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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

REPORT ON THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION  
(15 to 17 September 2003)

- The results of the Committee's in-depth discussion on reforms and social equity in human settlements will be integrated into its contribution to the Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development as follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. During the discussion it acknowledged that policy reforms on social stability and equity needed to become a critical element of the national, regional and local strategies for sustainable human settlements.
- It also stressed the importance of linking the priorities identified in the Habitat Agenda, in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as in the Millennium Declaration with its programme of work.
- The Committee adopted its 2003-2005 programme of work, confirmed the high priority of the country profile programme for the housing sector, as well as the activities related to land administration.
- The Committee agreed to start with the preparation of a regional profile of the housing sector in countries of South-East Europe based on decisions reached at the High-level Conference on Housing Reforms in South East Europe (Paris, April 2003).
- The Committee highly commended the Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing and agreed to organize a practical workshop on the management of the housing stock in Moscow in November 2003.
- It agreed on the outline for and the composition of the task force for guidelines on social housing development.
- As a follow-up to the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research held in Leeds (United Kingdom) in June 2002, the Committee agreed to prepare ECE guidelines on spatial planning systems.
- Following the offer of the delegation of Poland, the Committee agreed to organize a workshop on spatial planning.
- In line with the implementation of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment, the Committee invited delegations to actively contribute to the workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport and planning to be held in Cyprus in November 2003.
- It also agreed to cooperate with the Conference of European Statisticians on the preparation of a new set of ECE recommendations for housing censuses.
- The Committee appreciated the activities of its Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network, in particular its involvement in the study on housing finance systems.

## Introduction

1. The Committee on Human Settlements held its sixty-fourth session in Geneva from 15 to 17 September 2003. Mrs. E. Szolgayova (Slovakia) chaired the meeting.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Council of Europe Development Bank were represented.
4. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: International Council of Women (ICW); International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI); International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP); International Union of Tenants (IUT); and World Fire Statistics Centre.
5. Members of the Committee's Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network also attended.

### I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The provisional agenda (ECE/HBP/128) was adopted.

### II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE OF RELEVANCE TO THE COMMITTEE

7. The secretariat informed the Committee on the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, held from 4 to 6 March 2003, which had a bearing on the Committee's work. Information was also provided on the outcome of the ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission on its role in and contribution to the Regional Implementation Forum, to be organized from 15 to 16 January 2004 as a follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.
8. In the ensuing discussion, it was stressed that the Committee on Human Settlements was one of the most appropriate ECE principal subsidiary bodies to address the issue of sustainability comprehensively, taking into account its economic, environmental and social aspects. However, the integration of these three pillars of sustainable development needed to become more explicitly integrated into policy reforms.
9. The Committee took note of the Commission's decisions related to the principal subsidiary bodies and the outcome of the two round-table discussions on sustainable development. It also agreed that the results of its own in-depth discussion on reforms and social

equity in human settlements would be integrated into its contribution to the ECE Regional Implementation Forum.

### III. IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON “REFORMS AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS”

10. Following the decision of the Bureau, the in-depth discussion was linked with preparations for the regional follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The purpose of the discussion was: (a) to address social equity in the context of a sustainable quality of life and socio-economic development; (b) to review best practices in ECE member countries; and (c) to discuss the Committee's preparations for the regional follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

11. Ms. S. Tsenkova, consultant, introduced the discussion paper (HBP/2003/2). This was followed by presentations of national case studies. A lively discussion took place among national delegations and representatives of international organizations. The following major policy directions and actions were highlighted:

(a) Policy reforms to promote social stability and equity need to become an element of national, regional and local strategies for sustainable human settlements;

(b) Coordination between different ministries is needed for sustainable community development ;

(c) Investment decisions should be in line with regional priorities, including housing development schemes;

(d) Special policies should be developed to deal with high-rise residential buildings;

(e) Town planning policies should be in place to prevent the emergence of ghettos, and to promote security through sensible human settlements policies and community development;

(f) Measures should be taken to prevent illegal housing development and the promotion of self-help activities should be strengthened;

(g) New patterns of democratic governance that are people-centred and socially inclusive should form a critical element of sustainable human settlements strategies.

12. A representative of ISOCARP reported on its activities and invited the Committee to organize a joint half-day meeting during the sixty-fifth session in September 2004 back to back with the ISOCARP global conference to be held in Geneva at the same time. In the ensuing discussion, the delegations expressed their support for such a joint session.

