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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

REPORT ON THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION
(17 to 19 September 2001)

SUMMARY

The Committee discussed the implementation of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century and of the Ministerial Declaration, and their implications for its future programme of work. The Committee agreed to take into account the decisions of the General Assembly at its special session (Istanbul +5) when formulating and implementing its programme of work. The Committee held an in-depth discussion on facilitating social cohesion and security through urban development, and decided to draw up guidelines on social housing. It considered and adopted its 2001-2004 programme of work, and revised its terms of reference. The Committee confirmed the high priority of the country profile project for the housing sector and the activities related to land registration and land markets. The Committee approved the draft guidelines on housing condominiums, agreed to publish them and decided that their practical implementation should be a priority in its programme of work. It welcomed the report of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network and expressed its support for the proposal to issue an ECE handbook on housing financing. It approved the programme for the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research to be held in Leeds (United Kingdom) in June 2002. The Committee agreed to consider the preparation of a set of practical, policy-oriented statistical data on housing and urban development.

Introduction

1. The Committee on Human Settlements held its sixty-second session in Geneva from 17 to 19 September 2001. Mrs. D. Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic) chaired the meeting.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. The Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) were represented.
4. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: International Cooperative Alliance (ICA); International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP); International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI); International Union of Tenants (IUT); and World Fire Statistics Centre.
5. Members of the Committee's Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network also attended.
6. The ECE Committee on Human Settlements expressed its sympathy and support to the American people with respect to the tragic events of 11 September 2001.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The provisional agenda (ECE/HBP/121) was adopted.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE OF RELEVANCE TO THE COMMITTEE

8. The Committee took note of the Commission's decisions taken at its fifty-sixth session, held from 7 to 11 May 2001, related to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies, in particular on cross-sectoral activities, such as on transport, environment and health, and on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in May 2003. Furthermore, information was provided on the establishment of the ECE Steering Group to discuss and articulate the overall policy and strategic direction of the Commission's work.

III. ECE INPUT TO THE ISTANBUL + 5 SPECIAL SESSION AND FOLLOW-UP IN THE ECE REGION

9. The Chairperson informed the Committee of the ECE parallel event on public/private sector partnership, organized at the special session of the General Assembly for an overall renewal and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The ECE event was based

on the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century. Ms. S. Bamford, member of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network, provided additional information, expressing the Network's interest in continuing to play an active role in the implementation of the Strategy.

10. Ms. S. Lacroux (UNCHS) reported on the results of the special session, in particular on the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and on the discussions of the Thematic Committee, including the four case studies from the ECE region that were presented to it: Stockholm (Sweden), Katowice (Poland), Lyons (France) and Barcelona (Spain).

11. In the ensuing discussion, the delegations exchanged views on the results of the special session and its impact at national and international level, and its effect on promoting partnerships in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and strengthening the role of local authorities. Many delegations highly appreciated the work of the Thematic Committee as an innovative way of sharing best practices.

12. The Committee decided to:

- (a) Take into account the decisions of the General Assembly at its special session when formulating and implementing its programme of work;
- (b) Further promote the ECE experience in human settlements policies within the region through its best practices;
- (c) Continue to provide international support to national policies.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AND THE ECE STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE 21st CENTURY IN THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2004

A. **In-depth discussion on facilitating social cohesion and security through urban development**

13. The Bureau at its meeting in January 2001 had decided that this year's in-depth discussion would focus on social cohesion and security through urban development - one of the challenges of the ECE Strategy. The purpose of the discussion was to outline the main social problems and issues of human settlements development to be addressed at national and regional levels, and to come up with possible actions and priority directions for the Committee.

14. Mr. W. Förster (Austria) presented the discussion paper (HBP/2001/2).

15. The following moderators facilitated the discussion: Ms. A. Nedomova (Czech Republic) focused on housing; Mr. H. Onsrud (Norway) on land administration; and Mr. J. Zetter (United Kingdom) on spatial planning.

16. Mr. M. Remmert (Council of Europe) reported on the results of the study on access to

housing in the member States of the Council of Europe. He stressed the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to achieving social cohesion and of the provision of social housing to vulnerable groups. The public administration, the private sector and those affected should act in a concerted way. Other activities undertaken by the Council of Europe were also mentioned. A representative of OHCHR stressed the importance of the indivisibility of human rights, which in terms of social cohesion meant giving a voice to those who were excluded, allowing public participation in planning and decision-making and ensuring access to judicial remedies.

