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Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2016-2017 since the seventy-seventh session: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Global Indicators Framework, the New Urban Agenda and other global agreements in the ECE Region – implications to the work of the Committee

Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-seventh session and its future activities for 2018-2019

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the Committee's activities since the seventy-seventh session, and outlines a proposed workplan for 2017 and 2018-2019.

The Committee is invited to take note of the information on the implemented activities and to approve the proposed activities, pending the adoption of the 2018-2019 programme of work by the Committee and its further approval by the Executive Committee.

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I. Introduction

1. This document provides information on the Committee's activities since the seventy-seventh session under its programme of work (ECE/HBP/2015/7)¹, and outlines planned activities for 2017 and 2018-2019. Activities in 2018 will be implemented under the programme of work 2018-2019 (2017/HBP/7) pending its adoption by the seventy-eighth session and approval by the Executive Committee.

2. The implementation of these activities is organized by the Committee secretariat under the coordination of the Committee Bureau. In 2016-2017, since the seventy-seventh session, four Committee Bureau meetings were held: on 15 September 2016, 2 December 2016, 27 June 2017 and 14 October 2017 in Geneva. Regular electronic communication was organized in between the Bureau meetings.

II. Information on the Committee's activities implemented since the seventy-seventh session

3. The following activities were implemented.

A. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

1. Implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

4. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE/1478/Rev.1), a non-legally binding document that aims to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, was endorsed by the ECE on 14 April 2015.² The Committee at its seventy-seventh session in 2016 adopted guidelines for the implementation of the Charter, including terms of reference for the establishment of Geneva UN Charter Centres.

5. Based on these guidelines, Geneva UN Charter Centres were established in Albania, Estonia and United Kingdom in cooperation with authorities and stakeholders (please see a report on activities of the centres in Annex 1). The Centres report to the Committee at its annual sessions. In between sessions, they are accountable to the Committee Bureau. The Centres support the Committee in the implementation of the Charter through active dissemination of information on the Charter and its principles through publications, mass media, and national and local events; organising capacity building and networking activities, providing advisory services to stakeholders, regional and local authorities, and conducting relevant studies. Activities of the Centres are coordinated by the secretariat.

2. Affordable and social housing

6. As a follow up to the study, "Social Housing in the UNECE Region: Models, Trends and Challenges" (ECE/HBP/182), which examined current trends, challenges and social housing models in the region, a study on housing migrants was initiated with the support of the City of Vienna and the Swiss Federal Office for Housing. Preliminary findings of the study are available in Informal Note 2 to the seventy-eighth Committee session.

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2015/ECE_HBP_2015_7.en.pdf

² Information on the Committee's events is available at <http://www.unece.org/housing/meetings-and-events.html#/>

7. National workshops were organized jointly by the ECE, UN-Habitat and respective government agencies, within the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition”, in Serbia (31 January – 2 February 2017) and in the Republic of Moldova (27-28 April 2017).³

3. Energy efficiency in buildings

8. During 2016, the secretariat carried out fundraising for the work of the Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy (and its Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency) and discussed possible future cooperation of the Task Force with different organizations and networks. The secretariat prepared a project proposal for financial support to the activities of the Joint Task Force. The project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the ECE Region” is now in force and received contributions from Denmark and the Russian Federation.

9. Furthermore, in 2017, the framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings (ECE/HBP/2017/3) were developed under the Committee on Sustainable Energy Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. They provide a framework for activities of the Joint Task Force on energy efficiency standards in buildings. This document represents a starting point for the activities of the Joint Task Force and for training and capacity building in this area.

4. Work of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

10. Since the seventy-seventh session of the Committee, the Real Estate Market Advisory Group divided its activities and its members in seven subgroups which are dealing with different topics according to the Real Estate Market Advisory Group’s Programme of Work (ECE/HBP/2016/3)⁴. The Advisory Group subgroups are:

- subgroup 1 on energy efficiency in buildings and implementation of housing policies in Eastern Europe
- subgroup 2 on dissemination of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and support to its Centres of Excellence
- subgroup 3 on land markets and land administration
- subgroup 4 on sustainable urban development and smart cities financing
- subgroup 5 on affordable and social housing
- subgroup 6 on registration, property valuation and cooperation with the Working Party on Land Administration; and
- subgroup 7 on housing finance.

Each subgroup has appointed a focal point who is responsible for carrying out activities and regular communication with the Secretariat concerning the activities of their subgroup.

11. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group worked on the initial update of its publication, “Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets”, taking into account the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, and other relevant policy documents. The Advisory Group gave input

³ Information on the project meetings is at <http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html>

⁴ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2016/ECE_HBP_2016_3.en.pdf

to the survey questions, issued by the Working Party on Land Administration, on Speed of Registration and Online Access.

12. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group organized the following conferences and events: the conference "The Housing Policies of our Future: How to make them work" (15 September 2016, Geneva), back-to-back with the Committee's seventy-seventh session; the seminar "Long Term Sustainable Value: approaches for valuation of properties for lending purposes" (13 October 2016, Bonn); the conference on Housing Finance – Market and Structures (14 November 2016, Berlin, Germany); the Smart Sustainable Cities Financing forum Liechtenstein (7 - 8 November 2016, Ruggell, Liechtenstein); and in cooperation with the Working Party on Land Administration, the Workshop "State and market: Cadastres and Property Right Registers" (24 - 25 November 2016, Madrid, Spain).

B. Sustainable urban development

1. Smart sustainable cities

13. In the framework of the "United for Smart Sustainable Cities" (U4SSC) initiative, the secretariat, together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the other 16 UN bodies involved in the U4SSC initiative finalized in June 2017 the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities, which are going to be tested in 50 cities around the world. The indicators are fully aligned with the SDGs, as recommended by the Committee (ECE/HBP/2016/4), and support the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the local level. The full methodology to measure these indicators and collect the relevant data was also elaborated and reported in Informal Note 4 of the seventy-eighth Committee session.

14. During its first year of activity, the U4SSC elaborated the following studies which will be published as online publications at the U4SSC website:

- Connecting cities and communities with the SDGs
- Implementing SDG11 by connecting sustainability policies and urban planning practices through ICTs
- Enhancing innovation and participation in smart sustainable cities: case studies.

In the framework of the U4SSC several events were organized:

- Forum "Shaping Smarter and More Sustainable Cities: Striving for Sustainable Development Goals" (18 - 19 May 2016, Rome, Italy)
- Session on Promoting Urban Safety in Smart Sustainable Cities of the "Reviewing the State of Safety in World Cities: Safer Cities +20" Conference (8 July 2016, Geneva)
- First meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative (21 - 22 July 2016, Geneva, Switzerland)
- Smart Sustainable Cities in the New Urban Agenda: Where We are at and Where We Could be (16 October 2016, Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador)
- 7th Green Standards Week, and Second Meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative (5 April 2017, Manizales, Colombia).

Concerning the activities under the project "United Smart Cities", a city profile for the town of Goris in Armenia will be launched in Yerevan on 11 September 2017. The Smart Sustainable City Profile of Goris is fully reported in Informal Note 5 of the seventy-eighth Committee session.

15. In the framework of the project, two events were organized from October 2016 to July 2017:

- Smart Sustainable Cities Financing forum Liechtenstein (7-8 November 2016, Ruggell, Liechtenstein) and
- Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches (14 June 2017, Astana), within the Ministerial Conference and 8th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

Further details on activities of the United Smart Cities project and the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative are available in Informal Note 4 of the seventy-eighth Committee session.

2. Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

16. The Committee was actively involved in the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador. The ECE co-organized 12 events with many valued partners, member States and the United Nations family such as UN-HABITAT, ECLAC, UNIDO, UNEP, ITU, OHCHR, as well as Housing Europe, on topics such as:

- Smart sustainable cities with ITU and ECLAC
- Road Safety with the Special Envoy for Road Safety, Federation Internationale de l'Automobile and Inter-American Development Bank
- Regional Implementation of the New Urban Agenda jointly with the other Regional Commissions
- Affordable and Adequate Housing with the Government of Albania and other partners
- Importance of security of tenure with the Government of Germany
- Promoting Sustainable Urban Development in the CIS with the government of Kazakhstan and UN-Habitat
- Sustainable buildings with the Government of France and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction
- Energy and resource efficiency through sustainable construction and urban planning also with the Government of Germany and UNEP, and
- Sustainable Urban and Territorial Planning with UN-Habitat.

ECE also participated in the High-level Roundtable - Adequate and Affordable Housing, where among others, Mr. Julian Castro, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America, Her Excellency Karla Šlechtová, Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic and Ms. Leilani Farha, Special Rapporteur for Housing, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), participated.