13. The Committee invited:

(a) All delegations to send their written presentations (see para.11), preferably by e-mail, to the secretariat before the end of September 2003;

(b) Ms. S. Tsenkova, the consultant, to prepare in cooperation with the Bureau and the secretariat the Committee's contribution to the regional follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the basis of the national presentations, the case studies and the results of the discussion;

(c) Its Bureau and the secretariat to consider in detail the modalities and organizational aspects of holding a joint session with ISOCARP in September 2004.

**A. Country profiles on the housing sector**

14. The secretariat reported on the ongoing work to finalize the studies on Armenia and the Russian Federation as well as on follow-up to the previous studies. The secretariat also informed the Committee on the steps taken to prepare a regional housing sector profile for the countries of South-East Europe, based on the decisions reached at the High-level Conference on Housing Reforms in South-East Europe (Paris, April 2003).

15. The delegations of Armenia and the Russian Federation reported on the organization and the preparation of their country reviews, including the new conceptual approach which had been used for the housing sector profile on the Russian Federation. The delegation of Romania reported on the round-table discussion which had been held in Bucharest in October 2002 as a follow-up to the housing sector profile on Romania. The delegation of Albania informed the Committee about its intention to organize a meeting in Albania, to disseminate the results of the housing sector profile on Albania.

16. In the ensuing discussion the Committee stressed the importance of follow-up activities and the link between the country profile project and the land administration reviews. It concluded that such activities could take a variety of forms, including dissemination events and round-table discussions on specific issues. A country might also, as a follow-up to its housing sector profile, request additional assistance in the form of expert advice in an area that was particularly important to it. The Committee also discussed the new conceptual approach. The possibility of applying this approach to future studies should be explored.

17. The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Continue its support to follow-up activities to the country profiles of the housing sector;
- (b) Apply the new conceptual approach which had been used for the country profile on the Russian Federation to future country profiles, where appropriate;
- (c) Proceed with the preparation of a regional profile along the lines suggested by the secretariat and in cooperation with the Council of Europe and its Development Bank. The regional profile would be prepared with additional extrabudgetary funds and would not affect the planning and implementation of the Committee's country profile programme;
- (d) Invite countries which were interested in a national housing sector profile to submit official requests to the secretariat as soon as possible.

**B. Land registration and land markets**

18. Mr. B. Kjellson (Sweden), Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration, reported on its progress since the Committee's previous session. He presented the main items of the agenda of the Working Party's third session to be held in Geneva on 17-18 November 2003 (HBP/WP.7/2003/1). He also highlighted links between land administration and sustainable

human settlements development. He outlined the Working Party's cooperation and joint activities with the World Bank, the European Union (EU) and the ECE Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG) and other international organizations and bodies. Mr. Kjellson reported on the ongoing preparation of studies and guidelines, such as the mass valuation systems of land for taxation purposes; the guidelines on real estate units and identifiers; the survey of restrictions on the ownership, leasing, transfer and financing of land and other real property in Europe and North America; as well as on the proposal to revise the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96).

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented the results and the follow-up to the land administration review carried out in this country in November 2002 (HBP/2003/7 and Add.1). The Committee was informed that the Working Party had been requested to carry out such reviews in Lithuania and Azerbaijan (subject to confirmation) in 2004.

20. Mr. H. König (Austria) and Ms. C. Potsiou (Greece) presented the results of the workshop on customers-cooperation services, which had taken place in Vienna from 16 to 18 September 2002 (HBP/2002/10), and the workshop on spatial information for sustainable real estate market, which had been held in Athens from 28 to 30 May 2003. The next workshop on organizational sustainability and capacity-building would be held in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) on 1-3 October 2003.

21. A representative of the ECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division reported on the Real Estate Advisory Group's activities, in particular on its cooperation with the Working Party in the organization of the Second Land for Development Programme Forum, which would be held in Rome from 30 to 31 October 2003.

22. In the ensuing discussion, delegations expressed their full support to the land administration activities. They stressed the importance of public/private partnership in land administration and real estate development. A proposal was made to study how good land administration practices contributed to effective and sustainable land use.

23. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the progress made by the Working Party on Land Administration and approved its activities.

### **C. Major trends characterizing human settlements**

24. The delegation of the United Kingdom reported on the follow-up to the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research on "Sustainable and Liveable Cities" held in Leeds (United Kingdom) from 9 to 12 June 2002.