17. As a result of the discussion the following conclusions were drawn and areas for future work indicated:

- (a) Social housing policies should promote the integration of vulnerable groups by encouraging them to participate in the planning and decision-making process to achieve mixed communities;
- (b) Access and provision of land to individuals was important for safeguarding land for public use;
- (c) Attention was drawn to the importance of public interventions to improve market imperfections;
- (d) The Committee may wish to prepare a study or guidelines on social housing and organize a workshop covering all aspects of housing and providing definitions of types of social housing. The focus should be on cooperation among all partners: landlords, investors, tenants and housing developers. The delegations of the Czech Republic, Finland and the International Cooperative Alliance indicated their interest in contributing to the project.

There is a potential for cooperation between ECE and the Council of Europe to bring together economic aspects of housing with the “right to housing”. Future work on guidelines should take into account current work, especially, that carried out by the Council of Europe on access to social rights.

18. A summary of the in-depth discussion is presented in annex I.

19. The Committee invited all delegations to propose topics for next year's in-depth discussion to the secretariat before the end of 2001.

(B) Country profiles on the housing sector

20. The secretariat presented the work in progress and invited the reviewed countries to report on how they had used the outcome of the studies, whether the process had been useful and the recommendations followed up (HBP/2001/4).

21. Mrs. E. Szolgayova (Slovakia) moderated the discussion.

22. The delegations of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania and the Republic of Moldova reported on the results of their country profiles and their follow-up, including the implementation of the recommendations. Special attention was given to how the Committee could best assist in the follow-up and how to make this activity and its organization more

efficient. The delegation of Romania invited the team of international experts to reassess the draft conclusions and recommendations in view of the dynamic developments in the sector.

23. In the ensuing discussion the following evaluations and proposals were made:

(a) The project had been useful to the reviewed countries; new laws and policies had been based on the recommendations of the studies;

(b) Not only the final study with the conclusions and policy recommendations was of interest, but also the process itself with its different stages. The data collection might indicate a need for streamlining and improving the availability of statistical data and encourage the provision of better statistics in the housing sector. The country profiles also stimulated internal debate on policy formulation. The process also helped to bring together local experts from different organizations, representatives of different levels of administration as well as different actors in the housing sector. Therefore, country profile studies stimulated an inter-sectoral exchange of information and strengthened concerted action in the country. In addition, country profiles could serve private-sector investors both nationally and internationally and lay the basis for international comparison;

(c) The project provided an international, independent and objective assessment of, and support to, national policies;

(d) Each participating country should be actively involved in systematic data collection to facilitate the work of international experts and provide the necessary input related to the chapters of the study such as those on institutional and legal frameworks;

(e) The studies facilitated the exchange of information and experience on major common problems and issues in the housing sector in countries in transition, such as privatization, housing renewal and modernization, and management of condominiums;

(f) An international workshop on a specific common topic (to be defined) could be organized with the participation of reviewed countries, and those interested in carrying out a study as well as other ECE countries and international experts;

(g) A follow-up mission by the international experts could be organized, e.g. in the form of a workshop, to assist in the implementation of recommendations in a specific area;

(h) Each reviewed country should update the data and information provided in the study at regular intervals, based on the experience gained during the project. This exercise could lead to a study on specific trends in the housing sector. This activity could also be combined with the above-mentioned workshop and serve as background documentation for it;

(i) Western member countries could also undertake such studies to contribute to the further development of effective housing policies in the ECE region;

(j) ECE was an important and useful forum for an ECE region-wide in-depth discussion and formulation of common principles for housing policies, including social policies;

(k) The delegations of Albania, the Russian Federation and Armenia confirmed their willingness to implement the study in their countries.

24. The Committee agreed:

(a) That the study on Romania should include in its preface information on when the research started (beginning 2000) and the date of publication;

(b) That at the request of the Romanian delegation an international team of experts

would be invited to a round-table discussion to address the changes in the housing sector in Romania which had taken place between the finalization of the study and its publication. Their report could be issued as a addendum to the study of Romania;

(c) On the following order for undertaking the next country profiles: Albania, Russian Federation, and Armenia.

