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Working Party on Land Administration

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LAND ADMINISTRATION REVIEWS

**Note prepared by Mr. P. Creuzer (Germany) in cooperation with the secretariat**

**Background**

1. In accordance with the decision of the Working Party on Land Administration at its first session "to promote expert missions at the request of individual countries" (HBP/WP.7/1999/2, para. 16), the Bureau of the Working Party discussed this issue at its meetings and invited Mr. P. Creuzer and the secretariat to prepare a proposal on organizational arrangements. It should be noted that the first three pilot missions of international land administration experts were organized in Albania (June 1998), Armenia (November 2000) and Georgia (May 2001).
2. The Working Party may wish to consider the organizational framework for the activity and adopt it.

## I. OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEWS

3. The land administration reviews are part of the operational activities of the Working Party on Land Administration. They have the following main objectives:

(a) To assist the national authorities of the country under review in assessing the current situation and performance of their land administration systems, and in defining and setting national land administration policies and priorities on the basis of an independent analysis by an international expert team;

(b) To promote improvements in land administration and a continuous policy dialogue among ECE member countries through the transfer of information on policies, approaches and experiences of reviewed countries; and

(c) To support intergovernmental financial institutions and donor organizations in making decisions with regard to current and/or planned land administration projects in a country under review and to prepare recommendations on priorities for donor assistance and its coordination.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION REVIEWS

4. The land administration reviews are implemented under the auspices of the Working Party on Land Administration. The missions are organized, at the request of individual ECE member countries, by the ECE secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Working Party. They do not compete with but complement international projects and consultancy activities undertaken by private companies and public bodies in the country under review to make national and international efforts more effective and to lay a basis for international comparison.

5. The national land administration authorities prepare a proposal for a land administration review in cooperation with donors and relevant international organizations (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, etc.). The main topics of the review are agreed by the land administration authorities of the country under review, the ECE secretariat and the Bureau of the Working Party. The support and the degree of involvement of donors and international organizations are also discussed with the ECE secretariat and the Bureau of the Working Party.

6. The national organization (agency) responsible for land administration is the driving force, especially for those activities that take place inside the country, e.g. provision of national experts on topics selected for the review, administrative and organizational support including the preparation of background material (in English), translation and interpretation, and the preparation of the draft mission programme with visits to other ministries and agencies.

7. The national organization (agency) designates a coordinator, who should be one of its high-ranking officials. The coordinator has direct responsibility for the practical arrangements concerning administrative and expert support, as well as for the flow of information to the expert team and the organization of interviews and meetings.

8. The international expert team should have a broad spectrum of competence related to the topics chosen for the land administration review. The team is established by the ECE secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Working Party and in cooperation, when appropriate, with other international organizations, which provide financial assistance and/or contribute in kind to

the project. The independence of the analysis is guaranteed by the presence of international experts from western, central and eastern Europe and the participation of the ECE secretariat in all meetings of the international expert team. The ECE secretariat represents ECE in all discussions with the countries involved in the project or mission.

9. Land administration review missions should be prepared in detail and sufficient time should be allocated to the preparatory process. Practical background information on land administration reform and all related information on existing land administration structures should be provided to the international expert team by the host country via the ECE secretariat.

10. The concrete aims and the structure of the mission report should be agreed prior to the mission. This also applies to the programme of the mission.

11. The final product of a land administration review is an analytical report prepared by the international expert team, who draw conclusions and recommendations from their findings. The recommendations to the country under review should be detailed and practical, indicate the priorities.

12. The final draft report is checked by the authorities of the country under review, which verifies the factual content. The final report will be submitted as an official UNECE document to the government of the country under review, the Working Party and the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements. The report should be turned round swiftly so that its information and recommendations are timely. After approximately one year the Working Party should evaluate the implementation of the recommendations.

13. As a follow-up to the mission, a national seminar (workshop) can be organized to share experiences on policy implementation and lessons learned.

### III. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

14. The success of the land administration reviews depends to a large extent on the professional and organizational support that the country wishing to carry out an analysis of its land administration sector can provide (national experts to work with international experts, hosting meetings, preparation of background information and statistics, interpretation facilities and services, local transport).

15. ECE countries and international organizations wishing to participate in and contribute to the project may do so either:

- (a) In kind, by providing experts with the required knowledge for the international team; or
- (b) By supporting the project financially through earmarked contributions to the UNECE Human Settlements Trust Fund or the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT), or through bilateral agreements (in consultation with the ECE secretariat).

16. If a mission is organized jointly by the host authorities and a donor agency, this donor organization should be ready to contribute the necessary funds for the implementation of the review.