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Committee on Housing and Land Management

Seventy-sixth session

Geneva, 14-15 December 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Work of the Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Recommendations of the Bureau on the current and future work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document describes the key outcomes of the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management held since the seventy-fifth session of the Committee.¹

The Committee is invited to take note of this information.

¹ This document does not include a report of the Bureau meeting of 16 October 2015 because this document had to be prepared and submitted for translation before the Bureau meeting took place.



I. Bureau meeting of 16 December 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

1. Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic) informed Bureau members on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - HABITAT III. The UNECE secretariat informed the Bureau that coordination of activities with other UN regional commissions has been established through the organization of regular teleconferences and information-sharing on the HABITAT III Conference website.
2. The secretariat reminded that, following the adoption by the Committee of the new terms of reference for the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) (ECE/HBP/2014/5), Member States and non-governmental organizations recognized by ECOSOC were invited to submit their nominations to the secretariat by 20 November 2014. The secretariat informed the Bureau that few nominations were received so far. Bureau members proposed to extend the deadline and to send to the Committee members and observers a reminder with an invitation to submit their nominations to the REM. Bureau members discussed possible content of the work plan of the REM. It was proposed that the REM could focus on the topic of, among others, housing finance.
3. Bureau members discussed the implementation of the Committee's programme of work 2014-2015. The secretariat reported on the status of the preparation of the country profiles on housing and land management and the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in Armenia, Serbia and Tajikistan. The secretariat also informed Bureau members on planned activities for the smart cities project, including the development of the smart city indicators, activities in pilot cities and outcomes of the Urban Future Global Conference in Graz, Austria, held in November 2014. The Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration reported on the Working Party activities.
4. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the preparation of the study on building standards (ECE/HBP/2014/4). Bureau members took note of the information provided.
5. The secretariat informed Bureau members on the planned dissemination activities for the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing once it is adopted by the sixty-sixth ECE Commission session in April 2015. Bureau members took note of this information and recommended establishing closer cooperation with European Union institutions on urban development and housing policies.
6. The Bureau agreed to organize the Committee session in December 2015.

II. Bureau meeting of 6 June 2015, Rakvere, Estonia

7. Bureau members discussed the preparations for the seventy-sixth Committee session and proposals for possible communication activities to promote the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. The secretariat informed that the Committee's seventy-sixth session will take place on 14 and 15 December 2015, tentatively in Rome. The host country agreement is being negotiated with the Government of Italy. Further, the Bureau was presented with proposals for the Committee session agenda. Bureau members approved the proposals for the latter.
8. Bureau members were updated on the preparations for the HABITAT III Conference. The UNECE secretariat informed the Bureau that the UNECE is coordinating the preparation of the Regional Report for the UNECE Region for this Conference. The first expert group meeting for the preparation of the Report took place in Milan on 29 May 2015 and the second will take place in Geneva on 8 July 2015. The secretariat also

informed that the Government of the Czech Republic will organize a regional preparatory meeting for the ECE Region on 18-20 March 2016. Bureau members took note of the information provided.

9. The secretariat informed Bureau members of the first meeting of the new REM, which took place on 12 May in Geneva, and about proposals by the REM for its programme of work for 2015-2016. Bureau members took note of the information provided.

10. The secretariat reported on the progress of the preparation of the country profiles. Specifically, Bureau members were informed that the Republic of Moldova Country Profile will be printed in English in summer 2015 and the launch event is planned for 7 September 2015; the Uzbekistan Country Profile chapters are being harmonized and the draft report is planned to be finalized during the summer; a research mission for the Armenia Country Profile took place in April 2015 and work on drafting these chapters is ongoing.

11. The secretariat reported on the implementation of the current UNDA project. The secretariat also informed Bureau members on the preparation of a new UNDA project for 2016-2018 which will include pilot activities on capacity-building in housing and urban development in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The secretariat also informed the Bureau on the outcomes of the Rakvere workshop on smart city indicators. Bureau members discussed the next steps for the adoption of the indicators by the Committee.

12. Rik Wouters, Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration, updated Bureau members on the activities of the Working Party. He specifically reported on the completion of the study on informal settlements; the continuation of the work on the Working Party study on institutions for land administration; and the preparations for the workshop in Moscow to be co-organized with the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography of the Russian Federation. Bureau members took note of the information provided.

13. Bureau members were informed on the Expert Consultation on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, which was organized by the secretariats of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and was held on 20 and 21 April 2015 in Geneva. The meeting was organized according to the decision of the seventy-fifth Committee on Housing and Land Management session (ECE/HBP/2014/4) to develop a study on standards related to energy efficiency in buildings, healthy and barrier-free housing, land administration and smart cities. The expert group recommended establishing a joint Informal Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the participation of experts from the three Committees. Bureau members took note of this information.

14. The secretariat informed Bureau members on the status of the Human Settlements Trust Fund and the secretariat's fundraising activities for additional financial and in-kind support for the implementation of the Committee's programme of work. Project proposals for funding were submitted to various donors for activities which could lend support to energy efficient housing projects and further work on smart city indicators. Bureau members took note of the information provided.