17. The Habitat III “Report on Housing and Urban Development for the UNECE Region - Towards a City-focused, People-centred and Integrated Approach to the New Urban Agenda”⁵, provided input into the New Urban Agenda. The finalization of the Report was coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat and is still awaiting publication.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/housing/habitat3regionalreport.html>

18. The Post-Habitat III Cross-Cutting Expert Group Meeting on UN-Habitat's Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, was held on 5-7 April 2017 in New York. The goal of Action Framework is to support national and local governments and other key actors in getting right the foundational urban elements of the New Urban Agenda: (1) national urban policies, (2) urban legislation and regulations, (3) urban planning and design, (4) local economy and municipal finance and (5) local implementation. The Expert Group convened representatives of stakeholder groups, substantive bodies, local governments and international agencies and lead a refinement of the descriptions and metrics of the key elements of UN-Habitat's Action Framework to support the creation and consolidation of platforms towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

19. The Post-Habitat III Cross-cutting Expert Group Meeting on "Engendering National Urban Policies for Successful Implementation of the New Urban Agenda" was held on 16 May 2017 in Paris, France. The Expert Group highlighted the importance of gender equality themes within urban policy in order to facilitate the development of policies that promote sustainable, inclusive and participatory urbanization and the role of urban policy as an overarching framework for coordinated, multi-sectorial and cooperative urban development. The Expert Group established an action-oriented network of partners that are working towards supporting the development and implementation of urban policies that are gender-responsive in their nature and that can successfully and effectively incorporate gender issues within the process of policy development and within the policies themselves in order to support the ethos of the New Urban Agenda and its implementation at country level.

20. The Habitat III UN Task Team Expert Group meeting was held on 12-16 June 2017 in New York and evaluated the Habitat III process and proposed the ways forward for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with the UN system including a roadmap for the Task Team. It focused on reflecting on lessons learnt during the process, as well as identified priority actions and collaboration areas in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The outcomes of the meeting were incorporated in the Habitat III Global Report.

21. The High Level Meeting on New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat took place on 5-6 September in New York to discuss best practices, success stories in relation to implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It also addressed the measures contained in the Report from the Secretary General's Independent Panel to Assess, Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat after Adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The Report recommended that UN-Habitat strengthen partnerships with the United Nations Regional Commissions.

22. The Urban Breakfast was jointly coorganized by ECE and UN-Habitat and held on 2 October 2017 in Geneva and discussed the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the SDGs in the ECE region. Different organizations presented on the challenges facing sustainable urban development and key priorities to take into account in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

23. The European Urban Forum: International conference on perspectives of urban development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe was held on 13 October, 2017 in Prague. It discussed the efficient implementation of the United Nations and European Union urban agendas – possible synergies and cooperation; the strategic role of cities and municipalities in urban and housing development and the Strategic approach, resources and tools for future territorial and urban development / Cohesion Policy of the European Union.

C. Sustainable land administration and management

1. Working Party on Land Administration session and other events

24. The Working Party on Land Administration organised its tenth session⁶ in March 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was preceded by the meeting Third Meeting of International Organizations/Agencies working in land administration and management.

25. The Working Party organized one additional workshop in 2016 in Madrid on "State and market: Cadastres and Property Right Registers" (24 - 25 November 2016) and a special event "Discovery Day 2016: Spatial Data Infrastructure in support of good land governance" (28 November 2016, Rome). The Discovery Day was organised jointly with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

26. In 2017, in collaboration with the EuroGeographics-Cadastre and Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network and Swiss Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo), the Working Party co-organized the Joint workshop with Cadastre and Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network (21 April 2017, Lausanne, Switzerland); in cooperation with the World Bank and the State registration service of Kyrgyzstan the Working Party organised the Third International Conference on Eurasian SDI: "From National to Regional Cooperation" (29 - 30 June 2017, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan). As part of the INSPIRE Conference, the Working Party also organised in cooperation with with Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission the workshop on "Data Driven Economy in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenges and Perspectives" (5 September 2017, Strasbourg, France) and "Discovery Day 2017: Technology's contribution to improve tenure governance and deal with the world's most pressing issues towards achieving the SDGs" (5 October 2017, Rome). Jointly with the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE), European Land Registry Association (ELRA), EuroGeographics, International Federation of Surveyors, European Land Information Service, Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union, the Working Party organised the Common Vision Conference: "Tradition meets Innovation" (5 - 6 October 2017, Vienna).

27. The Working Party of Land Administration is part of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and participated. Working Party representatives attended the Expert Group Meeting on 14 -15 March 2017 in Delft, The Netherlands, where the preliminary results on the National Tenure Atlas were presented.

2. Land Administration Reviews

28. The review of land administration and real estate markets in Uzbekistan was developed by an expert from the United Kingdom. The land administration review of Uzbekistan was published as a chapter of the Country Profile Uzbekistan. The Working Party experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom took part in a research mission for the preparation of the Country Profile Kazakhstan. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the land management part of the Country Profile has not been completed.

