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Committee on Housing and Land Management

Seventy-first session
Geneva, 20–21 September 2010

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-first session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 20 September 2010*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Work of the Bureau and the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN).
3. Review of implementation of the programme of work for 2010–2011:
 - (a) Country profiles on the housing sector;
 - (b) Affordable, healthy and ecological housing;
 - (c) Improvement of urban environment performance;
 - (d) Land registration and land markets;
 - (e) Housing modernization and management.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (<http://www.unece.org/hlm/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting, namely **by 6 September 2010**, either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499/2553.

4. Building and construction safety.
5. Cross-sectoral activities:
 - (a) Ecological building;
 - (b) Energy efficiency;
 - (c) Land-use planning around high-risk industrial sites;
 - (d) Reporting.
6. Other business.
7. Election of the Bureau.
8. Closing of the seventy-first session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Monday, 20 September 2010, morning meeting, starting at 10 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda (10–10.20 a.m.)

1. The provisional agenda (ECE/HBP/161) is based on decisions taken by the Committee at its seventieth session (ECE/HBP/160) and on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work since then. The provisional agenda was agreed upon by the Committee's Bureau at its meeting in March 2010 and is presented for approval by the Committee.

2. Work of the Bureau and the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN) (10.20–11 a.m.)

2. The Chair of the Committee's Bureau will report on the work of the Bureau and the main decisions taken since the Committee's previous session.

3. The Chair of HUMAN will present the draft programme of work for 2010–2011 according to the discussions held with the Committee's Bureau and report on HUMAN's activities since the seventieth session of the Committee, in accordance with the Advisory Network's terms of reference.

4. The Committee may wish:

- (a) To evaluate the work of HUMAN to date and to review the proposal for its programme of work;
- (b) To approve the work of the Bureau and of HUMAN.

3. Review of implementation of the programme of work for 2010–2011

5. The Committee will review the implementation of activities based on the programme of work agreed upon at its seventieth session (ECE/HBP/160) and on the summary report of workshops (ECE/HBP/2010/5).

6. An updated draft programme of work (ECE/HBP/2010/1) has been prepared by the secretariat based on activities completed so far in 2010 and those still ongoing. The

programme of work for 2010–2011 will then again be updated to take account of decisions made at the Committee's current session.

(a) Country profiles on the housing sector (11 a.m.–1 p.m.)

7. The Committee will be informed about the progress in the preparation, finalization and launch of the country profiles on the housing sector.

8. The delegation of Belarus will report on the launching event and progress in the implementation of the recommendations so far.

9. Information will be provided on the finalization of the country profiles of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, including plans for their publication and launching events.

10. The delegation of Tajikistan may wish to provide information on the fact-finding mission held in 2009 to develop Tajikistan's country profile review.

11. The discussion will start with the presentation by delegations representing countries that have recently undertaken country reviews as above. This will be followed by interventions by experts of countries who have participated in the country profile reviews of their countries or as international experts regarding their experience in studying specific areas in the housing sector and/or on how the recommendations are being implemented in their respective countries. The discussion will conclude with interventions from the floor, based on experience in tackling policy issues that are relevant for the country profiles.

12. The delegations of Ukraine and Uzbekistan may wish to inform the Committee about their interest in having a country review undertaken. Other countries may wish to follow.

13. The Committee will also be informed about the United Nations mission to Uzbekistan, consisting of experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), supported by the local UNDP team in Uzbekistan. The mission's main aim was to prepare a policy brief on urbanization trends, particularly on trends in urban poverty in Uzbekistan, and to provide policy recommendations on urbanization in general and housing conditions in particular.

14. The Committee may also wish:

(a) To discuss the impact of the country profiles programme in the respective countries;

(b) To take note of the information provided including on the next country to be reviewed.

Afternoon meeting, starting at 3 p.m.

(b) Affordable, healthy and ecological housing (3–6 p.m.)

15. The Chair will inform the Committee about the rationale behind the Bureau's decision to postpone the ministerial meeting until September 2011. The Bureau further suggested that, following the discussion and subject to the Committee's decision, ministers be presented, in September 2011, with a document containing a draft Framework Convention on Affordable, Healthy and Ecological Housing in the UNECE region.