25. Following the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research, the Committee identified a number of subjects for further research and policy formulation in the area of sustainable and liveable cities that might be taken up at the Tenth Conference in Slovakia in 2006. In this context, the delegation of Slovakia informed the Committee about steps taken to organize the Tenth Conference in cooperation with the European Network for Housing Research, as suggested by the Committee's Bureau.

26. The Committee's Bureau also informed the delegations about a proposal to change the title of the Conference, in order to bring together both researchers and decision makers as well as practitioners and encourage them to share information and views, learn from each other's experience and identify priority areas for future applied research.

27. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the proposal to organize the Tenth Conference in cooperation with the European Network for Housing Research;

(b) Decided that a list of selected topics for the Tenth Conference would be submitted to it at its next session in September 2004;

(c) Agreed that the title of the Conference could be changed to widen the scope of the Conference and reflect the link between urban and regional research and policy-making and practical implementation.

#### **D. Improvement of urban environmental performance**

28. The secretariat reported on the progress in the implementation of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment, a joint activity of ECE and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe). It outlined the Programme's priorities. All relevant documents are available on <http://www.unece.org/the-pep>.

29. Following the decision of the Committee on Human Settlements, supported by the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, a workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport and planning would take place in Cyprus on 16-18 November 2003. The delegation of Cyprus presented information on the organization of the workshop and the related study tour. It informed the Committee about the possibility of providing financial assistance to eligible delegations from countries in transition to attend the workshop.

30. Following the decision of its Bureau, the Committee discussed the topic of local planning in the framework of national and regional planning. Mr. J. Zetter (United Kingdom) presented a discussion paper on effective planning at the local level (HBP/2003/4) and moderated the discussion. Mr. V. Vardosanidze (UN-HABITAT-Georgia) presented information on spatial planning in Georgia. The delegation of Poland offered to organize a workshop on local planning in the first half of 2004.

31. The Committee outlined the main issues and problems facing countries in transition in the area of spatial planning, as well as elements for guidelines on local planning systems:

- (a) Need for a common professional terminology in spatial planning;
- (b) Maximum flexibility to meet the interests of all parties;
- (c) Diversification of financial sources for the implementation of territorial plans;
- (d) Institutional arrangements;
- (e) Need for good data for planning and links to geographical information systems (GIS) and other databases, national statistics and indicators;

- (f) Need for an appropriate framework and mechanisms to encourage local authorities to draw up master plans;
- (g) Clear legal status of territorial planning documentation within the national system of legislation;
- (h) Degree of obligation of the master plan's provisions for governmental/municipal bodies and institutions;
- (i) Sequence of territorial planning documentation at different levels;
- (j) Influence of modern information technologies on territorial planning documentation;
- (k) Transparency of territorial planning process and accessibility of documentation for the general public;
- (l) Public participation in the decision-making process, taking into account the existing level of urban consciousness of citizens;
- (m) Terms and rules for updating planning documentation;
- (n) Rights of appeal against certain planning decisions;
- (o) Terms and procedures for the certification and licensing of master plan developers;
- (p) Issues of copyright on territorial planning documentation.

32. The Committee:

- (a) Took note with appreciation of the progress in the organization of the workshop on urban plans and transport sustainable for health and the environment to be held in Cyprus, and invited all delegations to take an active part in it;
- (b) Welcomed the proposal of the delegation of Poland to organize a workshop on spatial planning systems in Poland in the first half of 2004 and invited the secretariat, the Bureau and the delegation of Poland to establish a programme for the workshop;
- (c) Decided, in view of the importance of establishing/modernizing spatial planning systems in some ECE countries, to prepare ECE guidelines on this topic. The workshop in Poland should be a starting point for this work;
- (d) Invited all delegations to submit to the secretariat by the end of October 2003 their proposals and views on possible topics for the workshop and elements for the guidelines.

**E. Housing modernization and management**

33. The secretariat informed the Committee of the publication of the Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing for Countries in Transition (ECE/HBP/123). The Committee's Bureau recommended that the practical implementation of the Guidelines should be enhanced through country-oriented workshops, country housing sector profile studies and land administration reviews. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented its proposal for a workshop on management of the housing stock (condominiums) to be organized in Moscow on 23-26 November 2003.

34. Mr. L. Müllender, project manager, and Mr. P. Gurtner, the steering group's chairman, provided information on the progress in the preparation of the guidelines on housing finance systems and on the organizational aspects for the finalization of the project. The project's

steering group, established to oversee the project, had held three meetings so far. The next meeting was scheduled for 17 September 2003 to discuss the third draft, including the evaluation criteria for different housing finance systems.