3. Studies on selected topics in land management

29. In line with the continued research on informal settlements in the ECE region, the Literature Review: Informal settlements in countries with economies in transition in the

⁶ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44622>

UNECE Region⁷ was produced in May 2016. The Working Party on Land Administration also continued activities on the preparation of potential technical guidelines on informal settlements in the ECE region which are planned to be elaborated during 2017-2018, subject to available financial resources to do so.

30. A follow-up study to the 2015, “Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?” has been carried out to analyse what forms of integration can be referred to as mergers and how do these forms contribute to a fundamental change in organisational quality. An abstract of the final findings of the follow-up study can be found in document ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/4. A new paper of the full study was elaborated in 2017 and findings were presented at the tenth Working Party session.

31. In 2017, the Working Party on Land Administration issued a revised survey, “Speed of Registration and Online Access” as part of its Benchmarking Survey Series – this builds upon the 2014, “Survey on Land Administration Systems in the ECE Region” (ECE/HBP/180). Preliminary results of the follow-up study are available in (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/5). A paper with the final results was produced in 2017.

4. Work of the Bureau of the Working Party

32. Since the seventy-sixth session of the Committee, the Bureau of the Working Party met eight times. The Working Party on Land Administration has restructured/established their Task Groups for the completion of the Programme of Work 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/2015/5)⁸ activities as follows:

- (a) Group for Outreach and Promotion
- (b) Group for Benchmarking of land administration systems
- (c) Group for cooperation between the Working Party and Real Estate Market Advisory Board
- (d) Group on Land Consolidation
- (e) Group on Informal Settlements
- (f) Group on future scenarios for land administration
- (g) Group on Fraud in land administration

D. Country profiles on housing and land management

33. The Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Armenia was completed; and will be launched in September 2017. The Country Profile of Kazakhstan is to be completed in 2017; the Country Profile draft policy recommendations are submitted for endorsement by the Committee at its seventy-eighth session. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the land management part of the Country Profile has not been completed.

34. The Committee secretariat, jointly with the governments of Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan, worked on the development of National Action Plans to implement the recommendations of the country profiles. A policy paper describing the approach to the development of the National Action Plans is being prepared with the support of the UNDA project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition”.

35. The guidelines for the preparation of country profiles approved by the Committee in December 2015 (ECE/HBP/2015/6) were updated following recommendations of an

⁷ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43153>

⁸ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2015/ECE_HBP_2015_5.en.pdf

external evaluation of the country profiles programme in 2016. The revised guidelines are presented for endorsement at the Committee's seventy-eighth session.

E. Technical cooperation activities

36. The Committee secretariat continued the implementation of the UNDA project "Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition". This is a joint project with UN-Habitat. As mentioned above, the ECE and UN Habitat assist, within this project, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan in the development of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development.

37. A draft National Action Plan was prepared for every country-project beneficiary. Its development assisted the Government in formulating a comprehensive and coherent housing policy, which will allow the consolidation of multiple ad hoc activities on housing policy, which were previously implemented without any coordination. It will also promote cooperation between different key stakeholders in the housing sector at different levels (national and local), as well as synergies between diverse activities and projects on housing and urban development. The National Action Plan launch events took place in Serbia (31 January-2 February), Moldova (27-28 April), Tajikistan (24 May) and Georgia (11 September). The governments have already started the implementation of the Action Plan.

38. To further discuss the realization of the project, two additional events were organized in 2017: a regional meeting of the coordinators in Geneva on 9 March parallel to the 10th session of the Working Party on Land Administration and a side event "Towards strengthening capacities in national urban policy making in CIS region countries" in Paris on 16 May 2017 during the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, co-organized by the OECD and UN-Habitat. The side event supported countries of the CIS region in developing and implementing policies for sustainable housing and urban development against the background of the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda and facilitated inter-regional cooperation and transfer of knowledge. The session focused on the aims, first outcomes, lessons learnt and a follow-up to the project.

39. To conclude the project which finishes in December 2017, a regional meeting of project coordinators and consultants was organized in Moldova. The meeting shared best practices and lessons learned on the preparation and follow-up of National Action Plans and presented the draft policy paper with best practices and guidelines. The project final conference will be organised on 10 November in Geneva, back to back with the Committee's seventy-eighth session.

40. Guidelines for the preparation and implementation of the National Action Plans and policy paper with best practices were developed in cooperation with UN-Habitat. They were discussed at the regional meeting in Chisinau and are to be presented at the final project conference.

