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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
Working Party on Land Administration  
Third session, Geneva, 17-18 November 2003  
(Item 4 of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2005

Introduction

1. The present note provides information to assist the Working Party in discussing and establishing its programme of work and its methods of work. The Bureau of the Working Party has met five times since the second session of the Working Party in November 2001 to review the programme of work and its implementation.
2. The draft programme of work is set out in the annex below. The Working Party's activities are placed under programme element 10.1.3 "Land registration and land markets" of the programme of work of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements. When discussing its programme of work, the Working Party should keep in mind that its programme should reflect the real interests of member countries and their willingness to contribute expertise, as well as financial resources, to its implementation. In order to be effective, new activities can be initiated only if other activities in the existing programme are finished.

Proposed decisions by the Working Party

3. In the light of the discussion, the Working Party may wish to:
- (a) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of its programme of work, as presented in the annex;
  - (b) Consider and adopt the new proposal to update the Land Administration Guidelines;
  - (c) Update and approve its programme of work;
  - (d) Call upon Governments to make either general contributions to the Human Settlements Trust Fund or earmarked contributions to programme activities.

Annex

## DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2005

**10.1.3.1 Situation and trends in land administration in the ECE region**

**Description:** The Working Party promotes land administration activities in the ECE region. It provides a forum for senior land administration officials to meet and discuss current trends and policies. In particular, it focuses on land registration to secure land tenure and property rights, the development of real-estate markets in countries in transition and the facilitation of European integration processes. The Working Party exchanges information and experience on modern cadastre and land registration systems in the ECE region, and shares its experience with other regions.

**Work accomplished:** At its second session in November 2001, the Working Party held two in-depth discussions on: (a) public-private partnership; and (b) providing open access to land information. In response to the conclusions of the discussions, the Bureau of the Working Party gave further attention and supported work on public-private partnerships and access to land information. The Bureau also provided input for the in-depth discussions to be held at the third session of the Working Party on: (a) current trends and policies in the ECE region; and (b) raising the public profile of the land administration work. The Working Party contributed to the discussions at a number of meetings organized by the European Union, the Regional Center of Excellence in Budapest (initiated by the World Bank), EuroGeographics, the ECE Real Estate Advisory Group, etc.

**Work to be undertaken:** An exchange of views on land administration trends and policies will be organized at the next session of the Working Party in 2005. The Working Party will continue to coordinate international assistance projects in countries in transition, and strengthen its cooperation with other international organizations active in land administration. It will prepare a vision for its future work.

**10.1.3.2 Legislation on land administration**

**Description:** The Working Party promotes the development of legal rights in real property, including ownership rights; security of data; public access to land information; legislation on registration of real property and its management (including housing condominiums); resolution of disputes on land rights, etc.

**Work accomplished:** A survey of restrictions on the ownership, leasing, transfer and financing of land and real property in Europe and North America was prepared and published in 2003 by the delegation of the Russian Federation (Federal Land Cadastre Service) as lead country. The Working Party contributed to the preparation of the ECE Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing for Countries in Transition (ECE/HBP/123).

**Work to be undertaken:** The Working Party will contribute to the promotion of the Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing in the ECE region through, inter alia, land administration reviews and country-oriented workshops. The guidelines on legal and cadastral objects and their identifiers will be published in 2004. Work will continue on the preparation of studies on public-private partnerships and public access to land information. The Working Party will revise and update the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96).

### 10.1.3.3 Operational activities on land administration

**Description:** The Working Party on Land Administration promotes the practical application of the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96), inter alia, through different types of operational activities in the ECE countries: land administration reviews and advisory missions of international experts; workshops and seminars; etc. These activities vary and are implemented according to the needs and requests of the recipient countries.

**Work accomplished:** Since the second session of the Working Party, workshops have been held in: the Russian Federation (Moscow, 27-28 June 2002) on mass land valuation; Austria (Vienna, 12-13 September 2002) on customers-cooperation services; and Greece (Athens, 28-31 May 2003) on spatial information management for a sustainable real estate market.

The Working Party prepared and agreed on organizational procedures for the implementation of ECE land administration reviews (HBP/WP.7/2001/6). It carried out land administration reviews in Armenia (HBP/WP.7/2001/5, November 2000), in Georgia (HBP/WP.7/2001/9, May 2001) and in the Russian Federation (HBP/2003/7 and Add.1). International experts undertook fact-finding missions to these countries and prepared analytical reviews with practical policy recommendations. The land administration reviews were coordinated with the country profiles on the housing sector carried out by the Committee on Human Settlements.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Working Party will organize a workshop on organizational sustainability and capacity-building in the United Kingdom (Edinburgh, 1-3 October 2003), which will be hosted by the Registers of Scotland. Workshops are also planned in Armenia (Erevan, spring 2004) and Lithuania (Vilnius, autumn 2004). The Working Party will continue to carry out land administration reviews at the request of individual countries. The delegation of Lithuania stated its interest carrying out a land administration review in 2004-2005.