16. The Bureau is of the opinion that the development of such a Framework Convention in this area will provide countries with an effective tool for the sustainability of the housing sector and further support the application and implementation of already existing UNECE housing tools (e.g., the guidelines on social housing (ECE/HBP/137), the guidelines on

housing financing (HPB/2000/4), the study on informal settlements (ECE/HBP/155), and the draft Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region (ECE/HBP/2010/4). The Committee session offers an opportunity to discuss this topic and put emphasis on the need to develop such a Framework Convention. To that end, to better prepare for the Ministerial Segment, the Bureau suggested that the Committee discuss the background paper on Affordable, Healthy and Ecological Housing (ECE/HBP/2010/6).

17. The Committee may wish:

(a) To agree to hold a Ministerial Segment back to back with the seventy-second session of the Committee in September 2011;

(b) To invite member States to express their willingness to host the Ministerial Segment and the Committee session in September 2011;

(c) To discuss and agree on the contents of the background paper “Policy Framework on Affordable, Healthy and Ecological Housing”, and to decide to start discussions on the contents of a Framework Convention on Affordable, Healthy and Ecological Housing;

(d) To establish an open-ended drafting group, that could meet at the beginning of 2011 and subsequently, to start working on the text of a Framework Convention to be presented to ministers for adoption in September 2011.

Tuesday, 21 September 2010, morning meeting, starting at 9.30 a.m.

(c) Improvement of urban environment performance (9.30–11.30 a.m.)

18. The Committee at its seventieth session agreed to include the issue of climate neutrality under this item of the programme of work. Taking into account the work already done by the Committee on the topic of energy efficiency in housing, it was also agreed to develop a study on Climate Neutral Cities that would identify means and tools for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in cities. An extended outline of the study was prepared by a consultant to be presented to the Committee (ECE/HBP/2010/3).

19. Some case studies illustrating policies for adaptation and mitigation of climate change will be also presented. A discussion will follow.

20. The delegation of the Czech Republic will inform the Committee about the outcome of the workshop on Enhancing Urban Performance, held in Prague on 3 and 4 May 2010.

21. The Committee will also be briefed on the organization of the forthcoming workshop on security of tenure and the role of land-use planning to be held in Turkey in early autumn and organized under the auspices of the Working Party on Land Administration.

22. In addition, the secretariat of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention will inform the Committee about a planned seminar organized jointly with the Committee on Housing and Land Management on the topic “Land-Use Planning Around High-Risk Industrial Sites”, to be held in The Hague, on 11 and 12 November 2010.

23. The Committee is invited:

(a) To discuss the outline of the study and the presentations;

(b) Following the outcome of the discussion, to request the secretariat to finalize the study, including the formulation of recommendations, and present it to the seventy-second session of the Committee for endorsement;

(c) To take note of the information on technical cooperation activities and invite delegations to actively participate in the workshops to be held in Turkey and in the Netherlands.

(d) Land registration and land markets (11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.)

24. The Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration will report on the activities carried out since the Committee's previous session and on the programme of work for 2010–2011, including:

(a) Progress made in the development of a study on fraud in electronic conveyance;

(b) The request of the Republic of Moldova to have a land administration review;

(c) Recent and upcoming workshops organized by the Working Party.

25. On the basis of progress made in the work of the Working Party, the Committee may wish to provide inputs and advice on future activities.

26. The Chair of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) will be invited to inform the Committee about the publication entitled "Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets: Principles and guidance for the development of a country's real estate sector", which will serve as a basis for future work of the REM. Information will also be provided on the Advisory Group's activities and future plans.

27. The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided.

Afternoon meeting, starting at 2.30 p.m.

(e) Housing modernization and management (2.30–3.40 p.m.)

28. The Committee will be presented with a video on Energy Efficiency in Housing, prepared by United Nations Television in collaboration with the UNECE secretariat.

Energy efficiency in housing

29. At its seventieth session, the Committee agreed to continue to address, as part of its programme of work, the issue of energy efficiency in housing. To that end, it decided to develop an Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region (ECE/HBP/2010/4), taking into account the results from the workshops held in Bulgaria (2009) and Austria (2009). The Bureau discussed the Action Plan and agreed to present it to the Committee for adoption.