35. The delegation of the Czech Republic presented the results of the workshop on social housing held in Prague on 19-20 May 2003 (HBP/2003/6). The workshop had been organized in cooperation with the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS) and in consultation with a reference group of selected national experts. The Committee's Bureau had established a task force for the preparation of guidelines on social housing and Mr. Wolfgang Förster (Austria) was proposed to chair it. He provided additional information, including information on the composition of the task force for the preparation of the guidelines, their outline and organizational arrangements.

36. The Committee:

(a) Agreed to undertake and support activities aimed at the practical implementation of the Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing in Countries in Transition;

(b) Invited all delegations to take an active part in the workshop on management of the housing stock to be held in the Russian Federation on 23-26 November 2003;

(c) Invited the delegation of the Russian Federation to finalize the workshop's programme by the end of September 2003 for distribution among ECE countries;

(d) Took note of the progress in the preparation of guidelines on housing finance systems and invited the project manager and the steering group to finalize the project by February 2004;

(e) Approved the candidacy of Mr. Wolfgang Förster to chair the task force on social housing;

(f) Agreed on the outline of the ECE guidelines on social housing and the organization of work of the task force, as well as its membership;

(g) Invited the reference group on social housing to follow the work on the guidelines, in particular by reviewing the drafts prepared by the task force.

#### **F. Development of human settlements statistics**

37. The secretariat presented the minutes of the consultation which had been organized in cooperation with the ECE Statistical Division to coordinate international work on housing statistics in the ECE region (HBP/2003/8). The delegations of Finland and the Netherlands provided information on housing statistics activity in the EU countries. It was reported that access to the EU statistical information was both difficult and expensive.

38. A representative of the ECE Statistical Division informed the Committee about the planned joint activities of the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians to prepare a new set of ECE recommendations on housing censuses, including a joint meeting to be organized in December 2004.

39. A representative of the World Fire Statistics Centre presented the annual report of this organization.



40. The Committee agreed:

(a) On the steps taken to streamline the preparation of the Bulletin, the questionnaire and presentation of statistical data, as agreed at the consultation. The new title would read Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America;

(b) To assist the Conference of European Statisticians in the preparation of the new set of recommendations on housing censuses.

#### **G. Adoption of the programme of work**

41. The Committee adopted its programme of work for 2003-2005 (annex I), in line with the budget narratives for 2004-2005 (annex II).

#### **V. WORK OF THE BUREAU AND THE REPORT OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK**

42. The Chairperson of the Committee's Bureau reported on the work of the Bureau since the Committee's previous session. Mr. H. Pfeiffer presented the report on the work of the Advisory Network and its new members.

43. The Committee:

(a) Approved the work of its Bureau;

(b) Discussed and took note of the work of the Advisory Network and of the new members.

#### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

44. The secretariat provided information on the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements.

45. The sixty-fifth session of the Committee will be held from 20 to 22 September 2004 in Geneva.

#### **VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

46. The Committee elected its new Bureau as follows: Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia), Chairperson; Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania); Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic); Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands); Mr. Marek Zawislak (Poland); Mr. B. Kjellson (Sweden); and Mr. E. Hauri (Switzerland).

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2005

SUBPROGRAMME 10 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

10.1.1 Country profiles on the housing sector

Description: The housing sector has a critical role to play in ensuring the success of economic and social development in the ECE region and the reform process in countries in transition. At the same time, the process of transition to a market economy has had a profound impact on housing policy implementation and management. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. The country profile is a process-oriented exercise. At its core is an analytical study on the housing sector, drafted by independent international experts. It draws on the Committee's work on housing finance and statistics, land administration and environmental aspects of housing. Recommendations for improving housing policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors.

Work accomplished: The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Albania have been published.

The studies for Armenia (started in October 2002) and the Russian Federation (started in April 2003) are in preparation. The concept of the country profiles has been revised so as to strengthen the focus on thematic areas which are of particular concern for the country under review. Steps have been taken to follow up the implementation of the recommendations in the country profiles.

In the context of the country profile on Romania, a workshop was organized in Bucharest in October 2002 to evaluate the developments which had taken place in the housing sector of Romania since the preparation of the country profile in 2000. The country profile project is presented on the Committee's web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/hs/cph>).

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will continue its activities for the preparation of country profiles on the housing sector in other countries.

