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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Sixty-fourth session

(Geneva, 15-17 September 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

starting on Monday, 15 September 2003, at 10 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee.
3. In-depth discussion on "Reforms and social equity in human settlements".
4. Programme of work for 2003-2005:
 - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector;
 - (b) Land registration and land markets;
 - (c) Major trends characterizing human settlements development;
 - (d) Improvement of urban environmental performance;
 - (e) Housing modernization and management;
 - (f) Development of human settlements statistics;
 - (g) Adoption of the programme of work for 2003-2005.
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-fourth session.

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

Monday, 15 September	Morning	Items 1, 2 and 3
	Afternoon	Item 3 (continued)
Tuesday, 16 September	Morning	Items 4 (a) and (b)
	Afternoon	Items 4 (c) and (d)
Wednesday, 17 September	Morning	Items 4 (e)-(g), 5, 6, 7 and 8

Web site of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements:

<http://www.unece.org/env/hs>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda is based on the decisions taken at the sixty-third session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/127), 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-eighth 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-eighth session, held from 4 to 6 March 2003, which will have a bearing on the work of the Committee (HBP/2003/3).

Information will also be provided on the outcome of the ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission to discuss and decide on the ECE role in the regional follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa). Should the ECE regional implementation meeting take place in January 2004 (as tentatively scheduled), the Committee would be requested to provide a substantive input to this event.

The Committee may wish to take the above decisions into account when deciding on its future work programme.

Item 3: In-depth discussion on “Reforms and social equity in human settlements”

In accordance with the request of the Committee on Human Settlements, the Bureau has reviewed the topics for discussion which were proposed by national delegations as well as information from the secretariat on the Committee's possible contribution to the ECE Regional Implementation Meeting on sustainable development. The Bureau agreed to link the in-depth discussion with preparations for the Regional Implementation Meeting, the Committee's programme of work and the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century. The discussion should integrate all three pillars of the Committee's work: housing policy, spatial planning and land administration. The purpose of the discussion is to assess how the ongoing work of the Committee fits into the broader picture of sustainability issues dealt with at the Johannesburg Summit. To facilitate the discussion, a paper will be prepared and presented by a consultant (HBP/2003/2).

Item 4: Programme of work for 2003-2005

The Committee will discuss the directions of its work and corresponding activities, based on the programme narratives of the Human Settlements subprogramme for the 2004-2005 biennium and the draft programme of work derived from it (HBP/2003/1). It will take decisions on each programme element and related activities and adopt the programme, specifying new activities, if any, as compared to those planned for 2004 in the 2004-2005 programme budget.

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

The delegation of Romania will be invited to present a report summarizing the main findings of the round-table discussion on the housing sector of Romania, held in Bucharest from 12 to 15 October 2002 (HBP/2003/5). The round table was organized to assess recent developments in the housing sector as a follow-up to the Country Profile on the Housing Sector of Romania, which had been prepared in July 2000.

Since the previous session of the Committee, a country profile study on Albania has been finalized and published (ECE/HBP/130). The delegation of Albania is invited to report on preparations for the organization of a follow-up event to launch it and disseminate its findings, and to set housing policy priorities based on the study's recommendations and discuss the possible need for further international expert assistance.

The country profile study on Armenia is currently being prepared. The delegation of Armenia will be invited to report on the implementation of the country profile study in its country.

The preparation of a country profile on the housing sector of the Russian Federation has started. Following the discussion held at the meeting of the Bureau and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network, the study on the Russian Federation will have a slightly different outline from the previous studies with more emphasis on specific housing issues at both the federal and the local levels and the instruments to deal with these issues. In addition, the study will incorporate the findings of the land administration review on the Russian Federation, which was carried out in late 2003. The delegation of the Russian Federation will be invited to report on the ongoing project, as well as on the new conceptual approach.

The following countries have stated or restated their interest in having a country profile carried out: Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro, and Croatia.

At the High-Level Conference on Housing Reforms in South-Eastern Europe (Paris, April 2003), organized jointly by the World Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank, the delegations requested a joint "regional housing profile" for countries of the Balkan region based on the UNECE Country Profiles on the Housing Sector and the Council of Europe regional sector reports. Details on the concept and organization are yet to be decided. However, it is understood that the regional profile will be implemented from additional extrabudgetary funds and will not affect the planning and implementation of the Committee's country profiles programme. The representative of the Council of Europe Development Bank will make a short presentation on this undertaking.

The Committee is invited to:

(a) Discuss the results of the round-table discussions, including different options for follow-up activities, such as the provision of technical assistance in specific areas of the housing sector;

- (b) Discuss the new conceptual approach to the country profile studies which could be taken for specific countries;
- (c) Recommend the next country for which the study should be initiated in 2004.
- (d) Discuss the proposal on a concept for a regional country profile.

Item 4 (b): 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.

The Committee will be informed of the results of the land administration review of the Russian Federation. International experts from Armenia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the ECE secretariat undertook a research mission to the Russian Federation in November 2002 and prepared the land administration review (HBP/2003/7 and Add.1). The delegation of the Russian Federation will be invited to present the results and the follow-up to the review.

The results of the workshop on customers-cooperation services, which took place in Vienna from 16 to 18 September 2002 (HBP/2002/10), and the workshop on spatial information management for a sustainable real estate market, which was held in Athens from 28 to 31 May 2003, will be presented to the Committee (HBP/WP.7/2003/4).

The next workshop on organizational sustainability and capacity building will be held in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) on 1-3 October 2003.

Information will be provided on the finalized and the ongoing land administration studies and on the proposal to further develop the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96).

The Chairman of the Working Party will inform the Committee on the preparations for the third session of the Working Party to be held in Geneva on 17-18 November 2003.

