.

37. A roundtable on “Future Scenarios in Land Administration” was held in Stockholm, Sweden in March 2019. The roundtable discussed progress with the preparation of a study on the “Future Scenarios in Land Administration” (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2019/5).

38. Further, the Working Party finalized:

(a) A study on benchmarking in land administration studies on the “Costs for Registration/Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages for the ECE Region”;

(b) A study on “Land Consolidation”; and

(c) An update of the Working Party study on the “Fraud in Land Administration Systems” in 2019.

4. WPLA Task Groups

39. The WPLA implemented its activities with the support of its Task Groups:

(a) Group for Outreach and Promotion;

(b) Group for Benchmarking of land administration systems;

(c) Group on future scenarios for land administration;

(d) Group on Fraud in land administration.

E. Country profiles on housing and land management

40. The Country Profile Belarus (ECE/HBP/195) was prepared in 2018-2019. A presentation of preliminary results of the study took place on 20 May 2019 in Minsk. The study was approved by the Committee by a silent procedure in July 2019 and will be published as an official publication.

II. Technical Cooperation activities

41. The UNDA Tenth tranche project “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” has been carried out in collaboration with UN-Habitat. Under this project, advisory missions and national training workshops were organised in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. A policy paper with the methodology for data collection relevant to the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda is being prepared and will be made available for the review by the Committee at its eighty-first session.

42. The UNDA Eleventh tranche project “Strengthening evidence-based and participatory housing policies and strategies” is being carried out in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The project includes cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development of Bulgaria on the review of the draft National Housing Strategy and other documents. A joint workshop on housing and land administration was organised on 15-16 November 2018 in Sofia.

43. The ECE Regional Programme on Technical Cooperation provided support to travel of staff and experts to:

- (a) International training workshop “Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: housing management, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable urban development” (21-24 May 2019, Minsk);
- (b) Workshop on National Urbanisation Strategy Uzbekistan 2030 (May 2019, Tashkent); and
- (c) Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (22-24 May 2019, Chisinau).

III. Cooperation with other ECE subprogrammes

44. The Committee continued to cooperate, especially on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with ECE subprogrammes: (1) Environment, (2) Transport, (3) Statistics, (4) Economic Cooperation and Integration, (5) Sustainable Energy, and (7) Forestry and Timber within the four ECE nexuses:

- (a) Sustainable management of natural resources;
- (b) Sustainable and smart cities;
- (c) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity;
- (d) Measuring and monitoring SDGs.

45. The cross-sectoral cooperation through the nexuses allows the ECE to exploit existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on its actions to implement the SDGs.

46. The Committee has engaged in regular cooperation with the Committee on Sustainable Energy on energy efficiency in buildings. The two Committees co-lead the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

47. Jointly with the ECE Industrial Accidents Convention and in cooperation with the Government of Belgium and the European Investment Bank, a seminar on “Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety” was organised in Brussels, Belgium, on 16 and 17 May 2018.

48. The ECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) team supported the secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management in the preparations to the mission to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to provide advice to the Government of Uzbekistan on the development of the National Urbanisation Strategy Uzbekistan 2030 (May 2019, Tashkent). The EPR of Uzbekistan was drafted in spring 2019 and it contained a chapter on housing and land management.

IV. Cooperation with other international organizations

49. A joint event of the five regional commissions was organised at the First UN-Habitat Assembly (Nairobi, 27-31 May 2019); a joint project proposal “Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda” of the five UN regional commissions and UN-Habitat was developed and submitted for funding to the UNDA 12 tranche programme; the proposal was accepted and the project will be implemented in 2020-2023.

50. The Committee is working together with UN-Habitat, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Housing Europe Federation, the World Economic Forum, Union of Cities and Local Governments, the European Commission, Eurocities and many other pan-European networks of organizations as well as cities, on issues related to affordable and healthy housing. Multiple joint events were organised together with the partners, including the European High-level Roundtable on Housing: Bridging the Gap in Affordable Housing (7 June 2019, Lyon, France). The roundtable “In focus: SDG 11”, which took place on 2 October 2018 in Geneva, allowed to discuss synergies and cooperation of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management with partner organisations and plan joint

events and projects. The 2019 roundtable will be organised on 1 October 2019 back to back with the 80th Committee session.

51. The Committee continues its cooperation with ITU, 15 other UN entities, the Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER), the UNDP offices of Armenia and Ukraine and other stakeholders through the global initiative “United for Smart Sustainable Cities” - U4SSC through its meetings and its outputs, including the Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities projects and the Guidelines on strategies for circular cities.