41. The Committee secretariat continued implementation of the UNDA 10th tranche project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition" in collaboration with the UN-Habitat. Advisory missions were organized to Albania and Georgia, and a mission to Ukraine is planned before the end of 2017.

III. Cooperation with other organizations

42. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the housing sector, urban development and land management, the Committee is engaged in intersectoral and other cooperation with other organizations, and builds upon synergies with its partners.

A. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

43. The Committee on Housing and Land Management cooperates regularly with UN-Habitat, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the World Health Organization, the Housing Europe Federation, the International Union of Tenants, and other pan-European networks of organizations and cities, on issues related to affordable and healthy housing.

44. Cooperation with many international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization, on energy efficiency in buildings will be organized through the work of the ECE Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

B. Sustainable urban development

45. The Committee is working together with its partner United Nations agencies on different aspects of urban planning and management. For instance, in cooperation with its key partners, such as, UN-Habitat, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, and International Association of City and Urban Planners, ECE is organizing regular joint events, presentations at each other's meetings, and the review of documents and publications. Active cooperation with UN-Habitat is continuing on the implementation of the "International Urban and Territorial Planning Guidelines" which are used as a guiding material also for the country profiles on housing and land management and capacity building workshops.

46. Coordination with other United Nations Regional Commissions was established for participation in Habitat III. The Regional Commissions conducted regular teleconferences and organized joint side events during the Habitat III. Coordination with the United Nations system working in the ECE region for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda has been also established.

47. Implementation of the United Smart Cities project⁹ continues to involve international partners and the country offices of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As part of the ECE activities, the U4SSC was launched in 2016 and currently involves 16 UN bodies, the private sector, academia, NGOs, cities and other relevant stakeholders.

C. Land administration and management

48. Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Land Administration and Management with the FAO, the Working Party is collaborating under a bi-annual

⁹ <http://www.unece.org/housing/smartcities.html>

cooperation plan with the latter, as well as with the World Bank and the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

49. The Working Party regularly cooperates on the organization of joint events and studies with other international organizations involved in land administration in the region, including UN-Habitat, the EU INSPIRE Initiative, the European Land Information Service, FIG, CLGE, the International Property Registries Association, EuroGeographics, ELRA, and others. It organizes annual meetings of international organizations and agencies, which serve as a neutral platform to discuss how to best work together to improve land management and land administration in the ECE region.

D. Country profiles on housing and land management

50. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the results of the country profiles, the Committee established cooperation with UNDP offices in countries where the profiles are prepared. The profiles and/or National Action Plans to implement the profiles' recommendations were prepared jointly with the UNDP offices in Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova. The Committee also established cooperation with the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development for the preparation of an urban planning chapter of the Country Profile of Armenia. In the Country Profile of Kazakhstan, full reference was made to the urban policy review prepared by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, under the Country Profile urban development chapter.

IV. Major activities planned for end of 2017 and 2018-2019

51. The Committee works to improve housing, urban and land governance and to promote the evidence-based formulation of sustainable housing and land policies and their implementation in the ECE region; in 2017, it will continue the implementation of its activities according to its programme of work 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/2015/7) and further – the programme of work 2018-2019 (ECE/HBP/2017/7), pending adoption by the Committee at its seventy-eighth session and approval by the Executive Committee.

52. The Committee will continue to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the housing, urban and land-related Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, but in addition due to its cross-cutting nature, to the Goals 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13. Due consideration will be given to the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning in the area of housing, urban development and land management. Further, this work will promote the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, and the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region for the Period 2014-2020.

53. The Committee will continue to cooperate with its partner organisations outside of the ECE as described above in Section III; it will also strengthen cooperation and synergies, especially on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with ECE subprogrammes: (1) Environment, (2) Transport, (3) Statistics, (4) Economic Cooperation and Integration, (5) Sustainable Energy, and (7) Timber and Forestry.

54. The following activities are proposed to be implemented.

A. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

55. To promote sustainable housing and real estate markets, it is proposed that the Committee continue its activities on housing affordability, adaptation of the housing stock to demographic changes, support the governments in improving energy efficiency in buildings, facilitating the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock and developing real estate markets which contribute to economic growth. The Committee will also cover follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020.

1. Planned activities of Geneva UN Charter Centres

56. The Committee will continue working to promote the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through the organization of advisory services, capacity-building and dissemination activities, and the network of Geneva UN Charter Centres. The Centres will support the Committee in the dissemination of information on the Charter, conduct studies and organize capacity-building activities at national and regional levels to exchange experiences and best practices. In addition, to the already established centres in Albania and Estonia and the UK, discussions are ongoing to establish Geneva UN Charter Centres in Belarus and the Czech Republic.