The Committee may wish to take note of the progress made by the Working Party on Land Administration and discuss ways and means to better integrate land administration issues into the programme of the Committee and to link with other ECE activities in the same area of work.

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

The proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research, held in Leeds (United Kingdom) from 9 to 12 June 2002, have been published and will be available to the Committee. The Committee's Bureau highly appreciated the results and the proceedings of the Conference and agreed that these results constituted a good substantive basis for the future work of the Committee. The delegations will be invited to share their views on the main issues discussed at the Conference <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/conference/welcome.htm> and on the topics proposed for the next Conference to be organized in Slovakia.

In discussions held within the Bureau and the Advisory Network, it was stressed that the UNECE Conference on Urban and Regional Research should facilitate a dialogue between policy makers and researchers. To this end the Bureau agreed to seek cooperation with the European Network for Housing Research in organizing the Conference in Slovakia.

The Committee may wish to consider related issues and proposals.

Item 4 (d): Improvement of urban environmental performance

According to the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century (ECE/HBP/120), the main goal of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements is “to promote the sustainable development of human settlements in the ECE region while fostering economic and social prosperity and supporting democratic governance.” Effective spatial planning is indispensable to avoid unsustainable urban and regional development, to ensure the restoration and safeguarding of the cultural and architectural heritage, to achieve an optimal mixture of living and working areas, to strengthen social cohesion, and to improve the infrastructure.

Following the decision of the Committee, supported by the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, a workshop on urban plans and transport sustainable for health and the environment will be organized in Cyprus in autumn 2003. The delegation of Cyprus will be invited to provide information on the organization of the workshop.

The 9th ECE Conference on Urban and Regional Research “Sustainable and Liveable Cities” (Leeds, June 2002) stressed the necessity to create a common vision to help overcome the increasing fragmentation among actors in civil society, the market and the public sphere. The common vision should cover all levels of urban life: national, regional, city, municipal and neighbourhood. Moreover, the ECE Committee on Human Settlements through its activities on the country profiles of the housing sector and the Working Party on Land Administration in the land administration reviews was addressing the particular needs of countries in Central and Eastern Europe in establishing modern spatial planning systems. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy in its Environmental Performance Reviews on Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovenia had prepared special chapters on spatial planning. In all these studies the need to reform the spatial planning system (with the focus on the local level) in countries in transition was stressed.

With that in mind, the Committee’s Bureau agreed to prepare a discussion paper on effective planning at the local level (HBP/2003/4) and to hold a discussion to facilitate the sharing of experience and best practices on local planning in the framework of national and regional planning in the ECE region.

The Committee may wish to consider preparing ECE guidelines on local planning, as a follow-up to the discussion and setting up a task force for that activity and take note of the progress in the organization of the workshop.

Item 4 (e): Housing modernization and management

The Guidelines on Condominium Ownership in Countries in Transition were published (ECE/HBP/123). The Committee's Bureau agreed that their implementation should be enhanced through the organization of country-oriented workshops, country profile studies and land administration reviews. The delegation of the Russian Federation will be invited to report on preparations for a second workshop on housing condominiums to be organized in November 2003. The delegations and the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network will be invited to discuss how to promote the application of the Guidelines at the local level.

The project on guidelines on housing finance systems for countries in transition was started soon after the sixty-third session of the Committee. The Project Steering Group was established and held three meetings to assist the project manager, Mr. L. Müllender and to discuss the drafts of the guidelines prepared by the team of experts. Mr. L. Müllender will be invited to report on progress. Mr. P. Gurtner, the Group's Chairman, will be invited to report on its inputs to the study. Other members of the Group may provide additional information on the project.

The delegation of the Czech Republic will be invited to present to the Committee the results of the workshop on social housing held in Prague on 19-20 May 2003 (HBP/2003/6). The workshop was organized in cooperation with the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS) as a first step in preparation of the guidelines on social housing. The report of the workshop and the response papers are available at <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/socialhousing.htm>. The Czech Republic is preparing the proceedings of the workshop.

Following the outcome of the workshop and the outline agreed by the preparatory group, a task force will start working on the guidelines.

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 and invite delegations to take an active part in the second workshop on housing condominiums to be held in the Russian Federation;
- (b) Take note of the progress in the preparation of the guidelines on housing finance systems and discuss the draft prepared by the project manager, Mr. L. Müllender;
- (c) Agree on the outline of ECE guidelines on social housing and the organization of work of the task force, as well as its membership.

Item 4 (f): Development of human settlements statistics

In response to a decision of the Committee, a consultation on housing statistics was organized in cooperation with the ECE Statistical Division on 5 June 2003. The purpose of the consultation was to coordinate international work on housing statistics, review the ECE

questionnaires used for the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America and improve the Bulletin to meet the interest of ECE member States.

The consultation recommended to the Committee to delete some items from the Bulletin, to make minor changes in its structure and to change its title (HBP/2003/8). The proposed title would read: Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America. The consultation also recommended to coordinate the collection of housing statistics by ECE and the European Union (EU). The ECE questionnaire will be pre-filled with data already obtained from the EU Bulletin on Housing Statistics.

The Committee may wish to discuss the results of the consultation and endorse them.

Item 4 (g): Adoption of the programme of work for 2003-2005

The Committee may wish to adopt its programme of work for 2003-2005, taking into account the in-depth discussions and the decisions reached under each programme element. Delegations may also wish to announce their contributions to those activities requiring additional extrabudgetary resources.

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 suggest candidates to serve in it till the Committee's next session.

The Committee may wish to:

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

Item 6: Other business

Information will be provided on the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements. Delegations may wish to raise other issues.

Item 7: Election of officers

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

Item 8: Closing of the sixty-fourth 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-fourth session.

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) (0) 22 907 01 07) as soon as possible, but no later than 2 September 2003. 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

Conference Registration Form

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