52. The Committee secretariat continues its cooperation with OECD, UN-Habitat and other organisations involved in the interagency National Urban Policy Programme through its ongoing technical cooperation activities. The secretariat participated in the OECD 23rd meeting of the Working Party on Urban Policy on 16 April 2018 in Paris.

53. Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Land Administration and Management with the FAO, the Working Party on Land Administration is collaborating under a bi-annual cooperation plan with FAO, as well as with the World Bank and the European Commission Joint Research Centre. The Working Party regularly cooperates on the organization of joint events and studies with other international organizations involved in land administration in the region, including UN-Habitat, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the EU INSPIRE Initiative, the European Land Information Service, EuroGeographics, and others.

54. The WPLA organized annual meetings of international organizations and agencies, which serve as a neutral platform to discuss how to best work together to improve land management and land administration in the ECE region. In 2018, the following joint events were organised:

(a) A workshop “Measuring Progress in the Implementation of SDGs, the Role of Data and Statistics in Monitoring Land Administration and Management”. Co-organisers were the FAO, UN-Habitat and the World Bank. The workshop was held as a side event of the Eleventh Session the Working Party on Land Administration (28 February 2019, Geneva);

(b) A joint conference of the WPLA, the FIG and the Technical Chamber of Greece “Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate”. (7-8 November 2018, Athens).

55. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the results of the country profiles, the Committee established cooperation with UN-Habitat and UNDP offices in countries where the profiles are being developed. UN-Habitat and UNDP office in Belarus contributed to the preparation of the Country Profile of Belarus.

V. Major activities planned for 2020

56. The Committee will continue to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the housing, urban and land-related Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11 “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and its targets: (11.1.) Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services; (11.3) Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries; (11.6) Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management; (11.7) Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.

57. Due to its cross-cutting nature, it will also contribute to the achievement of other goals, particularly to the Goals 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15 and 17. Due consideration will be given to the

integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into national policies, strategies and planning in housing, urban development and land management. In attaining its objective, the subprogramme will continue building on the cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in the ECE nexus areas.

58. The following activities are expected to be implemented.

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

1. Regional observatory on urban-related SDGs

59. The ECE will launch a regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals as a web-based platform. Activities on the development of the regional observatory in 2020 will focus on the

(a) Dissemination of outcomes of the ECE-UN-Habitat joint project, “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” (UN Development Account 10th tranche);

(b) Development of a set of e-learning materials on data and knowledge for the review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and on housing management;

(c) Presentation of information with results of the evaluations of the performance of cities⁸ using UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators for smart sustainable cities (KPIs): uploading smart sustainable cities’ profiles and action plans with recommendations.

60. ECE will publish guidelines for evidence-based housing and urban development policies developed as part of the ECE-UN-Habitat UN Development Account 10th tranche joint project, “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition”.

2. Activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centre on Sustainable Housing

61. The secretariat will develop a thorough assessment of the work of the Centres of Excellence to evaluate their effectiveness in terms of their support to acceleration of the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. The assessment will also evaluate efficiency of work of the centres in terms of the use of the secretariat’s resources for supervision of the centres. The secretariat will further provide the Bureau with outcomes of the study and will invite it to provide recommendations on possible next steps to increase effectiveness and efficiency of operations of the centres.

62. For 2020, it is expected that the existing centres will deliver their specific activities, including the following:

63. The Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Glasgow, UK, will support organisation of the regional conference on affordable and social housing to be organised by Glasgow City in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management in Glasgow on 12-13 September 2019.

64. The Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing in Tallinn, Estonia, will conduct trainings to housing managers in countries with economies in transition based on the countries’ requests to the Committee secretariat. The centre will also organise a study trip of Ukrainian housing experts to Estonia to showcase best practices in housing management in Estonian cities. This is an additional activity in the UNECE 10th tranche project “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban

⁸ The KPI evaluation is implemented within a global initiative “United for Smart Sustainable Cities – U4SSC” which brings together 16 UN agencies.

development in selected countries with economies in transition” implemented by the secretariat.

65. The Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable cities in Vienna, Austria, will support the secretariat in developing capacities of cities to conduct KPI evaluations and organise follow-up to the evaluations. The OiER will organise capacity building workshops at city level in Norway as well as in Kazakhstan to engage private sector organisations as investors and providers of smart technologies and know-how to support the implementation of recommendations of respective KPI evaluations. OiER will also facilitate support to the cities to gain access to smart technologies and know-how through the established online Investment Marketplace for smart sustainable cities.

