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PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2012–2013

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note contains information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration since its last session and provides an update on the future activities of the Working Party. The Bureau of the Working Party has met four times since the sixth session, which was held in June 2009, to review the programme of work and its implementation.

When discussing its activities, the Working Party may wish to keep in mind that the programme should reflect the 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 current 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; security of tenure of real estate; public access to land information; and resolution of land disputes.

Work accomplished: A study on fraud in e-registration and e-conveyancing was prepared after an in-depth discussion of the subject during the Working Party's sixth session. The study examines different approaches to coping with this challenge in UNECE member States. A workshop addressing the issue of transparency in land markets was held in Baku on 4 and 5 March 2010. Another workshop, on the impact of e-government reforms on real property cadastre and registration services, was held on 8 and 9 June 2010 in Minsk. A workshop on the subject of economic information for real estate markets in the UNECE region was held in Rome on 5 and 6 May 2011.

Work to be undertaken: Activities in cooperation with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group are expected to be further developed, in particular a study on the rating of financial instruments that use real estate as collateral. A workshop will be organized during early 2012 to be hosted by Her Majesty's Land Registry, the land administration agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Nations Development Programme has expressed interest in holding a joint training event with the Working Party in Tbilisi addressed to Georgian civil servants during the third quarter of 2011 on the topic "Empowering the Poor through the Rights to Immovable Property". The Working Party will also contribute to discussions at a number of meetings organized by other international organizations dealing with land administration (e.g. Eurogeographics, Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) among others).

II. Major trends in land administration

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 in relation to the question of informal settlements.

Work accomplished: The issue of security of tenure from a land-administration perspective was discussed at a workshop held on 28 and 29 October 2010 in Antalya, Turkey. The Working Party has continued working with other international organizations active in land administration. Activities in cooperation with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group were further developed. These included the publication of guidelines for sound regulations for real estate markets (*Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets* (April 2010)), roundtables to discuss the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines in Ukraine and Portugal; and a workshop on greening real estate markets (Dessau, Germany, 29 and 30 November 2010).

Work to be undertaken: During the next biennium, the Working Party will conduct a study of land-administration systems in different Member States based on two questionnaires. One includes questions on qualitative aspects of land-registration systems and related services, and the other is an updated version of the questions contained in *Inventory of Land Administration Systems in Europe and North America* (2005). The study will provide data that can be used for benchmarks in national or subregional contexts. Work by the Real Estate Market Advisory Group will complement the study, including research on national

legal frameworks for real estate valuation, transactions, finance and rating. Follow-up action based on the results of the study will be considered, including publishing an updated version of the inventory of land-administration systems. A workshop on the topic of land administration in a network society will take place in the Netherlands (13 and 14 October 2011).

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 research mission to develop a land-administration review as a part of the country profile on the housing sector of Tajikistan took place from 7 to 14 February 2010. The country profile on the housing sector of Tajikistan has been completed and will be submitted to the Government for review. Other countries were invited to consider the undertaking of land administration reviews during the biennium 2012–2013.

Work to be undertaken: The Government of the Republic of Moldova has expressed interest in undertaking a land-administration review in the next biennium. A chapter on land administration will be included in the next country profile of the housing sector of Ukraine. The Working Party may wish to decide on the next land-administration reviews, based on requests received.