It will also proceed with the preparation of a regional profile along the lines suggested by the secretariat in cooperation with the Council of Europe and its Development Bank. The regional profile will be prepared with additional extrabudgetary funds and will not affect the planning and implementation of the Committee's country profile programme.

Further workshops or ad hoc meetings of experts will be held to discuss the results of policy implementation as a follow-up to the studies' recommendations and to provide additional expertise in specific areas where needed. Cooperation with the United Nations Human

Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the World Bank will be maintained and strengthened.

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

#### 10.1.2 Improvement of urban environmental performance

Description: Local systems and cities are efficient starting points for promoting sustainable patterns of urban and regional development. In response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Chap.III, para.15) for action at all levels to “encourage and promote the development of [...] programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development,” numerous initiatives have already been launched in cities and towns to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of individual consumption behaviour, to promote environmentally sound goods, services and sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and land by individuals and communities. It is recognized that environmentally sound urban and regional transport coordinated with sustainable land use and planning at the central, regional and local levels may lead to a substantial reduction in the negative impact on human health, natural resources and the environment, while improving the quality of life and economic performance. Modern community development planning focuses on a broad range of additional issues and factors: social, economic, environmental, financial, etc. It is important to develop effective local planning systems as an integral part of strategic national and regional planning and development schemes.

Work accomplished: As a follow-up to the workshop on encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns (Vienna, February 1998), the Committee on Human Settlements and the Steering Committee on Transport, Health and Environment have welcomed the offer of the delegation of Cyprus to organize a workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport and planning. The Committee has also held an in-depth discussion on development planning at the local level.

Work to be undertaken: The delegation of Cyprus will organize the workshop in November 2003 to address practical experience in the environmentally sound management of urban transport integrated with sustainable land-use planning. Case studies presented in a common format and lessons learned will be reviewed during the workshop. The delegation of Poland will host a workshop on spatial planning in the first half of 2004. The Committee will prepare ECE guidelines on spatial planning systems (with special reference to countries in transition).

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

#### 10.1.3 Land registration and land markets

Description: Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of reforms in economies in transition, as well as in the context of European integration. The activity is aimed at providing assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastre and land registration systems and sharing information and

experience of modernizing land administration systems in the developed market economies through education and training; research and development; exchange of experience; transfer of technology; and standardization.

Work accomplished: The study on land mass valuation systems for taxation purposes in Europe and the survey on restrictions on ownership, leasing and transfer of real property in the ECE countries, were prepared and published in 2002 with the assistance of the Federal Land Cadastre Service of the Russian Federation. Three workshops were held: on mass valuation systems of land for taxation (Russian Federation, June 2002), on cooperation in land administration, customers and services (Austria, September 2002) and on spatial information management for a sustainable real estate market (Greece, May 2003). An international team of land administration experts undertook country reviews on Armenia (2000), Georgia (2001) and the Russian Federation (2003).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party is expected to decide on reviewing and updating the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96). In 2004 a land administration review is planned in Lithuania and Azerbaijan (subject to confirmation). Three studies, namely the guidelines on legal and cadastral objects and their identifiers, the guidelines on public access to data, and the report on public/private partnership, are being prepared.

Workshops are planned in the United Kingdom (Edinburgh, 1-4 October 2003), Armenia (spring 2004) and Lithuania (autumn 2004). The third session of the Working Party on Land Administration will take place in Geneva on 17-18 November 2003. Cooperation with key partners, such as the World Bank and EuroGeographics, will be further developed.

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

#### 10.1.4 Housing modernization and management

Description: This activity provides an opportunity to look in detail at urban regeneration policies and at the existing and emerging housing problems, especially regarding housing financing and the management of the existing housing stock. As a result of the privatization process in countries in transition, the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in multi-family housing has increased considerably. It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership, and analyse legal conditions of condominiums, their organizational and management frameworks. Basic mechanisms for social housing development should also be defined and recommended.

Work accomplished: The ECE Guidelines on Ownership of Housing Condominium were prepared and published in 2003 (ECE/HBP/123). The Colloquium on housing cooperatives was organized jointly by UNECE, UN-HABITAT and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in Ankara in June 2002. A workshop on social housing was held in Prague in May 2003 as first step in the preparation of ECE guidelines on social housing, and a task force for the preparation of the guidelines was established. A draft of the guidelines on housing finance was prepared and discussed by the Project Steering Group at three meetings 2003.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and its Bureau will study ways to promote the practical application of the Guidelines on Ownership of Housing Condominium and ensure their wide dissemination in countries in transition. A second workshop on housing condominiums will be organized in the Russian Federation on 23-26 November 2003. The guidelines on housing finance systems for countries in transition will be finalized and presented to the Committee at its next session. The Committee will continue its work on social housing guidelines, taking into account the strong links between social housing and housing cooperatives. A second workshop on social housing will be organized in Vienna in 2004. The workshop will consider the results of the work on these guidelines.

