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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Working Party on Land Administration

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008–2009

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008–2009

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note provides information to assist the Working Party on Land Administration in establishing its Programme of Work, the duration of each activity, and its methods of work. The Bureau of the Working Party has met six times since the fourth session of the Working Party in November 2005 to review the Programme of Work and its implementation.

When discussing its programme activities, the Working Party may wish to keep in mind that the Programme of Work should reflect the real commitments of member countries and their willingness to contribute to the Programme's implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources.

I. LAND ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

Description: The Working Party promotes the development and implementation of land administration policies, including the improvement of the institutional framework of land management; planning and development of land; the development of legal rights in real property; security of data; public access to land information; legislation on registration and management of real property; and the resolution of land disputes, etc.

Work accomplished: Following a decision of the Bureau in 2006, a questionnaire on fees and charges was distributed with the purpose of preparing a survey on different approaches on the imposition of fees and charges in land administration in different countries. Within this programme element, workshops were held on the Institutional Framework for Securing Real Property Rights (Tbilisi, 11–12 May 2006) and the Effective and Sustainable Land Management (Munich, Germany, 24–25 May 2007).

Work to be undertaken: The outcomes of the questionnaire on fees and charges will be discussed at the fifth session of the Working Party. A study on fees and charges will be prepared following the questionnaire survey and elaborating good practices in fees and charges. A workshop pertaining to land administration policies is planned to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 2 and 3 October 2008.

II. MAJOR TRENDS CHARACTERIZING LAND ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Description: The Working Party aims at supporting security of tenure, the introduction and improvement of cadastre and land registry, and the development of real estate markets. The Working Party provides a forum for exchange and discussion on current trends in land administration in the UNECE region, and shares its experience, when relevant, with other regions.

Work accomplished: A workshop on Informal Settlements – Real Estate Market Needs for Good Land Administration and Planning (Athens, 28–31 March 2007) was jointly organized with the Committee and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). Workshops on Land Administration in the Era of E-society (Prague, 26–27 October 2006) and Registering the World (Dublin, 26–28 September 2007) were also held. The Working Party contributed to the discussions at a number of meetings organized by EuroGeographics, the European Land Registry Association (ELRA), the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC), FIG and the European Land Information Service (EULIS), and provided expertise to an initiative of Mongolia to establish a network of land administration officials in the Asia Pacific region. A proposal for the establishment of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) to the Working Party was developed with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the secretariat.

Work to be undertaken: The issue of informal settlements from a land administration perspective will be discussed at the fifth session of the Working Party, based on the conclusions of the Athens workshop as well as on the in-depth discussion on challenges and integrated policy responses for informal settlements held at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee. A joint study of the Committee and the Working Party on informal settlements will be prepared. A

workshop on Legal Empowerment of the Poor in the UNECE Region is planned to be held in Bergen, Norway, on 10 and 11 April 2008. The Working Party will continue its cooperation with other international organizations active in land administration. Activities in cooperation with REM, which is expected to be established at the fifth session of the Working Party, will be developed and implemented.

III. LAND ADMINISTRATION REVIEWS

Description: The Working Party promotes the practical implementation of land administration policies through country-specific land administration reviews and related follow-up activities. These activities are carried out at the request of member countries. A chapter on land administration will be included in future country profiles on the housing sector, as requested by the Committee.

Work accomplished: A land administration review was carried out in Azerbaijan in 2006–2007 (ECE/HBP/2007/3). A research mission to Bulgaria takes place from 14 to 19 October 2007. The Working Party nominated a land administration expert for the preparation of a chapter on land administration for the country profile on the housing sector of Belarus. The research mission was carried out in July 2007.

Work to be undertaken: The land administration review of Bulgaria will be finalized following the research mission in October 2007. Tajikistan requested that a review be carried out in 2008. Follow-up workshops to land administration reviews are planned in Bulgaria (spring 2009) and Azerbaijan (autumn 2009).