30. Presentation of some case studies on the ways energy efficiency is applied to housing will follow.

Social housing

31. The Committee will be informed about the workshop on Access to Social and Affordable Housing, Sharing Experiences on Policies in Serbia and other European Countries, held in Belgrade on 17 February 2010 and organized under the auspices of UN-HABITAT and the Serbian Government and with the participation of UNECE.

Multifamily housing

32. The delegate of Slovakia will introduce a preliminary programme for a workshop to be held in autumn 2010 to discuss lessons learned from the Slovak case study on

multifamily housing stock management and guidelines for its replicability in other countries of the UNECE region.

33. The Committee may wish:

(a) To discuss and adopt the draft Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region;

(b) To take note of the information provided.

4. Building and construction safety (3.40–4 p.m.)

34. At its session in 2009, the Committee discussed the importance of building and construction safety and disaster preparedness. The delegation of Azerbaijan offered to host an international conference, to be held in Baku on 16 and 17 November 2010, to discuss measures aimed to increase building and construction safety in the UNECE region. Information will be provided on the work in progress in the organization of the conference.

35. The Committee is invited to provide input to the conference programme, if any.

5. Cross-sectoral activities (4–4.30 p.m.)

36. In line with the request of UNECE and general United Nations advice on cooperation between agencies, a number of activities have been undertaken by the Committee and the secretariat in cooperation with other UNECE programmes as well as relevant United Nations agencies.

(a) Ecological building

37. Interdivisional activities on this topic are in progress between the secretariats of the Timber and the Housing and Land Management Committees, in particular on the preparation of the forum on measuring the carbon footprint of buildings, to be held in Canada in spring 2011.

(b) Energy efficiency

38. A representative of the Sustainable Energy Division will provide information on the outcome of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project relevant to the programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

39. An International Energy Efficiency Forum is expected to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 23 to 25 June 2010, organized jointly by the Kyrgyz Government, UNDP, UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). A Green Building Workshop to be held in the framework of the Forum will discuss the issues of energy efficiency in the housing sector, including the implementation of the draft Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region.

(c) Land-use planning around high-risk industrial sites

40. A joint workshop on this topic, organized by the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Ministry of Environment of the Netherlands will be held in The Hague, on 11 and 12 November 2010, as discussed under item 3 (c) above.

(d) Reporting

41. The secretariat will report on other inter-agency and interdivisional activities, including:

(a) Participation in the UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum “The Right to the City — Bridging the Urban Divide”, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010, where Mr. Kubiš made a presentation at a dialogue on “Sustainable Urbanization: Cities in a Changing Climate”, as well as holding an UNECE side event on Climate Neutral Homes – Challenges and Solutions to Increase Energy Efficiency in Housing;

(b) The inclusion of information on gender and access to land in the country profile of Tajikistan;

(c) Current and future joint activities with UN-HABITAT and its regional offices in Warsaw and Moscow, and more specifically a joint training workshop to be held in Minsk in autumn 2010 and the workshop on social housing held in Serbia (see item 3(e));

(d) A workshop, organized by Habitat for Humanity to explore opportunities to organize a Housing Forum for the development of a coordinated vision for sustainable housing in the Europe and Central Asian region until 2020, was held in Bratislava, in May 2010;

(e) A joint congress organized by the European Federation of Building Societies and UNECE on Housing Finance beyond Subprime, held in Munich, Germany, from 17 to 19 May 2010. The congress discussed the preconditions for making housing finance schemes systemically resistant to crises and will evaluate the effects of the financial crisis on the national housing markets.

42. Based on the information provided, the Committee may wish to advise on how to further cooperate with these and other key agencies and/or UNECE divisions and units.

6. Other business (4.30–4.45 p.m.)

43. Information will be provided on the UNECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements. Delegations are invited to announce their contributions to the Trust Fund for particular programme activities. In addition, other issues may be raised by members States under this agenda item.

7. Election of the Bureau (4.45–5 p.m.)

44. The Committee is expected to elect the Bureau for its seventy-second session.

8. Closing of the seventy-first session (5–5.30 p.m.)

45. The Chair will sum up the major decisions taken by the Committee. After the session, the Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will prepare the report of the seventy-first session.