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

#### 10.1.5 Development of human settlements statistics

Description: The Committee, together with the Conference of European Statisticians, develops and improves international human settlements statistics, and publishes the Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America every two years. The Committee and the Conference are also cooperating on the preparation of a set of ECE recommendations on housing censuses.

Work accomplished: The Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America was published in 2000. The human settlements statistics web site is accessible at: <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/bulletin/>.

A joint consultation (Committee on Human Settlements/Conference of European Statisticians) took place on 5 June 2003. It recommended some changes in the questionnaire sent each year to the national statistical offices and revised the name of the Bulletin. The new title would read Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will prepare the next issue of the Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America to be available on the Web in 2003. The Committee will coordinate the collection of housing statistics with the EU activities on housing statistics. It will also cooperate with the Conference of European Statisticians to prepare a new set of housing census recommendations.

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

#### 10.1.6 Major trends characterizing human settlements development

Description: The development of human settlements encompasses a wide range of changes and trends, which are not always compatible with the principles of sustainability. More knowledge of the forces influencing the configuration of urban development and the characteristics of the implementation of urban policies will be provided by studying major trends characterizing human settlements development and presenting national experiences in formulating and implementing policies for a more sustainable development of human settlements.

Work accomplished: The Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research took place in Leeds (United Kingdom) on 9-12 June 2002. The main topic was sustainable and liveable cities. Three themes were discussed: (i) urban society and economy: towards social equity through effective planning policies and tools - a behavioural perspective; (ii) improving urban performance: urban structure and ecosystems; (iii) governance and urban organization: integrated decision-making. The Committee's Bureau started consultations with the Slovak delegation to establish the topic, venue and date for the next conference on urban and regional research to be held in Slovakia in 2006.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will continue the exchange of experience in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration, and will consider the priorities of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the context of its programme activities. A preparatory group for the 10th Conference will be established in 2004. The Conference will be organized in cooperation and consultation with the European Network for Housing Research, and its scope will be looked into in order to bring together both researchers and policy makers as well as other actors. The Committee will contribute to the regional follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and will hold a joint session with ISOCARP in September 2004.

Duration: 2003 - 2005.

Annex II

## BUDGET NARRATIVE 2004-2005

**Subprogramme 8: Human settlements**

The work under the subprogramme will be carried out by the Environment and Human Settlements Division. The subprogramme's overall aim is to improve the situation in human settlements in the ECE region by supporting in particular socially vulnerable population groups and taking into account the gender perspective. The activities of the subprogramme will relate to the implementation of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as adopted at the ministerial meeting in September 2000. In line with these directions, the main activities of the subprogramme will be the preparation of analytical studies and guidelines on urban environmental performance and housing policies, with a particular focus on social housing, the dissemination of best practices, the compilation and publication of housing and building statistics for the ECE region, the organization of seminars and workshops, the provision of expert assistance to individual ECE countries as well as the follow-up of the implementation of the policy recommendations agreed at the relevant intergovernmental meetings. In particular, the follow-up activities on the country profiles on the housing sector will be strengthened and systematized. In addition, preparations will be undertaken to revise the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the light of the developments taken place in the five years following its adoption.

For the 2004-2005 biennium, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and performance indicators will be as set out below:

**Objective:** to improve the quality of life in human settlements, to facilitate social cohesion and security, and to strengthen the capacity-building process in countries with economies in transition.

<u>Expected accomplishments</u>	<u>Indicators of achievement</u>
a. Implementation of ECE policy guidelines and recommendations on reforms in the housing sector, also with regard to the ageing population and increased awareness of gender perspectives.	a. Steps taken towards the implementation of the recommendations on reforming the housing sector including those with a gender dimension.
b. Further development and reforms in land administration.	b. Steps taken towards the implementation of recommendations on modernization and improvements in land registration systems adopted by countries.
c. Improved policy formulation and governance of housing and land administration in countries, including promoting a better-defined role for municipalities.	c.1 Number of high-level delegates participating in ECE meetings in the area of governance and policy development for housing and land administration. c.2 Set of agreed solid policy conclusions reached at the annual sessions of the Committee on Human Settlements.