(C) Improvement of urban environmental performance

25. The secretariat reported on the work of the Steering Group on land-use planning and local transport and its preparations for the workshop scheduled in spring 2002. It was envisaged that, based on the results of the workshop, guidelines would be prepared possibly for submission to the next Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev (Ukraine) in May 2003.

26. The secretariat provided information on the ECE/UNEP/ROE preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. To that end an assessment report on progress and problems since Rio was prepared. Negotiation were under way for drafting the ECE ministerial statement.

27. Information was also provided on the outcome of the ECE High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health held in May 2001 to decide upon further steps needed to achieve transport sustainable for health and the environment and in particular to start negotiations on a framework convention and streamline the ongoing processes. It was decided to have a second High-level Meeting in June/July 2002. This was being prepared by a tripartite Task Force.

(D) Land registration and land markets

28. Ms. B. Lipej (Slovenia), Chairperson of the Working Party on Land Administration, reported on its progress since the previous session of the Committee and on its plans, including preparations for its second session in November 2001.

29. Mr. F. de la Puente (Spain) reported on the results of the Workshop on Security Mechanisms in the Creation of Immovable Property Markets, held in Madrid (28-29 September 2000).

30. Mr. A. Overchuk (Russian Federation) presented the results of the study on mass valuation of real property in the ECE region.

31. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Party and endorsed its programme of work.

(E) Housing modernization and management

ECE guidelines on housing condominiums

32. Mr. G. Gundersen, consultant presented the draft guidelines on housing condominiums,

prepared in cooperation with the Reference Group. The approach taken in presenting very practical guidelines was well received and it was stressed that the guidelines should be made available to all partners involved in condominium development and management, as a suitable form for practical application.

33. Mr. J.-V. Gudjonsson (Iceland), a member of the reference group on the project made a presentation on the importance of having real property registration in place in particular with reference to housing condominiums.

Housing-finance instruments

34. Mr. H. Pfeiffer (Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network) presented the project proposal for guidelines on available housing-finance instruments for countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The purpose of the project was to define housing-finance strategies on the basis of the existing housing-finance systems and experiences available in the ECE region.

35. The delegations of Finland, Switzerland and FIABCI indicated their interest in joining the project's steering group.

36. The Committee invited the Network to proceed with the preparation of the study and to report to the Bureau at its next meeting.

37. The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Invite the consultant and the reference group to finalize the draft guidelines on condominiums for publication;
- (b) Discuss the practical implementation of the guidelines in countries in transition at its next session in September 2002;
- (c) Requested other interested countries to inform the secretariat on their participation to the steering group on housing finance by 30 November 2001.

(F) Human settlements statistics

38. The secretariat presented a paper on the proposal to collect and produce policy-related statistics on housing and urban development in cooperation with the housing authorities of EU member States and other international organizations (HBP/2001/5).

39. The secretariat also presented the ECE database on human settlements (<http://w3.unece.org/environment/humansettlements.asp>).

40. The annual report on national fire costs was presented by the World Fire Statistics Centre.

41. In the ensuing discussion:

- (a) The delegations of the Netherlands, Slovakia and the Russian Federation stressed the need for a basic set of simple, policy-related statistics, which could also be related to the five

main challenges of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century;

(b) The delegation of Albania stressed the need for a special meeting to discuss the collection of housing and urban data.

42. The Committee took note of the offer by the delegations of the Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovakia and the Russian Federation to make a joint proposal to the secretariat on the development of ECE policy-related data to be discussed at the Bureau meeting. Consultations on this activity could be held thereafter.

(G) Major trends

43. The delegation of the United Kingdom presented the Programme of the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research to be held in Leeds (United Kingdom) in June 2002 (ECE/SEM.53/1). Mr. Bide informed the delegations about the work being carried out by the Working Group which is preparing three discussion papers and a summary paper on "Sustainable and Liveable Cities". The above documentation would be available in January 2002. The delegation were invited to disseminate the discussion paper among officials, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector in their countries and ensure national response papers by March 2002. The Rapporteurs would then prepare their intervention and further contributions to the Conference.

44. The Committee approved the Programme of the Ninth Conference and invited all delegations to take an active part in the Conference.

(H) Programme of work

45. The Committee adopted its programme of work for 2001-2004 (annex II), the tentative list of meetings (annex III) and its revised terms of reference (annex IV).