57. The following lessons learned from the first year of work of the three Geneva UN Charter Centres on Sustainable Housing will be taken into account in the future work of the centres:

- Following the example of the centre in Glasgow, it could be recommended that prior to the start of work of centres, a feasibility study to assess needs in services is conducted; this will allow to developed activities which are tailored to specific needs of stakeholders;
- Centres which are being established in countries with economies in transition require stronger capacity building assistance since they are the most in need but have usually less resources. It is vital to support such centres in terms of both finance and knowledge. Consequently, the ECE secretariat would require additional resources in order to provide such assistance to support to the centres in countries with transition economies;
- The ECE should ensure it provides the centres with information and training materials on key global international documents, such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and other relevant UN policies; such training materials can be produced given additional extrabudgetary funding is available;
- The centres could be recommended to establish cooperation with universities and other educational institutions to build their work on the locally available knowledge as well as to promote dissemination of the Geneva UN Charter and its principles also to researchers and students;
- When possible, cooperation should be established with international partners, including UN-Habitat, UNDP, Housing Europe and others;
- Finally, Centres should always include in their work all relevant national, regional and local stakeholders.

2. Planned activities on affordable and decent housing

58. A study on housing migrants will be finalised in spring 2018 and will be published as an official publication. In addition, an online database with innovative practices is expected to be developed based on the study. Outcomes of the study are planned to be presented at the Committee workshop in Vienna in spring 2018. Advisory services and capacity building activities on affordable housing will be implemented jointly with ECE partners, UN-Habitat, Housing Europe and others.

3. Planned activities on energy efficiency in buildings

59. Energy efficiency in buildings will remain a priority in the work of the Committee. A Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings is to start its work in September 2017. The Joint Task Force will involve members of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, including its Real Estate Market Advisory Group; the Committee for Sustainable Energy, including its Expert Group on Energy Efficiency; and other international partners and selected experts.

60. In the framework of the project, the following activities will be carried out:

- Mapping of energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region
- Establishment of an online database of experts on energy efficiency in buildings
- Mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings, gap analysis and recommendations for their use in the region
- Meetings of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings
- A study to conduct gap analysis and develop a roadmap for future activities.

61. Currently the secretariat is in a process of hiring a consultant to perform the mapping of energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region. The consultant will report the draft results to the Joint Task Force, which will meet for the first time on 30-31 October 2017.

4. Planned activities for the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

62. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group will be involved in the Joint Task Force of the abovementioned project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the ECE region” which will start in September 2017 and participate to the deliverables of the Joint Task Force; and will be fully involved in the activities of the “United Smart Cities” project and its related initiative “United for Smart Sustainable Cities” in particular by revising the initiative’s study “Guidelines on Tools and Mechanisms to Finance Smart Sustainable Cities Projects”. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group will finalize the update of its publication “Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets” and contribute to the Working Party on Land Administration benchmarking series surveys.

63. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group will also prepare a questionnaire on housing finance and will translate into English language the online tool to verify energy certificates for residential properties elaborated by HypZert; this latter activity will benefit the Joint Task Force and its work on energy efficiency standards in buildings. Finally, Advisory Group will be engaged in the organization of or participate to events, including the International Workshop “Housing estates what’s next” (12 October 2017, Prague), back-to-back with the European Urban Forum; First Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (30-31 October 2017, Geneva); Education Seminar on the integration of energy and new information sources in the classroom (1-2 December 2017, Alicante, Spain); the special panel on housing affordability as part of the ERES Conference (27-30 June 2018, Reading, UK); and a seminar in Madrid on registry and property valuation (dates are to be confirmed).

B. Sustainable urban development

64. To support sustainable urban development, the secretariat will support the Committee in promoting an integrated approach to planning of cities and human settlements. The focus will be on activities relevant to spatial planning which will result in compact, efficient and inclusive cities, low-carbon and disaster resilient urban development and addressing challenges of informal settlements. The activities on urban planning will also support the implementation of the ECE smart sustainable city indicators and preparation of smart sustainable city profiles. The work under this cluster will also cover follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020.

1. Planned activities on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda

65. After the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III Conference in October 2016, the Committee is working on its implementation in the ECE region. Activities will include, among others, capacity-building activities and advisory services which will support its implementation. The World Urban Forum 9¹⁰ on 7-13 February 2018 in Kuala Lumpur will be the next opportunity to review progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. As a recommendation from the Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the Adoption of the New Urban Agenda¹¹, the World Urban Forum will help to maintain the New Urban Agenda firmly on the global agenda.

