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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Sixty-third session

(Geneva, 16-18 September 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

beginning on Monday, 16 September 2002, at 10 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee.
3. Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century:
 - (a) In-depth discussion on social/affordable housing - a new challenge for the ECE countries.
4. Programme of work for 2002-2005:
 - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector;
 - (b) Improvement of urban environmental performance;
 - (c) Land registration and land markets;
 - (d) Housing modernization and management;
 - (e) Development of human settlements statistics; and
 - (f) Major trends characterizing human settlements development.

5. Work of the Bureau and report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network.
6. Other business.
7. Election of officers.
8. Closing of the sixty-third session.

T E N T A T I V E T I M E T A B L E

Monday, 16 September	Morning Afternoon	Items 1, 2 and 3 (a) Item 3 (a) (continued)
Tuesday, 17 September	Morning Afternoon	Items 4 (a) and (b) Items 4 (c) - (e)
Wednesday, 18 September	Morning	Items 4 (f), 5, 6, 7 and 8

Web site of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements:
<http://www.unece.org/>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda is based on the decisions taken at the sixty-second session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/122), the Ministerial Declaration (ECE/HBP/119/Add.1) and the progress made in the programme of work since then. The Committee is expected to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee

The Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, held from 7 to 10 May 2002, which have a bearing on the work of the Committee (HBP/2002/1) including that on the UNECE secretariat's self-assessment "Strengthening the Organization".

The Committee may wish to discuss these issues and take them into account when deciding on its future work programme.

Item 3: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century

The Committee will review its activities in line with the Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century (ECE/HBP/120), the Ministerial Declaration, the ECE Plan of Action the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Item 3 (a): In-depth discussion on social/affordable housing - a new challenge for the ECE countries

In accordance with the request of the Committee on Human Settlements, the Bureau has reviewed the topics for discussion proposed by national delegations and agreed to organize an in-depth discussion on social housing. The purpose of the discussion is to review all aspects of social housing and to share experience and best practices.

The delegation of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Committee's Bureau, has prepared a discussion paper (HBP/2002/3). Moderators will make presentations and facilitate the discussion.

All delegations are invited to prepare case studies or written notes based on the discussion paper on social housing and make short presentations. Instead of reading out their notes, delegates are encouraged to use visual aids during their presentation.

The delegations of Austria, Cyprus, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and the Russian Federation, have already offered to present case studies.

The Committee may wish to agree on future activities in this sphere, such as the preparation of ECE guidelines on social housing and the organization of a workshop in 2003. These two activities should be conducted in cooperation with, and based on the experience of, other international organizations active in social housing. Countries are invited to express their interest and indicate their commitment to working on the guidelines and related workshop.

All delegations are invited to suggest a topic for next year's in-depth discussion. In the light of the recommendations of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, the discussion could focus on such topics as: (a) urban life and population ageing; or (b) housing policies in support of workers' mobility. Other proposals are also welcome.

Item 4: Programme of work for 2002-2005

The Committee will discuss its draft programme of work (HBP/2002/2), take decisions on each programme element and adopt the programme.

Item 4 (a): Country profiles on the housing sector

Since the previous session of the Committee, country profiles studies have been prepared and published on Romania (ECE/HBP/124) and the Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/125). It is also expected that the final draft of the country profile on Albania will be available to the Committee. A brochure on the Albanian study has also been published.

The delegations of Romania and the Republic of Moldova will be invited to report on their assessment of the usefulness of country profile project and follow-up activities, for example, organization of round-table discussions.

The delegation of Albania will be invited to report on the implementation of the country profile study in its country.

The delegation of the Russian Federation will be invited to report on the preparations for the country profile study to be initiated there in the autumn of 2002. The Committee's Bureau has recommended that both the federal and local levels are important for the Russian study, and that recommendations should be formulated separately for each level.

The Committee is invited to:

- (a) Consider the usefulness of the country profile programme element in its programme of work and to discuss possible improvements to it;
- (b) Recommend the next country for which the study should be initiated in 2003.