V. WORK OF THE BUREAU AND THE REPORT OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

46. Mr. G. Gundersen, Chairman of the Network, reported on progress. He stressed the new role of the Network in the practical implementation of the ECE Strategy on a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century.

47. The Committee approved the work of the Bureau and the Network (for its membership, see annex V).

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

48. The Committee stressed the need to increase the human and financial resources of the secretariat to ensure the successful implementation of its programme of work.

49. The Committee noted with appreciation the pledges from the delegations of the Czech

Republic and the United Kingdom to contribute to the ECE Trust Fund on Human Settlements.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

50. The composition of the Bureau is as follows: Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic), Chairperson; Mr. Wolfgang Förster (Austria), Mr. Yiannos Papadopoulos (Cyprus), Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands), Mr. Marek Zawislak (Poland), Mr. Andrey Starovoytov (Russian Federation) and Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia).

Annex I

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION ON FACILITATING SOCIAL COHESION AND SECURITY THROUGH URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. The success of town-planning measures depends critically on the general mainstreaming of social inclusion at the local level. Inclusion has to be treated as a long-term and staged process. As such it is well suited to a planning approach. The city can be visualized as a ladder helping excluded groups to join mainstream society more easily. The 'social city' concept has to be promoted and urban areas designed to facilitate social contacts. Spending through the community not on the community is also an important change of emphasis. Direct involvement of this type is a key aspect of achieving social inclusion through better governance. Social impact analysis (SIA) can be applied to plans and projects to test their effects, similar in a way to environmental impact assessment (EIA). Social cohesion is an essential condition for security in a democratic society. Cities are socially and culturally heterogeneous arenas with a mix of ethnic and cultural heritage. Failure to strike a balance between long- and short-term needs and failure to establish a political, economic and social environment that provides a stable and adequate standard of living, and equal opportunities for all groups in a country would contribute significantly to political instability, ethnic conflicts and problems related to refugees and asylum-seekers.

2. Social housing comprises mainly rental housing intended for households with a relatively low income, where rents are kept below market levels, with construction and maintenance supported by the public budgets. Cooperation of different public and private actors has to include ethnic minorities and socially weak groups of society. All persons should possess a certain degree of security of tenure, which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats. Governments should consequently take immediate measures aimed at conferring legal security of tenure upon those households currently lacking such protection. There is a general trend affecting housing opportunities for poor and disadvantaged groups. The housing markets raise a number of concerns for the least advantaged. The trend is the widespread decline in public social housebuilding, the deregulation of rents and the decline in affordable small apartments to rent (whether in the public or private sector). Female-headed households are more vulnerable in housing aspects. Caught in the cycle of poverty, women lack access to resources and services to change their situation. Security of tenure should be balanced with the rights of owners.

3. Access to land for all social strata is an important prerequisite for sustainable urban development, which includes good information on land registrations and transparency of transactions. For that it is essential to have a formal system of land tenure as the basis for securing rights in land. In countries in transition, an important issue is the property protection of the poor, so that land would be transferred to a majority of the population. While facilitating private landownership, measures should be taken to preserve public lands for community use. Sometimes housing is built in informal settlements, particularly in urban areas. In these countries land reform, adjudication and land registration play a major role in providing secure housing and in improving the situation for the poor in general. In many of these countries the current laws or

cultures discriminate against women and indigenous people, who find it more difficult to have access to land and security of tenure. Current registration requirements are often very cumbersome and expensive, and in general only accessible to the rich. Simplifying laws and procedures is the key factor. However, a number of issues related to land registration as such could be looked at to ensure that poor and other vulnerable groups have access to the regular land market.

4. There is a need for affirmative government action, not only in terms of legislation but also giving practical effects to human rights in housing policies, programmes and practices. Whereas the legal right to housing is expressed everywhere, developments in housing policy can negate the possibility of implementing or exercising that right. Further, changes in other policy areas, especially of employment and social protection, are putting more people at risk in the housing market.