66. In 2018, the review of progress on the achievement of SDG 11 will be conducted at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development¹² in July 2018 and the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, convened by ECE in March 2018. The Regional Forum for Sustainable Development to be organised in Geneva, will be an important event which will address the follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the ECE region; it will serve as the platform for peer learning, addressing regional priorities, and linking the national and global levels in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

2. Planned activities on Smart Sustainable Cities

67. The Committee secretariat will continue its work on the smart sustainable cities project, addressing housing, infrastructure and quality of life in cities. Work on the testing of the key performance indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities and the preparation of smart sustainable city profiles will also continue, in particular, the preparation of the smart sustainable city profile of Voznesensk, Ukraine, will start in November 2017. The Third Meeting of the U4SSC initiative as well as other events will be organized jointly with the ITU and other partners in May 2018. The ECE will work on two main U4SSC deliverables: Guides on tools and mechanisms for financing smart sustainable cities projects and Guidelines for circular cities. Detailed information on planned activities for the USC project and the U4SSC initiative are described in Informal Note 4 of the seventy-eighth Committee session.

¹⁰ <http://wuf9.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2017-04-12/independent-panel-assess-and-enhance-effectiveness-un>

¹² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

68. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) which will take place from 6-17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, ECE will co-organize two events with the United Nations system: “Energy policy tradeoffs within the broader sustainable development challenge” and “Sustainable Urban Development as a Catalyst of Climate Action”.

3. Planned activities on urban planning

69. The Committee will cooperate with OECD, UN-Habitat and other organisations involved in the interagency National Urban Policy Programme through its ongoing technical cooperation activities. Preparations will start in January 2018 for a regional workshop covering issues such as adaptation to climate change, disaster preparedness and response, wastewater management, recycling and reuse in cooperation with the secretariat of the ECE Protocol on Water and Health under the ECE Water Convention. The workshop will be held in 2019.

C. Land administration and management

70. To assist member States to improve land administration and land management, the Committee activities will promote security of tenure; improvement of cadastres and land registries, including institutional arrangements for land administration. This cluster will address land registration, e-governance, land tenure, spatial information and cadastres. An emphasis will be placed on issues of innovation and capacity building in land administration.

71. The Working Party on Land Administration will organize two additional workshops in 2018: one in Sweden and another one – in Greece.

72. The Working Party will conduct on a study on land consolidation and compile best practices. Further, the Working Party will organize the subsequent benchmarking in land administration studies on the cost for registration/transfer of real estate and registration of mortgages for the ECE region, and on an update of the Land Administration Systems Survey.

73. The ECE will also continue cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation, UN-Habitat and the World Bank on the development of Technical Guidelines on the formalization of informal real estate and informal markets in the ECE Region.

D. Country profiles on housing and land management

74. Country profiles on housing and land management, which assess the housing, urban development, land administration and management, will be prepared on the basis of the ECE revised guidelines for the preparation of Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management (ECE/HBP/2017/5); the guidelines are expected to be adopted by the Committee’s seventy-eighth session. The country profiles will especially focus on review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other important international commitments. Work on the country profiles will also include monitoring of, and support to, the implementation of the country profiles’ recommendations, including through the preparation of national action plans on sustainable housing and urban development and model projects.

75. In 2017, the Country Profile on Housing of Kazakhstan will be finalized. Due to unexpected circumstances, this Country Profile does not contain a chapter on land administration. The secretariat will start work on the development of the second Country

Profile on Housing, Urban Development and Land Management of Belarus. Two missions to Belarus are planned.

E. Planned technical cooperation activities

76. As the Committee secretariat has finalized the implementation of the UNDA project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition” in 2017, independent evaluation of the project results will be conducted at the end of 2017.

77. Implementation of the UNDA 10th tranche ECE/UN-Habitat joint project “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” will continue. Its aim is to strengthen national capacities for the development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in four selected countries: Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The project is being implemented during 2016-2019. It will assist the national governments in developing approaches for the collection and analysis of the national data on housing and urban development needed to review the implementation of SDG 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, providing advisory services on the development of evidence-based policies and building capacity on sustainable housing, and the organization of related workshops and online training.

78. In 2018, the Committee secretariat will organize an advisory mission to Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine; develop a policy paper with the methodology for data collection relevant to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and New Urban Agenda; and prepare country specific guidelines and training materials on the development of evidence based sustainable urban development policies. It will also organise four national validation workshops in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine to discuss the guidelines and agree on the recommendations for the development of accountability mechanisms for sustainable urban development.

