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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Working Party on Land Administration

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PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010–2011

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note provides information to assist the Working Party on Land Administration in establishing its programme of work, including the duration of each activity, methods of work and the expected results. The Bureau of the Working Party has met four times since the Working Party's fifth session in November 2007 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 should reflect the real interests of member States and their willingness to contribute to the programme's implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources. The programme of work will be updated after the session to include the decisions of the Working Party.

I. LAND ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

Description: The Working Party promotes the improvement of land administration policies, including the reform of cadastre and registration systems, the establishment of institutional frameworks for land use, the security of tenure of real estate, the public access to land information and the resolution of land disputes.

Work accomplished: A study of guidance and good practice in the application of fees and charges in cadastre and registration systems was finalized and its recommendations will be discussed during the Working Party's sixth session (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2009/4). A printed version will also be published. Within this programme element, a workshop on the influence of land administration on business and people was held on 2 and 3 October 2008 in Cavtat, Croatia. A workshop on experiences with data management to improve land administration in UNECE¹ countries was held on 23 and 24 April 2009 in Sofia.

Work to be undertaken: A questionnaire on fraud in e-registration and e-conveyancing will be discussed during the Working Party's sixth session with the purpose of preparing a study of different approaches to cope with this challenge in UNECE member States. A workshop addressing the issue of transparency in land markets is planned to be held in Baku on 1 and 2 October 2009. Another workshop within this programme element, on e-government and land administration, will be held in spring 2010 in Minsk.

II. MAJOR TRENDS CHARACTERIZING LAND ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Description: The Working Party aims to promote security of tenure by introducing and improving cadastre and land registry and developing sound real estate markets. Sound land registration and cadastre data to support security of tenure is a core issue in the Working Party's agenda. The Working Party also pursues work on these topics as they relate to the question of informal settlements.

Work accomplished: A study on informal settlements, *Self-made cities: in search of sustainable solutions for informal settlements in the UNECE region, challenges and policy guidance*, was jointly prepared and will also be jointly released with the Committee on Housing and Land Management (ECE/HBP/155). The policy recommendations contained in the report will be discussed at the Working Party's sixth session. A workshop (Bergen, Norway, 10–11 April 2008) addressed the issue of the legal empowerment of the poor in the region. A seminar held in United Nations Headquarters on 16 December 2008, organized with the support of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group, discussed the implications of the current financial crisis on real estate markets and its impact on sustainable development. The Advisory Group organized another workshop (Rome, 3–4 June 2009) addressing the issue of regulation of global financial markets and the importance of adequate real estate valuation and risk assessments to guarantee economic stability. The Working Party also contributed to discussions at a number of meetings

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

organized by the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Work to be undertaken: The issue of security of tenure from a land administration perspective will be discussed at a workshop to be held in autumn 2010 in Antalya, Turkey. The Working Party will continue its cooperation with other international organizations active in land administration. Activities in cooperation with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group are expected to be further developed, especially the finalization of guidelines for sound regulations for real estate markets discussed at the Rome workshop.

III. LAND ADMINISTRATION REVIEWS

Description: The Working Party promotes the practical implementation of land administration policies through country-specific studies. Land administration reviews and related follow-up activities are carried out at the request of member States.

Work accomplished: A land administration review of Bulgaria was prepared in 2008 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2009/5 and Informal notice 3). Country profiles on the housing sectors of Belarus and of Kyrgyzstan were prepared in collaboration with the Working Party (namely those chapters on land administration) and will be published in 2009. As a result of discussions during the Committee on Housing and Land Management's sixty-ninth session (ECE/HBP/149), a proposal for a modular approach was developed to better customize the contents of the land administration reviews and country profiles and to better focus on the most urgent needs of member States (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2009/7). The document will be presented for discussion at the Working Party's sixth session and at the Committee's seventieth session.

Work to be undertaken: Pursuant to approval, it is expected that a research mission to develop a land administration review in Tajikistan will take place at a date to be defined by Tajik government authorities. Other countries will be invited to carry out land administration reviews during the biennium 2010–2011.