5. During the discussion many delegations concentrated on two major issues. Social housing is an urgent topic in many countries of the ECE region, especially countries in transition that have privatized most of the former public rental sector. Delegates stressed that social housing (in different legal and structural forms) constitutes one of the major pillars of social cohesion. Social or ethnic ghettos should be avoided. Social housing can be seen as an important public intervention to correct market imperfections. The delegates agreed that the Committee's work in that field should be strengthened and practical. Participation as part of the immaterial quality of housing and of urban areas should be strengthened. Planning should be brought to the people concerned and aim at the empowerment of residents, particularly in problematic neighbourhoods. Public participation as stressed during this discussion was in line with the Aarhus Convention, which would enter into force on 30 October 2001, and reflected the commitments of ECE member states to human rights and the Commission's objective to enforce cross-sectorial cooperation.

Annex II

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2004

SUBPROGRAMME 10 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

10.1.1 Country profiles on the housing sector

Description: The housing sector has a critical role to play in ensuring the success of economic and social development in the ECE region and the reform process in countries in transition. At the same time, the process of transition to a market economy has had a profound impact on housing policy implementation and management. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. The country profile is a process-oriented exercise. At its core is an analytical study on the housing sector, drafted by independent international experts. It draws on the Committee's work on housing and building statistics. Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors.

Work accomplished: The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania have been published. The study on Romania is ready and that on the Republic of Moldova is being finalized. A roster of international experts was established. The country profile project is presented on the Internet (<http://www.unece.org/env/hs/cph>).

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will continue its activities for the preparation of country profiles on the housing sector. In the autumn of 2001, work will start on a study on Albania. Then studies will be carried out in the Russian Federation and Armenia. Possibilities for holding further workshops or ad hoc meetings of experts to discuss the results of project implementation and disseminating the experience in ECE countries will be explored. The organization of follow-up missions by the international team of experts will be tested in order to assist the implementation of specific recommendations. Cooperation with Habitat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the World Bank will be maintained and strengthened.

Duration: 2001 - 2004.

10.1.2 Improvement of urban environmental performance

Description: Local systems and cities are efficient starting points for promoting sustainable consumption patterns. Numerous initiatives have already been launched in cities and towns to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of individual consumption behaviour, to promote environmentally sound goods, services and sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and land by individuals and communities. It is recognized that environmentally sound urban and regional transport coordinated with sustainable land use and planning at the central,

regional and local levels may lead to a substantial reduction in the impact on human health, natural resources and the environment, while improving the quality of life and economic performance. Integration of land use and local transport policies requires integrated thinking and action across all policy areas and at all levels of decision-making.

Work accomplished: In cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, a workshop on encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns was held in Vienna in February 1998. As a follow-up, a joint steering group on urban transport patterns and land-use planning was established. The steering group prepared a detailed work programme (HBP/2000/8).

Work to be undertaken: A workshop will be organized in 2002 jointly with the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The workshop will address practical experience in the environmentally sound management of urban transport integrated with sustainable land-use planning. Based on the workshop's results, guidelines for governments will be prepared for submission to a joint meeting of the Bureaux of both Committees, and then, if agreed, to the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

Duration: 2001 - 2002.

10.1.3 Land registration and land markets

Description: Proper land registration is crucial for security of tenure and property rights, effective housing policies and the promotion of market-oriented reforms in economies in transition, as well as in the context of European integration. The activity is aimed at providing assistance to countries in transition in reforming cadastre and land registration systems and sharing information and experience of modernizing land administration systems in the developed market economies through education and training; research and development; exchange of experience; transfer of technology; and standardization.

Work accomplished: The third issue of the inventory of land administration systems in Europe and North America was published in 2001 and the study on key aspects of land registration and cadastre legislation was prepared and published with the assistance of HM Land Registry (United Kingdom). Two workshops were held: on security mechanisms in the creation of real property markets: protecting rights (Spain, September 2000); and on EU accession from a land administration perspective (Sweden, June 2001). International land administration experts undertook two missions: one to Armenia (November 2000, in cooperation with UNDP) and another to Georgia (May 2001).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Land Administration will promote the practical application of the ECE Land Administration Guidelines (ECE/HBP/96) in countries in transition, inter alia, through different types of operational activities in these countries. Two studies, namely a survey of the current structure of landownership and existing legislation to restrict or limit the sale of property in ECE countries and a study on mass valuation for taxation, are being prepared. A workshop took place in Armenia in autumn 2001. In 2002, workshops are planned

in the Russian Federation and Austria. The second session of the Working Party on Land Administration will take place in Geneva on 19-20 November 2001.