79. The Committee is invited to take note of the information on the implemented activities and to approve the proposed activities, pending the adoption of the 2018-2019 programme of work by the Committee and its further approval by the Executive Committee.

Annex 1: Activities of Geneva UN Charter Centres on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development

1. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE/1478/Rev.1), a non-legally binding document that aims to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, was endorsed by the ECE on 14 April 2015. Three Geneva UN Charter Centres were established during 2016-2017 in Albania, Estonia and United Kingdom in cooperation with authorities and stakeholders to support the implementation of the Charter in the respective countries and in the ECE Region. This document provides a summary report on activities of the three centres.

A. Albania

2. The Geneva UN Charter Centre in Albania was established in 2016 in cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development of Albania. A focus of the Centre is on promoting implementation of sustainable housing policies in Albania. The Centre supports the ministry in training local authorities and stakeholders in housing policies and organising consultations on the implementation of existing and development of new laws and regulations on housing and urban development.

3. The following activities in 2016-2017 were implemented. The Charter has been translated into Albanian language and made available through the ECE website. The translated Charter was published and disseminated to 61 Albanian municipalities, the National Housing Agency, the National Agency on Social Housing, the UNDP Office in Tirana and other stakeholders. Information on the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Development is shared through the Ministry of Urban Development website. The Centre promoted the Geneva UN Charter through TV interviews, an Urban Breakfast event on the 11th April 2017 and organisation of an International Regional Conference “Leaving No One Behind” on 7 April 2017.

4. The Centre was involved in the preparation of a concept paper for a new law on social housing which was coordinated by the Ministry in cooperation with UNDP Albania and Council of Europe and in organisation of an international workshop “Creation of a roadmap for an integrated social services for housing”.

5. The Centre also developed a training curricular on social housing which was already used during a national workshop on “Challenges of the Social Housing” (3 March 2017) and a series of national roundtables which were organized to promote the implementation of National Strategy on Social Housing. The Centre coordinators participated in the ECE events organised within the UN Development Account 10th tranche project events in Albania and Serbia.

B. Estonia

6. The Geneva UN Charter Centre in Estonia was established in 2016 in Estonia in cooperation with the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations (EKYL). EKYL is specialized in the development and organisation of training programs for housing management for local housing management associations in Estonia. In addition to be a key player in housing management at national level, EKYL is organising trainings for housing associations in countries with transition economies, such as Georgia, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and other.

7. In 2016-2017, the Estonia's Centre worked to promote the Geneva UN Charter through its cooperation network with national state organisations, including the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Environment, and its local housing associations and stakeholders.
8. The Charter has been translated into Estonian and is expected to be published electronically. Information on the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing is disseminated through EKYL's website. EKYL is a member of the Board of the Housing Europe and disseminates information on the Charter through the Housing Europe network.
9. An online training tool was developed and made available at the EKYL's website; the training tool is at the moment only in Estonian language and will be translated into Russian. To complement the online training information, a handbook also was published.
10. Information on the Charter was also disseminated through the Centre's conferences: the 19th Annual Conference Apartment Association in Estonia (4 October 2016), the 15th Annual Conference of Apartment Association in South-Estonia (25 March 2017), the Annual Conference of Apartment Associations in Saaremaa region of Estonia (29 March 2017) and the Annual Conference of Apartment Associations in West-Estonia (4 March 2017), the 9th Baltic Housing Conference (14 September 2017) and the 20th Annual Conference of Apartment Associations (4 October 2017).
11. Information on the Charter was also promoted through two press releases and posting on and they keep updating their information of Facebook, Twitter and the EKYL Magazine "Elamu" (Home).

C. UK (Glasgow)

12. The Geneva UN Charter in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, was established at the Glasgow Urban Laboratory at Glasgow School of Art in close cooperation with the city of Glasgow, national and local authorities, NGOs and academia. A memorandum of understanding with the ECE is expected to be signed in autumn 2017. Currently, a feasibility study is being conducted to assess specific needs for activities of the Centre; partnerships are being developed. The centre is focusing its activities on the implementation of both the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the New Urban Agenda in the UK and especially in Scotland and in city of Glasgow. The centre is also developing international cooperation in research and capacity building on sustainable urban development. Key topics for research and capacity building include: the contemporary and future city, investigation of comparative urbanism through integrated planning, designing from context in landscape, town, neighbourhood and city; and landscape art, design and ecology. The Glasgow Centre has made excellent progress by strengthening its collaboration with internal actors such as ministries, cities, NGO and academia.
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