Item 4 (b): Improvement of urban environmental performance

The secretariat will report on the results of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment of 5 July 2002 and the possible involvement of the Committee in the follow-up.

The Committee may wish to take note of this information.

Item 4 (c): Land registration and land markets

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration will report on the progress made since the previous session of the Committee, in particular on the workshop on title registration systems and real-property markets, which took place in Erevan from 10 to 13 October 2001 (HBP/2001/11) and the workshop on mass valuation systems of land (real estate) for taxation purposes, which was held in Moscow (HBP/2002/9) from 27 to 28 June 2002.

In response to the decision of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session to work on security and economic prosperity, the Committee will hold a discussion on land administration aspects of security (HBP/2002/4). All delegations are invited to make presentations on the issues raised in the discussion paper.

The Committee may wish to take note of the progress made by the Working Party on Land Administration and make proposals for more integration of land administration issues into its other programme elements.

Item 4 (d): Housing modernization and management

The Guidelines on condominium ownership in countries in transition were finalized. A case study on condominiums in the housing strategy of the Russian Federation was prepared (HBP/2002/7).

The Committee will hold a discussion on the practical implementation of condominium ownership on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HBP/2002/6). Mr. G. Gundersen, the Chairperson of the Network, will introduce the discussion paper and chair the discussion. All delegations are invited to make presentations on the issues raised in the discussion paper.

Following the decision of the Committee at its sixty-second session, the Network in cooperation with the secretariat finalized the programme and organization of work for the project on guidelines on private housing finance systems for countries in transition (HBP/2002/8). The work on the guidelines will start as soon as all financial contributions from the donors will be transferred to the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements.

The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Agree on future activities to support the practical implementation of the Guidelines on condominium ownership in countries in transition;
- (b) Take note of the progress in the preparation of the guidelines on private housing finance systems.

Item 4 (e): Development of human settlements statistics

In response to the decision of the Committee's Bureau, the secretariat will point out problems resulting from the questionnaires used for the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America.

The Committee may wish to discuss the usefulness of this activity and decide on further steps to streamline the preparation of the Bulletin and the questionnaire.

Item 4 (f): Major trends characterizing human settlements development

The delegation of the United Kingdom will be invited to report on the results of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research, held in Leeds (United Kingdom) from 9 to 12 June 2002. The delegations which took part in the Conference are invited to share their views on the main issues discussed and the possible implications for the future programme of work of the Committee.

The Committee may wish to adopt its programme of work for 2002-2005, taking into account the in-depth discussion and the decisions reached under each programme element.

Item 5: Work of the Bureau and report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network

The Chairperson of the Bureau will report on the work of the Bureau and the main decisions taken since the Committee's previous session. The Chairperson of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network will be invited to report on the work of the Network and present its revised draft terms of reference (HBP/2002/5).

The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Approve the work of the Bureau;
- (b) Discuss cooperation with the Advisory Network and approve its revised terms of reference.

Item 6: Other business

Information will be provided on the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements. Delegations are invited to announce their contributions to the Trust Fund for particular programme activities.

The Committee may wish to thank the delegation of the Czech Republic for its contribution to the Trust Fund.

Item 7: Election of officers

The Committee is expected to elect the officers for its sixty-fourth session.

Item 8: Closing of the sixty-third session

The Chairperson will sum up the major decisions taken by the Committee. After the session, the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, will draw up the report on the sixty-third session.

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Registration

According to the current accreditation procedures, all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to fill in a registration form in English (annex). Moreover, delegates who do not have a badge for entry in the Palais des Nations have to present themselves before the meeting at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit to receive their identification badge. This is located at the Villa des Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (opposite to the Place des Nations Gate). It is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please complete the attached registration form and fax it to Mr. G. Vinogradov, Environment and Human Settlements Division (Fax: (+41) 22 907 01 07) as soon as possible, but no later than 2 September 2002. You are requested to bring with you the original registration form, which you will have to show when Security gives you your badge, as the secretariat will only have a copy.

Annex



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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