Duration: 2001 - 2004.

10.1.4 Housing modernization and management

Description: This activity provides an opportunity to look in detail at urban regeneration policies and at the existing and emerging housing problems, especially regarding the existing housing stock and its management. As a result of the privatization process in countries in transition, the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in multi-family housing has increased considerably. It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership forms, and analyse legal conditions of condominiums, their organizational and management frameworks.

Work accomplished: The final draft of the ECE Guidelines on Housing Condominiums was prepared.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and its Bureau will study ways to put the guidelines on housing condominiums into practice to address the major aspects in the public/private sectors in economies in transition. The Advisory Network is preparing an extended proposal on housing finance strategies. As a result of the in-depth discussion, the Committee's Bureau will consider follow-up activities on social housing, including the organization of a workshop and the preparation of guidelines on social housing.

Duration: 2001 - 2004.

10.1.5 Development of human settlements statistics

Description: The Committee, together with the Conference of European Statisticians, develops and improves international human settlements statistics, and publishes the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America every two years.

Work accomplished: The Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America was published in 2000. The human settlements statistics web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/hs/bulletin/>) has been in operation since 1999. The human settlements database is accessible at: <http://w3.unece.org/environment/humansettlements.asp>

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will prepare the next issue of the Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America to be published in 2002. Meanwhile, annual statistics gathered through the questionnaire will be posted on the web site. The Committee and its Bureau will consider possibilities for collecting policy-related statistics on housing and urban development for the ECE region; a consultation on this activity will be organized.

Duration: 2001 - 2004.

10.1.6 Major trends characterizing human settlements development

Description: The development of human settlements encompasses a wide range of changes and trends which are not always compatible with the principles of sustainability. More knowledge of the forces influencing the configuration of urban development and the characteristics of the implementation of urban policies will be provided by studying major trends characterizing human settlements development and presenting national experiences in formulating and implementing policies for a more sustainable development of human settlements.

Work accomplished: The working group of rapporteurs and representatives of the host country and the secretariat have met three times to prepare the Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research. The programme of the Conference has been established (HBP/SEM.53/1).

Work to be undertaken: The Ninth Research Conference will take place in Leeds (United Kingdom) on 9-12 June 2002. Prior to the Conference, countries are requested to present response papers on the three themes and the summary paper. The Committee will continue the exchange of experience in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Duration: 2001 - 2003.

Annex III

TENTATIVE LIST OF MEETINGS*/

Meetings

19-20 November 2001	Geneva	Second session of the Working Party on Land Administration
9-12 June 2002	Leeds, United Kingdom	Ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research
16-18 September 2002	Geneva	Sixty-third session of the Committee on Human Settlements

*/ Bureau meetings, workshops, task force meetings and other informal consultations are not listed.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee provides policy advice and expert assistance, and develops recommendations, methodologies and guidelines for sustainable housing and urban development. It acts in full conformity with the principles, commitments and global plan of action of the Habitat Agenda, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted by the General Assembly in June 2001, and subject to the general supervision and relevant decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe.
2. As a follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting of 19 September 2000 and the adoption of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century (ECE/HBP/120), the Committee endeavours to:
 - (a) Promote efficient and democratic governance that responds to the needs of local communities, by helping ECE countries to develop national good-governance programmes for human settlements;
 - (b) Improve urban environmental performance;
 - (c) Strengthen social cohesion and security in cities;
 - (d) Promote reforms in the housing and urban sector by encouraging legal, economic and institutional changes to promote public and private investment;
 - (e) Improve land and real estate markets and secure private rights in land. The Committee works through its Working Party on Land Administration to reach this goal;
 - (f) Raise awareness about gender-related issues in housing and urban development.
3. Bearing in mind the pertinent decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee ensures that close cooperation is maintained on matters of mutual interest with other ECE principal subsidiary bodies, with international institutions and organizations in the ECE region, especially the European Community, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Council of Europe, as well as with the Commission on Human Settlements and other United Nations bodies.
4. In the implementation of its programme of work, the Committee cooperates with the private sector, with non-governmental organizations and with local authorities, relying in particular on its Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network.

Annex V

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK */

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*/ The terms of reference of the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network were adopted by the Committee on Human Settlements at its fifty-eighth session in September 1997 (ECE/HBP/104, annex II).