66. Detailed planning of work of the Centres of Excellence will be available after the annual meeting of the Centres to take place in September 2019, prior to the Committee session.

3. Forum of Mayors

67. Subject to the approval of the related proposal (ECE/HBP/2019/3) by the 80th session of the Committee, the Forum will be convened in 2020 and 2021. The “Forum of Mayors” will be organized on the first day of the Committee session and focus on a specific thematic issue related to sustainable urban development, housing and land management. An assessment of the meeting format, based on parameters agreed upon by the Committee Bureau, will be presented at the Committee session in 2022 to decide whether to continue with the format, changing format (e.g. organizing the Forum back to back with other UNECE events and meetings) or discontinue the meeting.

B. Access to affordable decent energy efficient housing

1. Affordable housing

68. Activities on affordable housing will focus on the analysis of outcomes of a survey of member States on the needs and priorities for capacity-building activities of the Committee (ECE/HBP/194 paragraph 17) to be conducted by the ECE secretariat in 2019 and the preparation of a report on “Housing Affordability Outlook in the ECE Region”.

2. Energy efficiency in building

69. The UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings will establish an online database of energy efficiency experts and will elaborate a training curricular for national and regional trainings on improving energy efficiency in buildings through facilitating the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock. Following an ongoing evaluation of the projects implemented in 2018-2019 which supported the activities of the Task Force, a detailed planning of activities will be developed at the end of 2019.

3. Promoting fire safety in buildings

70. The Committee will continue cooperation with the International Coalition for Fire Safety Standards to develop a set of international standards on fire safety in buildings. Following the development of the standards by the Coalition, the Committee will consider adopting the standards as the ECE standards.

4. Real Estate Market Advisory Group

71. REM will continue its work on the ongoing studies on sharing economy and housing finance.

C. Sustainable urban development

1. Smart Sustainable Cities

72. Pilot projects in the cities of Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan; and in Grodno, Belarus, which will include the analysis on urban sustainability, capacity building workshops and pilot activities on innovative financing of housing and urban infrastructure, will be implemented.

73. In cooperation with the governments of Norway and the Netherlands, the secretariat of the Committee will organise KPI evaluation respectively in 17 municipalities in Norway and in 40 municipalities of the Netherlands and will develop policy recommendations to promote smart and sustainable cities. Training workshops on KPI evaluation will be organised in the Netherlands, Norway and at Barcelona Smart City EXPO (Barcelona, 19-21 November 2019). The Fourth Meeting of the U4SSC initiative, as along with other events, will be organized jointly with the ITU and other key partners in October 2019.

2. Integrated approach to planning of cities and human settlements

74. A sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety will be organised jointly with the secretariat of the Convention on industrial accidents in Belgrade, Serbia, in March 2020. Other regional and national events maybe organised and studies developed within the UNECE Nexus on smart sustainable cities in cooperation with other UNECE divisions will be organised subject availability of extrabudgetary resources.

D. Land administration and management

75. Activities will focus on topics of security of tenure, improvement of cadastres and land registries, including institutional arrangements for land administration. A study on scenarios for future land administration and land management solution will continue. An emphasis will be placed on issues of innovation and capacity building in land administration. Activities on land administration will contribute to the work of the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, in line with Economic and Social Council Resolution (E/RES/2016/27), including the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management.

76. In 2020, the WPLA will organize workshops on the following topics:

(a) As part of the Common Vision Conference 2019, the next WPLA workshop will be held in Helsinki on 20-21 November 2019;

(b) Jointly with Surveyor General of State Lands, Natural Resources Canada, the Working Party on Land Administration will organise a workshop on “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” in Mont Tremblant, Canada, on 19 May 2019.

E. Resources for the implementation of the Committee’s activities in 2020

77. Many of the above-mentioned activities especially those providing technical assistance to countries, are not covered by the ECE Regular Budget funding. Some of the planned and listed above activities will be implemented with the support of the ECE Regular Budget, the UN Development Account projects, including “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” (UN Development Account 10th tranche) and “Strengthening the capacities of national and local governments to formulate and implement evidence-based and participatory housing policies and strategies” (UN Development Account 11th tranche); the Regional Programme for Technical Cooperation and extrabudgetary projects funded by governments of Norway, Russian Federation and other countries. Additional extrabudgetary funds will be required for the implementation of activities under the 2020 Programme of Work of the Committee